

VANCOUVER TOOL LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

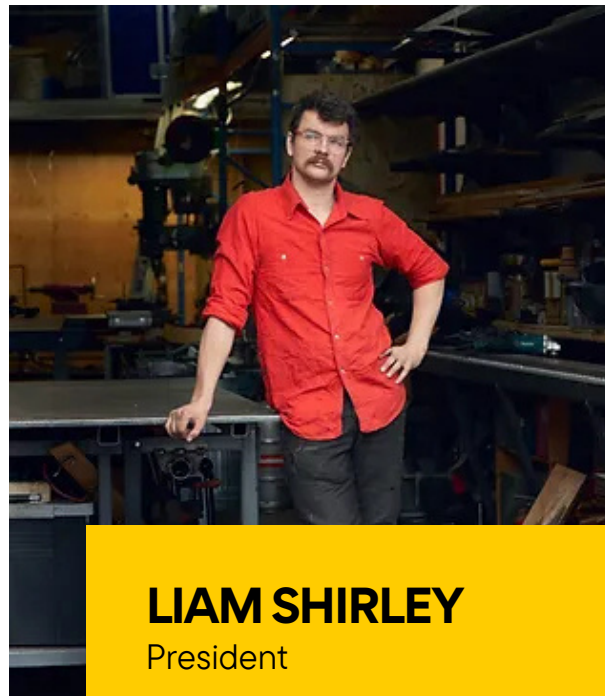


Presented and reviewed at AGM
MAY 2026

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Co-op Member,

This past year, our 15th year of lending tools in Vancouver, has seen quite a lot of change for the Vancouver Tool Library. At our last AGM in April 2025 we elected 5 new board members and we hit the ground running. We elected to section up our work into the following areas: Financials, Volunteers, Tools, Community, Marketing, Workshops. Throughout the year, each board member has led one or more of these areas, supporting contracts, committees, training sessions and many other projects. Thank you so much to Devin Greenfield, Jessica Roberts-Farina, Reed Schrad, Neil Padgham, Sarah Zwiép, and Scott Bernstein for their help on the board this year.

As a part of the board efforts, last fall we created three contract positions in the roles of Inventory Manager, Socials and Newsletter, while continuing our Workshop Coordinator contract. All three of these contracts have since run their course, of which the benefits will be further covered within this AGM report. Thank you to Olivia Cheng, Lucas Krist, Mina Labani, and Heather Evens for contributions to the VTL through this Contract program. In light of the success we have seen, we have elected to continue with the Socials and Newsletter editor contracts for another six-month term.

As we look to the future of the VTL, we see a new group with fresh ideas and dreams. However, with 5 board members continuing on from the past year, we will also have strong momentum to build on. We will be continuing to run our volunteer orientation program, as we are always on the look out for potential volunteers (maybe you, dear reader). We will also be moving to grow our Intro to Tools lessons, with the goal of broadening the skills and knowledge of our membership.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...

In the coming year, I will look to create a contingency plans for the VTL and our community. I want to ensure we have the resources available to help the community in the event of a disaster or difficult event. This will include the creation of an emergency and relocation contingency fund, so that we can find our footing if the worst arrives. I want the VTL to be here for our members for many years to come, no matter the circumstances of the world around us.

Finally, it is with a somber heart that I share that Reed Schrad, beloved board member, past president, and volunteer of 6 years, will be moving on from our board into a support role in our community. I want to thank him for the many years of service that he has given us all. The VTL has grown and changed in so many beautiful and important ways under his guidance. From the Tool Committee, to volunteer self-scheduling, to the financial stability of the library, we have him to thank for these changes. And this only scratches the surface of his impact, a full list of which may take up this entire AGM report. It's hard to imagine where the VTL might be if we weren't lucky enough to have his efforts. Thank you, Reed.

And so, I wish you a merry Fiscal year 2026!

Yours in Community and Co-op,
Liam Shirley
VTL President

COOPERATIVE OVERVIEW

VISION

A cooperative community sharing tools to build a better city.

