



NEWS RELEASE

February 26, 2018

Empowering Participation By All: AVRL receives grant from New Horizons for Seniors Program

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library has been approved for a grant in the amount of \$24,571.00 from the New Horizons for Seniors Program to provide the tools and training to enable seniors with a print disability to participate in social programs offered in their community. This project also aims to help seniors feel comfortable using the technology and to be safe in that environment.

Colin Fraser, Member of Parliament, West Nova, says, "I am pleased that the Government of Canada is supporting this worthwhile initiative that will provide seniors with print disabilities with greater access to the wealth of resources and programs provided by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library. This is a prime example of what the New Horizons for Seniors Program is designed to do: support community-based projects that allow seniors to lead and participate in activities within their local communities."

The project will be multi-layered, providing not only devices such as DAISY players and tablets, but also the skills to use this technology. Needs such as access to reading materials for book clubs, confidence to use online banking, and training have been identified by AVRL and community groups that work with seniors. The project will involve groups such as the VON, church groups, and senior's facilities. Charlotte Janes, AVRL's Systems and Collections Access Coordinator, says she is excited to begin working on this grant.

Numbers from Statistics Canada suggests that about 10% of Canadians may have a print disability, which limits people's ability to read in traditional print format. Many people who do not currently have a print disability will have one in the future. This would mean more than 10,000 individuals have the potential to use service in the area served by the Annapolis Valley Regional Library.

Focus groups will help guide the activities for the project, which will begin in March. Seniors in the communities of Middleton, Berwick and Hantsport will be recruited to become trained mentors and to help implement the project.

The official funding announcement will be held at the Berwick Library on Friday March 2 at 2:30 PM.

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For an interview or to discuss the project, contact
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