

# LIBBY GARG

WORKSOLUTE - Toronto, Ontario



**L**ibby Garg talks excitedly about work, her new son, Theodore, and her love of being a Mom. With a background in both law and business, as well as operating active businesses in two seemingly very different industries, she is no stranger to starting new adventures.

“Please call me Libby,” she laughs, “only my Mom calls me Elizabeth when I’m in trouble!” Down to earth and full of energy, she talks about her journey, her passions, her dreams, and how she made them come true – and then some.

“My company operates in two different areas,” she recounts. “On the one side, we operate Freshii franchised restaurants. On the other side, WorkSolute is an HR technology. So two very different fields, but they are actually really symbiotic and work quite well together.” She goes on in greater detail, “On the restaurant side we offer healthy fast food. We also have the privilege of employing people. WorkSolute helps connects employers and work seekers, and then rewards professional behaviour driving better employment relationships in industries with high turnover.”

“The genesis of why I started into business was in memory of my late sister. We lost my younger sister, Kitty, in 2014. At the time, I was practicing law. After her car accident, I took some time off, probably the only time I’ve ever taken off in my entire life. I reflected on what was really important to me. My sister and I always dreamed

of creating a healthy quick service restaurant. Freshii was a way of keeping the dreams alive that my sister and I shared. It was through operating our restaurants, that we noticed some pretty compelling challenges in hiring and managing our team that we wanted to solve. And that was how WorkSolute was born. It all started as a legacy to my sister. Not a day goes by that I don’t say a little ‘thank you’ to her for how she continues to inspire and encourage me.”

She talks about growing up, and how she and her sister were raised by a single mother. “I didn’t really have anybody to ask about becoming an entrepreneur. I don’t even recall ever hearing the word ‘entrepreneur’ growing up – that just wasn’t a thing in my family.” Even so, she mentions how it was important to her to learn as much as she could and keep a curious mind because, “You never know when you’re going to stumble into an area that really gets you fired up.”

Libby dealt with the Two Rivers Community Development Centre, part of the Aboriginal Financial Institution network, when she was first starting out. “They provide a great alternative to the regular charter bank system. Two Rivers doesn’t just provide loans. There is also an additional layer of support and guidance which was incredibly helpful. They provided assistance on business projections, how to access capital, and general knowledge on how to maintain financial oversight of my business. They were a fantastic support.”

“I don’t think that I would change anything,” she states, “because I’m so fortunate. I feel so much gratitude for where I’ve ended up and I love the results that my work has yielded. Of course there are individual mistakes that I’ve made along the way – I make mistakes all the time!” she laughs. “But it’s incredibly humbling to be able to wake up every morning and do something that I love. I’m grateful to be able to say that.”

Then, pensively, she adds, “It’s not only for my family that it’s important for me to continue to grow my business endeavors, although this is my primary driving motivation. But it also creates a better me – and when I’m a better me, it means that my community, and everybody around me, benefits from my ability to ultimately give back. And to me, that’s a magical and wonderful place to be for everyone.”

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