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Toronto Tool Library celebrates one-year anniversary with funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation

Toronto's first [Tool Library](#) celebrates its one-year anniversary in the Parkdale community this **Friday, April 4th from 10:30am – 12pm**. The anniversary is met with a grant unveiling by the Ontario Trillium Foundation to the Toronto Tool Library, along with honoured guests of **MP Peggy Nash, MPP Cheri DiNovo, and Councillor Gord Perks**.

The Toronto Tool Library, a project of the [Institute for a Resource Based Economy \(IRBE\)](#), is a resource-sharing project whereby community members loan tools instead of books. The Tool Library first opened its doors in March 2012 inside the Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC). In one year, the project has reached 500 members, giving access to over 2,000 tools and has performed over 3,000 success tool loans. Today, the Parkdale location (1499 Queen St W.) is a dynamic community hub offering a variety of tools and workshops: from gardening, home renovation, to 3D printing.

"Our model is to encourage access over ownership. The availability and accessibility of these tools enables members of our community to take on any projects that otherwise would have been cost-prohibitive. Through workshops and skills-training the Toronto Tool Library seeks to make Toronto communities sustainable, skilled and self-sufficient," says Ryan Dyment, co-founder of the Toronto Tool Library.

The [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#) will award IRBE in the amount of \$15,000 on April 4th for the continued operations of Toronto's first Tool Library, providing necessary tools and operational costs. OTF has a mandate to support Ontarians through grants that focus on developing skills and confidence to break cycles of poverty and isolation and build better futures. The Toronto Tool Library is doing just that:

"The Tool Library is just what we need in these times of high debt and a diminishing sense of community. This is a project that is growing skills and a sense of autonomy for its members. This is a cause I can stand behind," Alexandra Martin (28 years old), Volunteer at the Tool Library

As a growing success, IRBE expanded operations in October 2013 by opening a second location (1803 Danforth Ave) called the "Toronto Tool Library and Makerspace". This newly renovated space provides access to high technology tools such as the city's first open-source laser-cutter, CNC router and woodworking shop. IRBE seeks to expand its operations to other Toronto communities.

WHAT: One-Year Anniversary with Ontario Trillium Foundation grant unveiling

WHO: MP Peggy Nash, MPP Cheri DiNovo, and Councillor Gord Perks, OTF & IRBE Senior Staff

WHERE: 1499 Queen Street West, Toronto, M6R 1A3

WHEN: Friday, April 4, 10:30am – 12:00pm

For Media Pass or Interviews, please contact:

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Institute for a Resource Based Economy:

The Toronto Tool Library is an innovative project of the Institute for Resource Based Economy, encouraging a sharing and collaborative economy. Much like car sharing (AutoShare) and accommodation sharing (AirB&B), the Tool Library aims to reduce consumption and provide greater public access to resources. Our mission is to work at the intersection of economics and the environment by challenging people's perceptions of ownership and our relationship to the Earth's resources. For more information, visit: www.torontotoolibrary.com / www.irbe.org



Ontario Trillium Foundation:

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario and Canada's leading grant-maker. The Foundation's mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector, through investments in community-based initiatives. OTF awards approximately 1,500 grants each year to community-based not-for-profits and charitable organizations in the arts, recreation, environment and human and social services sectors. For more information, visit: <http://www.otf.ca/>



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