MISSION

The Vancouver Tool Library exists to break down barriers to accessing tools and empower members to build, repair, create and connect through collectively-owned tools and shared knowledge.

VALUES

Inclusivity – actively working with our community to eliminate barriers to accessing and using tools

Empowerment – creating opportunities to equip our members with skills, knowledge and confidence to use tools

Community – seeking to build and foster collaborative relationships with individuals and organizations with shared commitment to our vision, mission and values.

Sustainability – resolving to minimize consumption through shared ownership, repair and maintenance.

Reconciliation – working to be in right relationship with Indigenous communities, specifically the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh peoples on whose territory the VTL operates, to support truth, reconciliation and justice.

COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP

BOARD

PRESIDENT

Liam Shirley

VICE PRESIDENT

Devin Greenfield

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Reed Schrad

VOLUNTEER LEAD

Sarah Zwiep

TOOLS LEAD

Neil Paigham

MARKETING LEAD

Scott Bernstein

SECRETARY

Jessica Roberts-Farina

CONTRACTORS

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Mina Labani

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Heather Evens

INVENTORY SPECIALIST

Lucas Krist

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Olivia Cheng

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

2025-2026



8,454	Documented rentals	1,099 ↑
851	Active members	58 ↑
1,939	Tools in inventory	
387	New members	36 ↑



FINANCIAL REPORT



REED SCHRAD
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

This fiscal year wraps up our strongest financial performance and continues a trend of growing revenue over the past 4 years, all while keeping expenses steady even with a significant rent increase. This year the board shifted to a contract model for employment which allows for flexibility, clear objectives, and the ability to easily start new programs. We also made our largest investments in the tool inventory, the volunteer community, and community outreach efforts. For the last 3 years, the library has been financially self-sustaining, a massive accomplishment in Vancouver.

We enter the next fiscal year with a budget in place, significant financial reserves, and many ideas to continue to grow membership and make tools more accessible for all.

PROFIT AND LOSS

This table shows the revenues and expenses over the last 5 years. It helps show what brings in money to the co-op and how it's spent.

This year shows a 7% increase in revenue, driven primarily by increased tool rentals and increased membership. It also shows the board was able to control expenses in spite of a rent increase (in the non discretionary category), while still funding a significant investment via our discretionary spending.

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Revenue					
Total Memberships	\$ 37,967.13	\$ 34,937.00	\$ 33,055.00	\$ 32,968.00	\$ 27,868.00
Total Yard Sale	\$ 1,426.30	\$ 2,032.75	\$ 2,819.80	\$ 7,819.60	\$ 1,327.80
Total Tool Rentals	\$ 17,275.00	\$ 14,470.50	\$ 16,353.25	\$ 14,905.90	\$ 14,836.50
Merch	\$ 179.00	\$ 885.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	\$ 2,153.45	\$ 3,126.55	\$ 1,559.62	\$ 2.03	\$ 1.48
Misc	\$ 164.00	\$ 73.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 59,164.88	\$ 55,524.80	\$ 53,787.67	\$ 55,695.53	\$ 44,033.78
Expenses					
Total Non Discretionary	\$ 31,974.55	\$ 28,283.57	\$ 21,342.90	\$ 22,067.44	\$ 20,864.49
Total Discretionary	\$ 7,382.15	\$ 7,661.18	\$ 1,454.45	\$ 748.56	\$ 2,300.93
Total Labor Expenses	\$ 11,837.79	\$ 15,260.66	\$ 7,736.49	\$ 33,645.27	\$ 32,410.80
Total Expenses	\$ 51,194.49	\$ 51,205.41	\$ 30,533.84	\$ 56,461.27	\$ 55,576.22
Net Profit	\$ 7,970.39	\$ 4,319.39	\$ 23,253.83	-\$ 765.74	-\$ 11,542.44

