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## MPL Awarded \$25K Federal Grant to Support ‘The Hand-Me-Down Project’ for Seniors

Milton Public Library is the proud recipient of \$25K in federal funding under the ‘New Horizons for Seniors Programme’ for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and their communities. MPL will be launching ‘The Hand-Me-Down Project’ this spring with the goal of supporting healthy ageing, celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion through intergenerational mentoring and engagement.

[The New Horizons for Seniors Programme \(NHSP\)](#) is a federal grant and contribution programme. It provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities. Key objectives MPL’s programme delivers on include:

- Promoting volunteerism among seniors and other generations
- Engaging seniors in the community through the mentoring of others
- Supporting the social participation and inclusion of seniors.

The goal of the Hand-Me-Down-Project is to share generational knowledge with the next generation, focusing on areas including tradeskills, crafting and culinary expertise, while supporting skills-building as well as intergenerational dialogue and cultural exchange. The funding will allow MPL to connect with local partners, including [the Halton Multicultural Council](#) and [Centre for Skills Development](#), to identify a cohort of diverse local seniors who will lead the development of a unique series of programming over a 12-month period.

The project will re-engage community members with practical, tactical experiences, which have been lacking as a result of the pandemic, while bringing generations of community members together to participate in activities side-by-side, building community, and reducing social isolation commonly experienced by individuals as they age. The goal is to create a community of people learning and sharing together. A component part of the programme is to document and share these teachings and experiences through Milton Public library.

MP Adam van Koeverden shares, “The Milton Public Library is a long-standing pillar within our community, and I am proud that they have received funding through the New Horizons for Seniors Program! With this funding, they will serve not only our growing senior population to

stay active and socially connected but also continue to support the greater community by providing a safe and inclusive space for all to come.”

Seniors and youth interested in participating in the programme are encouraged to stop by Main Library between **2:00-4:00pm from Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March to Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> April** to learn more and enjoy some light refreshments.

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### **About MPL:**

Serving one of the fastest-growing municipalities in North America, Milton Public Library (MPL) is a multi-award winning public library system focussed on innovation and service excellence. The Library’s updated service delivery model is founded on community-led concepts and partnerships and has been highly effective, to the point that MPL continues to have the highest rate of active cardholders of any large Canadian Library (68% of residents are active members!).

MPL empowers the community to Read. Learn. Create. Connect. and **Be Inspired** by all MPL has to offer.

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