

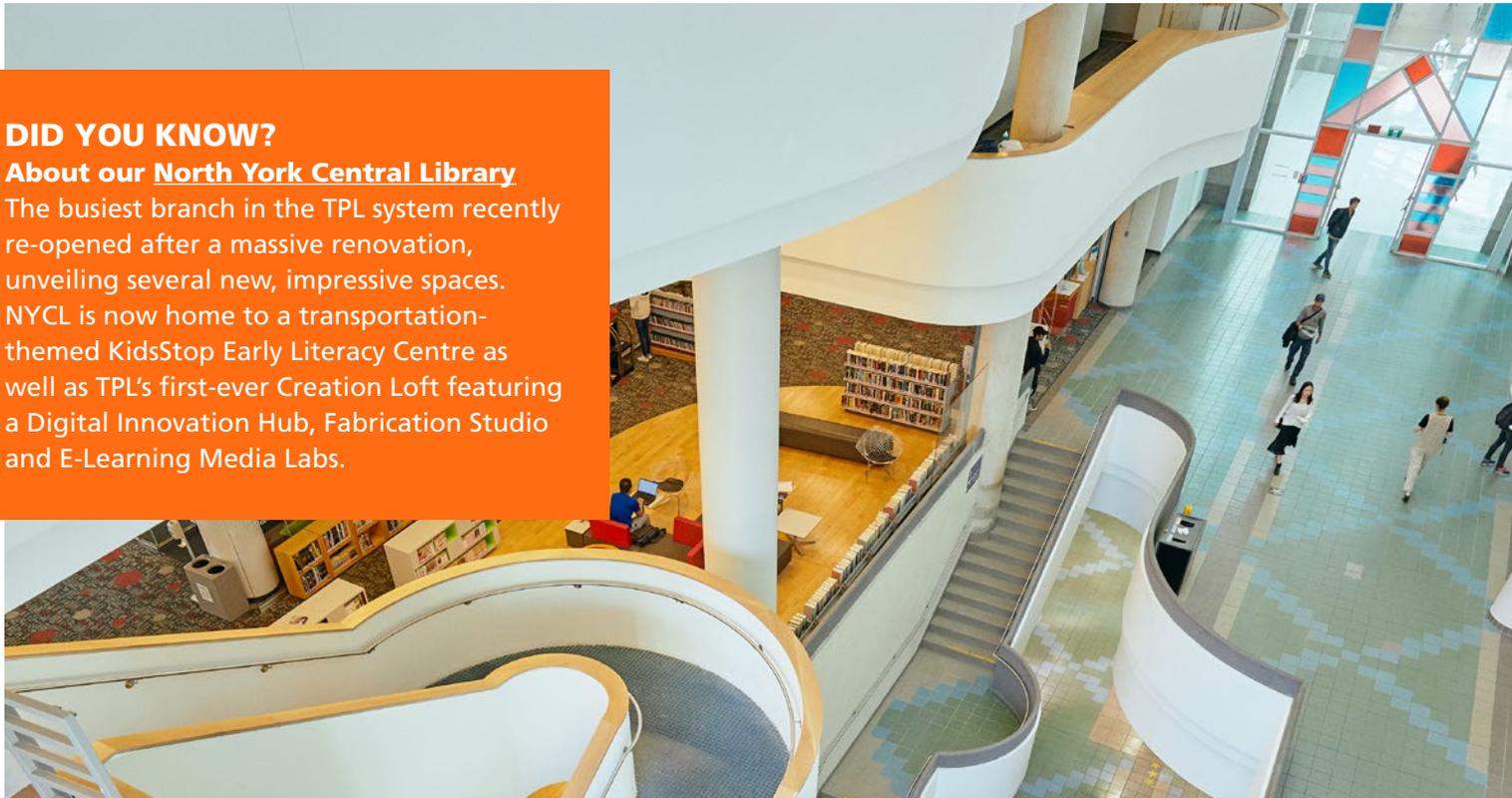
ABSOLUTELY VITAL

A Newsletter of
The Toronto Public Library Foundation

DID YOU KNOW?