2026 BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet

The Vancouver Tool Library
As at 30 April 2026

30 Apr 2026

Assets	
Bank	
CAD PayPal	12.30
Chequing	47,009.40
Class B Membership Shares xxxx	0.38
Restricted Cash - Member Shares Account	55,116.21
Visa - William Shirley	63.98
Total Bank	102,202.27
Current Assets	
Cash - VTL Shares (Vancity)	(100.00)
Cash On Hand	(240.00)
Total Current Assets	(340.00)
Non-current Assets	
Co - Op Shares - Modo	500.00
Co - Op Shares - Vancity	5.00
Total Non-current Assets	505.00
Total Assets	102,367.27
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (Expenses)	3,707.30
Employee Benefits Payable - CRA	(3,881.04)
Rounding	90.02
Total Current Liabilities	(83.72)
Total Liabilities	(83.72)
Net Assets	102,450.99
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	7,733.06
Membership Shares	98,494.00
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	(3,776.07)
Total Equity	102,450.99

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET

In March, the board put together a spending proposal for the next fiscal year, detailing the projects that we intend to spend money. The board voted to approve the following budget, as a target for spending and as a way to message our priorities to membership.

The budget comes in just under \$70,000. This represents a significant increase in spending from last year (\$51,000) but the board approved this in light of both the surplus we have run over the last three years and the revenue increase trends.

Tools	\$7,600
Includes tool purchases for key areas including bike and auto tools, an investment in our battery stocks, new contracts for Inventory and Garden Tool Organization	
Marketing	\$12,760
Includes contract renewals for Social Media and Newsletter work, a poster campaign, and funds to establish a Communications Committee	
Volunteers	\$8,610
Includes a continuation of volunteer per diem and snacks, Volunteer Appreciation events, a new Volunteer Learning Grant, and Tool Safety Nights at the VTL	
Board/President	\$1,300
Includes funds for board meeting snack, a bi-annual meal to build connection outside the work, and funds to host the AGM	
Community Building	\$7,250
Includes funds for renewing the “Build It Better” grant, an Intro to Tools Program, a Community Networking Night, a Tools Zine project	
Non-Discretionary	\$32,000
Includes funds for rent, insurance, utilities, web hosting and digital services	
Total Spend	\$69,555

TOOL REPORT



NEIL PADGHAM
TOOLS LEAD

This year saw big efforts towards shop organization, tool maintenance, and new tool purchases.

INVENTORY CLEAN-UP

A common source of frustration for volunteers and members is the inventory showing items as “In Stock” which can’t be located in the shop. VTL member Lucas Krist was engaged for a shop inventory and clean-up contract last fall. Significant time was spent to ensure the myTurn system accurately reflects the shop inventory, especially for power tools. Lucas also organized the consumables section, added labels to the shelves, and cleaned up some long-neglected corners of the library. Thanks, Lucas!



TOOL PURCHASES

A new tool wishlist was prepared based on feedback solicited from members, volunteers, the Tool Committee and a review of rental data. Over \$3,000 was spent on new tools and maintenance, the largest single-year tool expense in VTL history since we started. Much of this went towards in-demand items which are not likely to be donated. Highlights include new pressure washers, an industrial sewing machine and new cordless tools - batteries, chargers, nailers, and our first cordless lawn mower!



TOOL COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the Tool Committee members who donated their time to help improve the VTL! Over 100 new tools - some purchased and many donated - were processed and added to inventory. Maintenance efforts continued, including safety improvements to the table saws, replacement of dull blades, and repairs to popular power tools.

A yard sale was held in Spring 2026 to clear out excess donations and surplus tools, selling tools to the community at affordable prices.

If you're interested in learning more about tools, helping with shop organization, or have suggestions on new tools to acquire, please reach out to tools@vancouvertoolibrary.com to get involved.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

On a personal note, I've enjoyed my time on the Board and am grateful to the volunteers and board members I've worked alongside this year. In the second year of my term, I'll build on the successes from last year, and have some new plans in the works. New tool purchases will continue, focusing on cordless tools, batteries, and bike/car tools. This will necessitate upgrades to shop shelving/organization, and a new inventory contract focused on batteries.

