



Vancouver Tool Library celebrates 15 years of sharing tools to build a better city

June 10, 2026 (*Vancouver, BC – Traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh and səliwətał Nations*)

TLDR: The VTL is a tool lending library in East Vancouver that offers an alternative way to access tools and a community of builders, and they've been around for 15 years!

The [Vancouver Tool Library \(VTL\)](#) is excited to announce that they're 15 years old this year! In 2011 a small but mighty group of Vancouverites had a vision - to create a community resource where neighbours could share tools and knowledge together. And so the community rallied to create the VTL - a cooperative tool lending library located in East Vancouver that loans its members a wide variety of tools for home repair, gardening, and bicycle maintenance, and offers affordable workshops to the public on tool-related skills and projects.

And now, fifteen years later, the VTL has over 850 active members and nearly 9000 documented tools loaned out each year, and continues to grow.

At its core, the VTL exists to break down barriers to accessing tools and empower people to build, repair, create and connect through collectively-owned tools and shared knowledge. As a cooperative, they provide their members a community resource that reduces the costs of improving and greening the places in which we all live, work and play.

The VTL plays a big role in East Vancouver, providing not only alternative, affordable access to tools, but also a real community. And in a time when consumerism and technology and loneliness are issues that plague us daily, this people-powered community is worth celebrating.

As VTL President Liam Shirley says, "We are living through extraordinary and unsettling times. So much of our society is fracturing and, while we can all seem so connected, at times it can feel like we have never been so far apart. And even in spite of these trends, I see the membership of the Vancouver Tool Library continue to grow and our reach into the Vancouver community continue to broaden."

The [British Columbia Co-operative Association \(BCCA\)](#) says that "choosing co-ops is about choosing a different kind of economy – one built on cooperation rather than competition, on community wealth rather than individual accumulation, on democratic participation rather



than top-down control. In times of uncertainty, these values aren't just idealistic – they're practical strategies for building resilience.”

Liam agrees. “I believe that community-based organizations like the VTL will play an important role in our collective future as places to gather, plan and act together as one. As always, we are a place where anyone can access the tools to build the life that they want, and, I believe that this will be the place where our community will find the tools to build the world we need.”

VTL turning 15 this year is proof that community-powered initiatives can work, and we think that's reason to celebrate!

A 15th anniversary celebration is planned for July 26 at Trout Lake, and everyone is invited! You can RSVP here: [15th Anniversary Party!](#)

WHERE TO FIND THE VTL:

3448 Commercial Street in East Vancouver, BC, Canada

Website: vancouvertoollibrary.com

Instagram: [@vantoollibrary](#)

Facebook: [@vancouvertoollibrary](#)

XXX

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER TOOL LIBRARY

Founded in 2011, the Vancouver Tool Library (VTL) is a cooperative tool lending library located in 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 xʷməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səl'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We recognize the vast cultural diversity of Indigenous people.



WEBSITE for related images and further information:

vancouvertoollibrary.com

vancouvertoollibrary.com/media

CONTACT at the VTL for more information:

comms@vancouvertoollibrary.com