



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
March 7, 2022

MPL Awarded \$50K Grant to Support 'Be Inspired' Healthy Communities Initiative

Milton Public Library is the proud recipient of \$50K in funding from the Government of Canada's [Healthy Communities Initiative](#). Partnering with local Indigenous organisation, [Grandmother's Voice](#), MPL plans to bring new life to Beaty Branch and inspire a more inclusive, inviting, and vibrant community space, both indoors and out that will include an Indigenous garden, supportive programs, and enhanced collections.

Implemented by Community Foundations of Canada, the Healthy Communities Initiative is a \$31 million investment from the Government of Canada to transform public spaces to create safe ways for communities to access services, enjoy the outdoors and adapt to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An Indigenous garden will be planted in spring 2022 at Beaty Branch, with a view to centre Indigenous ways of knowing about the land, plants, and medicines. These teachings will be supported by a year of Indigenous-centered programming, featuring voices of Indigenous authors, artists, Elders, and residential school survivors, presented through consultation with Grandmother's Voice and leaders from the Indigenous community in and around Halton.

MP Adam van Koeverden shares, "I am thrilled the Milton Public Library is a recipient of the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative to create a vibrant community garden. This garden will not only encourage our sense of belonging by transforming a public space for us to gather, but it will advance individuals' cross-culture learning through Indigenous-centered programming. The implementation of this initiative will aid in revitalizing Milton to be a healthier, more resilient community and increase social connection to contribute to our overall mental and physical well-being."

MPL will be welcoming the community to participate in programming related to this initiative over the coming weeks, which will be shared at beinspired.ca.

Learn more about Grandmother's Voice:

Grandmother's Voice is a body of unified Indigenous people creating a safe, secure community that advances knowledge, education, and understanding of Indigenous cultures and practices. This group of Elders and Knowledge Keepers were recently awarded with the Suzuki Foundation Future Ground Grand Prize for their Indigenous Seeds of Hope: Planting Our

For further information, please contact Ashley Directo, Manager, Marketing & Communications
ashley.directo@beinspired.ca or (905) 875-2665 x 3295
www.beinspired.ca | Empowering the community to Read. Learn. Create. Connect

Future Healing Garden and Wellness Centre in Milton. We look forward to building a healthier community.

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 now has 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.

FB: @MiltonPublicLibrary TW: @Milton_Library IG: @miltonpubliclibrary