

technology for living

OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

Helping people with disabilities live more independently at home in BC.

Since 1970, Technology for Living (TFL) programs have helped more than **27,000** British Columbians live independently in their homes and communities.

Maliyah was one of **2,090** people who benefited from Technology for Living's programs last year.





INDEPENDENCE MATTERS

Everyday, thousands of British Columbians with physical disabilities face a simple truth: independence often comes down to whether you can control your own environment.

Can you turn on the TV when you want to watch something?

Answer your phone when it rings?

Open your front door when someone visits?



THE CHALLENGE

In BC, more than 730,000 people need assistive technology, yet many go without the customized solutions that could enhance their independence. A door that won't open means you can't participate in what's happening on the other side, can't welcome friends into your home, or get out in an emergency.

The gap goes beyond just having access to technology – it's about having access to technology that works for each person's unique needs. Off-the shelf solutions rarely fit the complex realities of daily life with a physical disability.

THE SOLUTION

TFL is uniquely suited to address the problem

History of Technology for Living

Historically we are, and we continue to be, a space where people with physical disabilities can come together in a common cause – advancing autonomy. Since 1970, TFL has been committed to increasing access to assistive technology, and working toward diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in BC.

TFL now houses multiple programs under one roof, including the Technology for Independent Living (TIL) program.



TIL specializes in creating customized solutions – TV and smartphone access, door openers, adaptive gaming controllers, and attendant call systems.



Many of these technologies require custom programming and adaptation to meet individual needs.

Why do we matter?

TFL programs and services are designed by people with disabilities, their families, and our staff to give each person the tools they need to make positive changes and achieve healthy independence in their own home.

What makes us different?

Many of the devices supplied are custom made or off the shelf devices adapted to meet user needs. This can involve disassembly, customization and reassembly.

- Door openers require smart relay installation for voice control, while fobs need smart device adapters.
- Our Biomedics have experience programming the hardware and software of devices and making customizations tailored to the individuals' need.
- If a person uses eye tracking hardware we can connect smart home technology to their eye-tracking device.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Technology for Independent Living program (TIL) – We use technology to increase independence of BC residents with physical disabilities.

Each year we present the **Simon Cox Student Design Competition** to facilitate innovative technology solutions to advance human health, improve independence, & foster inclusiveness. Solutions come from collaboration between BC post-secondary students and someone with a disability.

Nancy couldn't lift covers on her own when cold, until a blanket lifter was invented for the Simon Cox Student Design Competition.



LOOKING FORWARD

Young people with disabilities deserve the same independence as their peers. Our Youth Assistive Technology program (YAT), serving ages 9-18, ensures the next generation has the tools they need to control their environment from an early age – whether that's turning on their gaming system, calling friends, or simply turning off the lights in their room.

But we can't do this alone. Programs like YAT, Automatic Door Opener (ADO) installations and the Simon Cox Student Design Competition depend on foundations and donor support. These programs aren't funded by government health programs – they rely on people who believe independence shouldn't have an age limit.

Your Support Makes Independence Possible

You may be shocked to learn that an ADO can cost more than two new kitchen appliances. Yet for a child or adult with mobility issues, an ADO can help them get outside in an emergency. We need \$500,000 annually to maintain and expand these vital programs that transform daily life for British Columbians.

You can help now with a donation that will help

- ⚙️ Decrease feelings of isolation.
- ⚙️ Enhance independence and autonomy of youth and adults in their homes.
- ⚙️ Provide adapted assistive technology solutions.
- ⚙️ Increase personal control of their environment.

You can provide youth and adults in BC with the unique assistive technology required to improve their independence!

Leave a legacy

Including TFL in your will is an ideal way to make a lasting impact, enhancing the independence and autonomy of youth and adults with mobility issues now and in the future.

Get the support you need. While adding a gift to your will is typically a straight-forward task, we recommend collaborating with a lawyer where circumstances allow. Consulting a financial planner is also prudent.

Let us know you've chosen to include Technology for Living in your will. We would love to thank you personally. We are deeply passionate about caring for those with serious mobility issues in BC and immensely grateful to all our supporters.

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES
INDEPENDENCE POSSIBLE**

Help expand TFL's provincial impact so that we can partner with more youth, adults and their families to improve the places they call home.

With assistive technologies we can offer crucial support to those with limited mobility in BC through Technology for Living.

“Together, we’re creating a more inclusive and accessible community for all.”

Ruth Marzetti, Executive Director

Donate online at www.technologyforliving.org

Send a cheque to payable to

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On behalf of Technology for Living's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, thank you for supporting people with physical disabilities in British Columbia.

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