About our North York Central Library

The busiest branch in the TPL system recently re-opened after a massive renovation, unveiling several new, impressive spaces. NYCL is now home to a transportation-themed KidsStop Early Literacy Centre as well as TPL's first-ever Creation Loft featuring a Digital Innovation Hub, Fabrication Studio and E-Learning Media Labs.



LEIGH CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AT NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY



Although she began her career working for charities and hospitals, Leigh had an early passion for books and returned to school to pursue a career in Librarianship. Today, she is a children's librarian with North York Central Library where one of her responsibilities include overseeing **The IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities**. This unique reference collection includes titles in over 40 languages, in special formats such as Braille, Picture Communication Symbols and Sign Language as well as one of a kind tactile and textile books and acclaimed international stories and novels that promote inclusion and disability awareness. The branch regularly welcomes classes of youth with cognitive disabilities who love visiting the vibrant space, and to Leigh, the very best part of her job *"is helping find the right book for the right child at the right time."*

HUSH HUSH

Annual #PartyInTheStacks Raises Over \$77,000 for TPL

What a night! Hosted by New Collection, TPLF's young professionals members group, the sold out event brought together 450 guests to celebrate and raise funds for Toronto Public Library. Guests went on a journey from *Dewey Decimal to Digital* in the stacks at the Bloor/Gladstone library and experienced first-hand the many unique digital services TPL offers. Digital literacy and inclusion are a priority in our city and funds raised at Hush Hush will help offer Torontonians access to current and emerging technology, training and expertise at the Library, for free. [See all the party pics at hush-hush.ca!](#)

Thank you to our Hush Hush sponsors: TD Bank Group, CSV Midwest Tape, Ewing Morris, Penguin Random House Canada



TPLF EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH Emilio Estevez

TV and radio host, George Stroumboulopoulos moderated a powerful TPLF discussion with actor, writer and director of the movie "the public", Emilio Estevez about the challenges of homelessness and how libraries have a moral imperative to help those who need it most.

[Watch the full interview.](#)



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT Prime Minister Trudeau Visits Albion Branch in Rexdale

The Prime Minister was a special guest speaker at a unique event at the Library, coordinated by Opportunity For All Youth (OFAY). An important conversation was had about lowering barriers to employment, especially for youth not in education or with little to no work experience. The fair was a needed opportunity for many to connect directly with employers ready to hire. tpl.ca/job-help

ON CIVIL SOCIETY New Series Explores Complex Issues

Tackling topics through the lens of democracy, the media, wellness, urbanism, equality and security, this series is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Bluma Appel Community Trust.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT 20 Years of Impact with the Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation

Thanks to an exceptional partnership with the Foundation spanning 20 years, Toronto Public Library's collections, services and programs are accessible to everyone through vital [Bookmobile](#) and [Home Library Service](#). The incredible philanthropic support TPL has received over the years has benefited tens of thousands of Torontonians who consider Mobile Library Services to be their life-line to information and valued resources. We are truly grateful for their continued and valued support.

IN MEMORY OF AVIE BENNETT

Generous Gift Funds Indigenous Initiatives

Developing more meaningful connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across our city



is a priority for TPL and thanks to a significant donation from the late Avie Bennett, the Library is making tremendous strides in this area. This vital funding will further TPL's Indigenous efforts including; enhancing collections, spaces and specialized programming, as well as facilitating public education and awareness. The Foundation is always grateful to those who leave a gift to Toronto Public Library in their will and estate plan.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

ONE FAMILY'S LOVE FOR THEIR LIBRARY

TPL's [Davenport Branch](#) services a thriving neighbourhood of families, seniors as well as an arts community. It's also the home branch of the Janson Family who recently gave a generous and much-needed gift to improve some of Davenport's spaces, including revitalizing the kids zone, and enabling more accessible services to support their community. We are grateful for the resounding impact that the Janson Family is making at Davenport.



