

CHAMPION & INNOVATOR PROFILES



NON-PROFITS & CHARITIES

Toronto Tool Library

Tool libraries are the quintessential example of the sharing economy in action. The first Tool Library started in 1979 in Berkley, California and since then over 40 Tool Libraries have launched across North America. While the idea is not original, there had never been a Tool Library in the city of Toronto, making an opportunity for local change. Getting things started, in 2012 the founders received their first grant from the Centre for Social Innovation



Benefits of a Tool Library:

- Provides access to specialized tools where ownership of the tool is cost prohibitive
- Wide range of tools available including Power Generators, Construction & Renovation
- Gardening & Landscaping, Painting & Drywall, Electrical Tools and more!
- Operates on a non-profit basis and funds itself after the initial investment through membership fees/ late fees / donations
- Helps reduce environmental waste and clutter in the home
- Provides home building workshops and training so users can improve their skills

Anyone with a membership can sign-out tools for both their home and community projects. For a yearly fee of \$60, members can borrow everything from gardening tools, photography equipment, cooking tools to power tools. The library is a low-cost, resource sharing and space-saving alternative to purchasing and owning tools



The success of the first Tool Library led to a quick expansion. They found a second location on the Danforth (1803 Danforth East) with a 1900 sq. feet basement space. To date, they have over 2,200 members and have loaned over 25,000 tools to their communities. More Tool Sharing projects have opened around the world (including Calgary, Halifax, Belgium and more). Their goal is to expand the Tool Library into condos and co-op buildings in the city, to share resources in more neighbourhoods. They have also helped incubate other sharing resource projects including the Kitchen Library and the Seed Library.

Sources

1. torontotoollibrary.com
2. The Sharing Economy - What It Is, Examples, And How Big Data, Platforms And Algorithms Fuel It