

# Toronto Public Library is offering free AI skills training with support from Google.org



“As AI becomes more integrated into workplaces and everyday life, equitable access to learning opportunities becomes increasingly important. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to understand these technologies and make informed decisions about how they use them.”

Pam Ryan, Director of Service Development & Innovation

## Challenge

The demand for AI skills is rising among employers, but the barrier to upskill can be high for many Toronto communities including newcomers, older adults and job seekers. As time goes on, this lack of access can create a technological divide and leave individuals behind as workplaces evolve. Public institutions like libraries play an important role in helping ensure that no one is left behind as technology continues to evolve.

## Solution

Toronto Public Library (TPL) has a longstanding role in bridging technological divides by providing equitable access to emerging technologies. In 2025, with support from Google.org, TPL launched their AI Learning Circles, which combine online coursework with staff-led study groups. These free courses provide community members with access to free tools, AI skills training, and programming to support employment, boost productivity and encourage safe, informed, use of AI.

## Impact

The support from [Google.org](https://www.google.org) has helped over 2,100 Torontonians access Learning Circle groups, and an additional 1,100 have enrolled in TPL's Google AI Essentials course. Participants reported 98% program satisfaction with 81% saying that participation advanced their career goals. It's a strong start to addressing this emerging area of need and TPL is committed to continuing to expand the scope and scale of access to AI skills training.



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