





FREE ISSUE

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# SNAP<sup>TM</sup>

## BLOOR WEST

CAPTURING LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Antoinette van Speyk recently immigrated to Canada with her family. It was struggle to find a flexible job in her film industry background. She worked on numerous shows and films, but the hours were never steady.

"Going back to the job you had before is good if the hours allow for it," says van Speyk. "But 9 to 5? Never in the film industry, or other jobs."

After nearly 20 years in the film/TV industry van Speyk began sewing for a friend's company. Van Speyk's grew up sewing with her mother and enjoyed working with fabric. Soon, she developed her own client base and realized she could work from home. Last April she applied to the Self Employment Benefit Plan and in August was accepted. The government funded plan helped van Speyk get her business of designing and installing soft home furnishings (drapes, blinds, etc.) started. She attended a 10-week course to learn how to run a business and was appointed a business advisor. Once she got her business running, she realized the freedom it gave her.

"I have a child who has special needs," she explains. "This gave me so much freedom to be with him and to be able to attend school functions with them. I can pick up my kids at school, attend parent gatherings at school, just be a more active member of the school and community. I don't work less hours than before, but I choose when I work them. Doing your own business gives you that control."

## Antoinette van Speyk

*Blinds, Drapes & Bedding* 416.604.1412 [www.blindsdrapesbedding.com](http://www.blindsdrapesbedding.com)

At Blinds, Drapes & Bedding we custom design, manufacture and install high quality window coverings and soft home furnishings. The services offered include on-site consultation to help clients and/or their Interior Designers determine their needs, evaluate their space. Products include: roman blinds, drapes, duvet covers, bed covers, cushion covers, box seat cushions, crib bumpers and much more."

# Mom-preneur