"We believe our local library has the power to unite and strengthen our community; an institution for people from all walks of life to come together." said Ms. Janson. "The Library is so much more than books, with a diverse offering including: valuable resources for individuals looking for work; a place to help newcomers learn about the community; and a space for children to grow. Now more than ever we need to support our public libraries."



SHOPIFY AND TPL Enriching the Lives of Small Business Owners

The Foundation is proud to announce a new partnership with an award-winning, Canadian-based multi-channel commerce platform, Shopify. Their generous donation will enable Library branches to provide Torontonians with free access to a wide range of small business experts, workshops and services that help people build successful small businesses. As a Small Business Partner, Shopify is ensuring entrepreneurs, newcomers and those living in vulnerable communities can come together at TPL and share their work experiences, gain insights and knowledge as well as connect with a thriving small business community. tpl.ca/smallbusiness

DIGITAL LITERACY AND CODING Preparing Youth for the Innovation Economy

TPL is pleased to take part in Digitally Lit, a digital literacy + coding pilot in partnership with Ryerson University, the Brookfield Institute for Innovation + Entrepreneurship (BII+E) and public libraries in five cities across Ontario. Teens like Willayne (right) learn in libraries about HTML coding and digital literacy, ultimately using these technological tools to solve problems, build their networks and critically understand how to engage with digital content.



"Using nothing but code, we were shown how to build websites, make photo galleries, create games, identify fake news and understand how to stay safe online. This is knowledge I can apply to everyday activities and build a life skill. I'm hoping there will be more programs like this and I am thankful this one was at my local branch." **Willayne**

#ImLibraryPeople

ASK A TPL EXPERT

Rahma Hashi and
Kristin Hoffman

Social Workers

TPL recently hired Rahma and Kristin, two social workers to help take a strategic approach to understanding vulnerable populations, identifying local and system-wide barriers to accessing library programs and services and developing a response to these barriers

Q: What are the challenges facing vulnerable populations in Toronto?

A: They face a number of challenges including: access to affordable housing, elevated rates of poverty, low social and economic status, mental health challenges and addiction, all of which can have a significant impact on quality of life.

Q: How is TPL helping?

A: We are focused on a number of areas such as offering opportunities for social inclusion, access to information and connections to other valuable resources. In addition, we are reducing barriers to accessing library services and continuing to develop strong partnerships with community organizations.

Q: What programs or services does TPL offer to vulnerables persons?

A: Library cards are available for people experiencing homelessness or without a fixed address. We loan out Wi-Fi Hotspots to assist low-income families who cannot afford access to the internet. And, our branches are always free, open, safe and welcoming spaces for everyone.

THANK YOU DYLAN

High School Fundraiser Benefits TPL

When student Dylan Reid received the news that his high school's annual formal dance had been cancelled, he took the initiative to organize his own celebration with friends and peers. Demand for tickets resulted in Dylan exceeding his fundraising goal with a \$2,000 surplus, that he decided to generously donate to Toronto Public Library. "My parents give so much of themselves to various causes, so I immediately knew the money should go to a charity," commented Dylan. "Toronto Public Library supports lots of programs for students, youth and immigrant communities. That really struck a chord with me, and it's why I decided to give and make a difference for people who rely on the Library."



Dylan Reid

A MESSAGE FROM MARGARET ATWOOD

We get giddy when we hear from Ms. Atwood! Canadian Library Month has come and gone, but I'm Library People limited-edition merchandise is always available and makes the perfect holiday gift for the Library fan in your life.

SHOP ONLINE AT: imlibrarypeople.ca/merch



GIVE THE GIFT OF THE LIBRARY

This holiday season, donate to Toronto Public Library and make a meaningful difference in your community.

- ✓ Make a tribute gift in honour or memory of someone special
- ✓ Join a TPLF membership group and enjoy a years' worth of benefits



DONATE TODAY. Or call 416-393-7123

THANK YOU FROM TPLF

All of us at the Foundation would like to take this opportunity to wish you, and your family, a happy and healthy holiday season. Thank you for being part of our giving community and making such a difference in the lives of Torontonians. We could not do the work we do, without you.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

   #ImLibraryPeople