

## **The Sorbara Family makes \$100,000 gift to Toronto Public Library**

*Donation will support North York Central Library and match contributions to Fall Community Campaign*

Toronto, ON (October 1, 2020) – The Toronto Public Library Foundation (TPLF) is proud to announce a generous \$100,000 donation from The Sorbara Family to Toronto Public Library (TPL). The Sorbara Family have long been inspired to support various foundations and organizations, and many of their philanthropic giving initiatives, much like this gift to TPL’s North York Central Library, truly strengthen communities.

North York Central Library is Toronto Public Library’s busiest circulating branch with 1.4 million visits a year. In 2018, the 168,000 square foot library completed an extensive \$27 million renovation and is now home to TPL’s largest children’s area, state of the art e-learning and digital technology spaces, TPL’s first Fabrication Studio, a Digital Innovation Hub and 115 computer stations. The branch serves a diverse population, including many newcomers to Canada, who make heavy use of the library’s public spaces, free access to technology, and collections and materials available in a wide array of languages including Chinese, French, Russian, Persian and Korean.

“A gift to Toronto Public Library is a direct way to invest in the well-being of our city,” commented Christina Sorbara. “The Library has such a strong community presence that every generation can benefit from. I am impressed with how TPL has successfully evolved in an increasingly digital age and continues to be so relevant to so many people. As a large multi-generational family, with a longstanding philanthropic partnership with the Toronto Public Library Foundation, we are proud of this donation and all the opportunities TPL provides for its users.”

Partial funds from The Sorbara Family gift, up to \$50,000, will be used to match donations made to the Toronto Public Library Foundation’s Fall Community Campaign, kicking off today. October is Canadian Library Month, and all month long the Foundation is shining a spotlight on the need to bridge the digital divide in Toronto. Technology and the Internet can be expensive, and ways to understand and use them are not always easy to access, which makes it difficult for many residents to live their day-to-day lives

**Toronto Public Library Foundation**  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8

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and gain access to opportunities. A 2017 study of Ontario public libraries conducted by Nordicity found that of those library users surveyed, 56% would not have otherwise had access to technology, and nearly half of those customers use a library to use the Internet. Toronto Public Library is committed to breaking down barriers and ensuring equity and access, for everyone in the city.

To donate to the Toronto Public Library Foundation's Fall Community Campaign and double your impact, visit [imlibrarypeople.ca/community](http://imlibrarypeople.ca/community).

In recognition of The Sorbara Family's generosity, a plaque will be installed later this year at North York Central Library acknowledging their gift.

**ABOUT THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION:** The Toronto Public Library Foundation is a registered charity that raises funds to support the exemplary collections, ground-breaking programs and services, and the innovative community spaces at the world's busiest public library system; Toronto Public Library. Since its inception in 1997, the Foundation has raised over \$88.5 million thanks to generous donors and corporate partners. Donating to Toronto Public Library is an investment in literacy, education, culture and in the vitality of a world-class city.

**CONTACT:**

Tracy Finkelstein  
Vice President, Marketing & Communications  
Toronto Public Library Foundation  
416-393-7230  
[tfinkelstein@tpl.ca](mailto:tfinkelstein@tpl.ca)

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