

# **Brenda Spotton Visano**

**University Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University**

Toronto, ON, CA

Spotton Visano engages a variety of research methods to examine ways to improve access to basic financial services for low income Canadians.

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## **Biography**

Brenda Spotton Visano is a University Professor in the School of Public Policy & Administration and the Department of Economics at York University. A graduate of McGill University, Iowa State University and University of Toronto, she is a member of the National Research Sub-Committee advising the National Steering Committee on Financial Literacy. Professor Spotton Visano was the Inaugural Director of the Transition Year Program at York University (2010-2015) and a Director of the ACCESS Community Capital Fund (2009-2015). Other previous leadership positions include the President, Canadian Women Economists Network and the Chair of Senate of York University. Among her publications is her 2006 book "Financial Crises: Socio-economic Causes and Institutional Context" and her 2009 co-edited book "Room to Grow: Celebrating Atkinson's Living Legacy," a collection of reflections on the contributions of Atkinson College to advancing higher education for non-traditional students. In addition to publishing many book chapters and articles in top-tier refereed academic venues, she is the author of 16 government, professional, and technical reports for various government ministries and agencies in Canada, UNESCO and NGOs. Professor Spotton Visano has been invited to contribute to various government consultations including those held by the Alberta Ministry of Finance, Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, the Federal Task Force on Financial Literacy and the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Her current research project in Community Finance and Consumer Financial Services is a multi-faceted project focused on Canadian micro-financial services delivery, regulation and education. Collaborating with community partners in the Black Creek Financial Action Network and numerous graduate and undergraduate students, Professor Spotton Visano engages a variety of research methods to examine ways to improve access to basic financial services for low income Canadians.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Research, Public Policy, Financial Services

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Macroeconomic and Monetary Policy, Alternative Financial Institutions (Payday Lenders Microcredit), Financial Literacy, Economic Literacy, Social Justice, Financial Education, Community Outreach, Community Development, Leadership, University Teaching, Adult Education

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## **Affiliations**

Principal Investigator : York University Community Finance Project

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## **Event Appearances**

**The Pedagogical Consequences of the Crisis: Is Economics Changing?**  
Progressive Economics Forum Summer School

### **Gender Budgeting and Analysis**

Presentation to Delegation from the Ministry of Gender Equality & Family of the Republic of Korea

### **Financial Crises: Socioeconomic Causes and Institutional Context**

Progressive Economics Forum's School for Union Activists and Public Policy Makers

### **The Global Economic Crisis: Can Canada Escape a Lost Decade?**

Alternative Federal Budget Roundtable 2012

### **Knowing where you stand before knowing where to go...**

Presentation to the Federal Task Force on Financial Literacy

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## **Education**

### **McGill University**

Ph.D. Economics

### **Iowa State University**

M.S. Economics

### **University of Toronto**

B.A. Economics

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Status of Women Award of Distinction**

2012 Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

### **Award for Dedicated Service**

2004 Canadian Association of University Teachers

### **Teaching Award**

2000 Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

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