

# How Toronto Public Library is helping to bridge the digital divide.

TPL sees first-hand the growing economic, educational and social inequality between those in our city who have computers and online access, and those who do not. We live in an increasingly digital world where essential daily tasks take place online, which is why the Library is committed to breaking down barriers for anyone who faces challenges in accessing a computer and Wi-Fi; especially youth, newcomers, seniors, Indigenous peoples and low-income residents who are among the most-impacted groups.

## Introducing Toronto Public Library's Internet Connectivity Kit Program

This initiative, launched in Spring 2020 in the early days of the pandemic, provides some of our city's most vulnerable residents, with a free laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot, which they can keep, plus a 2-year unlimited data plan.



## How you can help.

Each donation of \$2,000 provides a family with their own Internet Connectivity Kit and will immensely improve their quality of life. A donation of \$10,000 will provide the funds to improve the lives of 5 families. To date, donors have supported the purchase of 296 Kits. Help us build on this momentum and equip the next 100 families with this life-changing resource.

[Make a donation today](#)

### For more information, please contact:

Kirsten Melville-Gray  
Toronto Public Library Foundation  
kmelville-gray@tpl.ca | 905-601-6020

**tpl** • toronto  
public library  
foundation

[tplfoundation.ca](http://tplfoundation.ca)

# Donors make a difference by providing Torontonians with vital connections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents who participate in the Internet Connectivity Kit program are referred from community agencies and are then provided with a Kit that immediately helps them stay connected and engaged during these challenging times.

Hear from a few of the grateful recipients.

## The facts about Internet access



A Nordicity survey of Ontario public library customers showed that 56% who used technology services at a public library would not otherwise have had access to those services, with Internet access being the most used service.



The latest CRTC data reports 31% of Canadian households living on low incomes do not have home Internet access.



The United Nations found that half of all students around the world – nearly 830 million – don't have access to a computer. More than 40% don't have Internet access at home.



“Thank you so much to Toronto Public Library and donors for the laptop and Wi-Fi for me to have opportunities to access social media platforms, especially Facebook. I can connect to family and friends in Cambodia during COVID-19 pandemic and this helps with my mental health so much.”

- Sari N.

“My life has changed. Access to a computer and the internet has allowed me to meet my family in my home country, share with my friends from the seniors' club, explore and discover places in the world that I did not know. It has allowed me to have appointments with my doctor. I felt depressed and sad, but everything has changed. I am no longer isolated from the world, and now I am delighted.”

- Sonia V.



“Thank you so much for your help in providing myself and family with this beautiful laptop computer. I must say, the internet that comes with it as well and for 2 years - this is a blessing. Like so many other mothers, this program will help many continue their education online, maybe open a business, or like myself write a book. I feel this NEEDS to continue. Imagine all the lives this could change.”

- Jennifer T.