I'm looking to expand the tool committee, resuming regular meetings and soliciting additional volunteers. If you've got any suggestions, feedback, or want to get involved, please reach out to tools@vancouvertoolibrary.com.

VOLUNTEER REPORT



SARAH ZWEIP
VOLUNTEER LEAD

VTL is a volunteer-run organization. This means that without members dedicating their free time to this space, it wouldn't be open, let alone able to grow or evolve as a community space. So, I want to start this section with a tremendous and whole-hearted thank you to everyone who gave their time to this little shed of tools this year. You help make VTL the special place it is.

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

VTL was open for 298 days this year. This means volunteers staffed the front desk, helping members find tools, check-in and -out loans, and hand out dog treats for a total of 1,278 hours. The tool committee met 8 times for a total of 24 hours, sharpening blades and putting broken tools back together. These numbers reflect an incredible amount of work and dedication by our community, and in March we held a volunteer appreciation event at Grandview Lanes. Thank you, volunteers!



IMPROVING THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Based on valuable feedback from our volunteers, we instituted some new ways to enhance the experience of working a shift at the VTL front desk, including:

- Snacks behind the desk
- Shift per-diem (\$10 per shift to support coffee/meals because shifts are often through mealtimes)
- Bringing back group volunteer training to further increase capacity and comraderie. The first session was held on May 4, and the next is expected in early June.
- Gauge capacity and avoid burn-out by checking in with volunteers every 3 months to check their capacity for the coming term and actively asking if they'd like a break.

PREVENTING UNEXPECTED CLOSURES

A continuing source of frustration for members was unexpected closures of the library. As a volunteer-run organization, these types of things happen. However, the board and our dedicated front desk volunteers have worked hard this past year to proactively cover all shifts and any last-minute changes that crop up. We're excited to report that since August 2025, we have only had 4 unexpected closures of the library. That's 4 out of 298 expected days.

When closure is unavoidable, we have also improved our communication procedure. Once the coordinator has confirmed a closure, an announcement is promptly made to our Instagram account and website, and the coordinator phones or emails members with loans due that day. We look forward to an even more consistent library schedule in the coming year as we bring on more front desk volunteers.

FUTURE PLANS

In the next year, the Board is planning to continue to improve access to learning opportunities for volunteers behind the desk, so they can provide safe, accessible guidance on member projects. Currently, we are planning:

- Regular Group Safety Training
- A grant program to support volunteers in any tool-related education



MARKETING REPORT



SCOTT BERNSTEIN
MARKETING LEAD

MARKETING CONTRACTS

This year the VTL decided to “up our game” for media and communications by hiring Heather Evens and Mina Labani. Heather is responsible for managing our newsletter and website, and Mina leads our social media accounts. Having two communications professionals on the task of raising awareness and interest of the Vancouver Tool Library and members and sharing knowledge about tools and the people who use them has been very fruitful for us.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE REACH

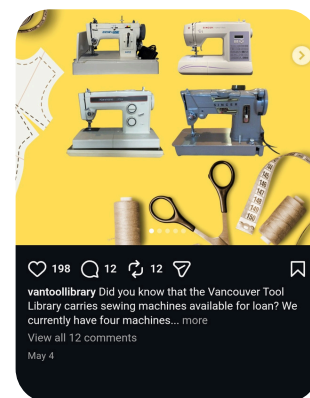
Our newsletter now has over 3,700 subscribers, and has an open rate of over 50%, which is excellent for non-profit organizations. Nearly 500 people across Canada access our website every week. Primarily they are looking at our tool inventory and workshops offered section, and with the recent updates to our web content, people can now easily learn about and connect with us.

SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

Our social media accounts (Instagram and Facebook) are more up-to-date and active than they have ever been, and are filled with short reels of members and volunteers talking about their projects and the tools they are using. We have seen remarkable growth in followers, views and reach over the past six months.

LOOKING AHEAD

Moving forward, we are going to continue to increase awareness of the VTL through our social media and building relationships with different communities across the city. The best way for people to learn about the amazing community and resource that is the VTL is for you – our members – to tell people about us and share your stories.



