

November 30, 2020



Media Release:

The Ottawa Tool Library needs a new home!

Our landlord has been evicted – so we’re looking for a new location

As of today, the Ottawa Tool Library (OTL) has suspended its tool lending and will continue to accept returns over the next week. We’re packing up our tools and equipment either to move to a new space or into temporary storage. Where possible, we will continue some of our other operations:

- Our workshops will continue in alternate venues, including our *OTL Tinkering School* for kids;
- We will continue to sell memberships while communicating the current situation; and
- We will continue to operate our webstore with OTL merchandise and used tools.

More than ever, the OTL remains committed to lending tools, sharing skills, and building community in Ottawa – so we’re urgently looking for a new space to re-home our operations. We intend to remain central and accessible to our members, friends and neighbours who have helped us attain our success so far. The OTL is therefore seeking approx. 1,200 SF of heated industrial or warehouse space in Ottawa.

The Situation

Last Thursday, all tenants of **Makerspace North** were informed by the property management company at the City Centre complex in Ottawa that our landlord is being evicted. We have no choice but to vacate our current location by December 9th. **Makerspace North** has been entirely silent with us and other tenants. The OTL had already begun searching for space – but so far, we’ve been unsuccessful.

We sincerely apologize to all our members and deeply regret this situation. We’ve not been given a choice, and our appeals for a reprieve from the property management company have been denied. To be clear, we have always paid our rent and bills promptly, and – despite the current challenges everyone is facing – our financials are sound and our operations had already begun to recover from the earlier lockdown.

How to Help

The OTL is looking to connect with local property owners, businesses, and community leaders as we urgently search for a space. We’re also interested in potentially co-locating with another non-profit organization in Ottawa. All interested parties can contact us via our website. We would also welcome any in-kind donations of transport or commercial storage in the near term. Finally, those looking to help can buy an online membership, make a donation, or sign up to volunteer – with packing, moving, or building our new space – via our website. We’re also looking for large blue Rubbermaid containers!

About the Ottawa Tool Library

Since 2015, the OTL has been lending tools, providing advice, and sharing skills with the people of Ottawa. In that time, we’ve amassed an inventory of more than 2,000 tools and have completed almost 32,000 loans. In 2018, we added a dedicated *OTL WorkSpace*. We’ve also hosted Maker Nights, Demo Nights, and have hosted 16 Repair Café events to fix broken stuff. In our five years of operation, we’ve also recycled over 5,600 lbs of metal from discarded and broken tools, diverting it from landfill.

Media Contact:

Bettina Vollmerhausen
Executive Director, Ottawa Tool
Library
bettina@ottawatoolibrary.com
613-277-3514