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT



DEVIN GREENFIELD
VICE PRESIDENT

EFFORTS TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY

In an effort to increase the accessibility of the VTL we have just started work on an initiative we are calling the 'Community Committee.' The VTL has long been dedicated to increasing the accessibility of tools to our community; however, we wanted to create a program specifically intended to empower communities with historical barriers to tool access.

INTRO TO TOOLS PROGRAM

One of the ways in which we are looking to address this issue of accessibility is by creating barrier free spaces for learning. We have started work on developing a series of new *Tools 101* workshops that focus on providing a safe environment for trying out tools from the VTL that folks may not have had the opportunity to try before. This spring we hosted the first trial workshop with some of our volunteers and will be running a second iteration in early summer.



‘BUILD IT BETTER’ COMMUNITY GRANTS

This year, we started a new mini-grant program to help folks in our neighborhood get started on a project to benefit the community. We offered reduced fees for tools and a \$200 materials stipend to allow each builder to start a project. In its first iteration this spring, we funded a number of exciting projects including:

- a rack and frame for hide tanning
- bench building in a community orchard
- a community pantry in a local park
- magnetic hand tools to be available to the public

The grant recipients will be featured in an event in June to share their experiences!



NEXT STEPS

This program started as a board sub-committee, but we will be opening the Community Committee up to the entire VTL community in an effort to gain more perspectives and fresh ideas about how we can expand our efforts. So if you're interested in adding your voice to this conversation around breaking down barriers in our efforts to share tools with the city, keep an eye on the newsletter and on social media for that call out.



WORKSHOPS REVIEW

As in past years, our VTL workshop program delivered engaging community workshops at local community centres, featuring skill-building activities like creative arts, hands-on crafts, and personal development sessions for all ages. Led by dedicated facilitators, these sessions fostered meaningful connections and growth while offering interactive formats and free monthly drop-ins. We've ensured seamless operations, including timely payments for our valued facilitators, and ongoing pre/post-workshop support for participants.



2025 - 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

55 total workshops

318
total participants

APPRECIATIONS

We want to thank and express our gratitude to all our volunteers and community partners this past year. We are able to serve the community and keep our doors open because of you!

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

Matt Ellies
Constanza Chiang
Tyson Cecka
Louie Landry
Caroline Cao
Jasper Moedt
Reed Schrad

TOOLS COMMITTEE

Andrew Pope
Stan Jang
Margaret Panton
Scott Bernstein
Arlo Havixbeck
Neil Padgham
Liam Shirley
Tej Tandon
Leslie Dodd
Simon Morgan
Reed Schrad

FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS

Ben Zuckerman
Cal Domarchuk-White
Charles Brockman
Colin MacIntosh
Daniel Sisk
Kate McEwan
Kevin MacDonald
Liam Shirley
Melissa Stewart
Neil Phagham
Reed Schrad
Sam Debellis
Sarah Zwiep
Scott Bernstein
Tej Tandon
Monster
Myles Lehman
Michael Hewitt
Leslie Dodd
Alastair Wood
Iaan Johnston
Janice T
Jeff Sommers
Devin Greenfield



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QUESTIONS AND INQUIRY

For any questions or feedback with regards to this Annual Report please email info@vancouvertoolibrary.com

The Vancouver Tool Library (VTL) is a cooperative tool lending library located a Vancouver, BC, Canada. We loan to our members a wide variety of tools for home repair, gardening, and bicycle maintenance. And, we offer affordable workshops to the public on tool-related skills and projects.

We are motivated by a vision of our community empowered by the tools and skills needed to transform their homes and communities into vibrant spaces that reflect a commitment to sustainability. To get there, we are creating a community resource that will reduce the costs of improving and greening the places in which we live, work, and play.

We acknowledge that the VTL is located on the unceded, occupied, ancestral and traditional homelands of the xʷməθkwə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We recognize the vast cultural diversity of Indigenous people.