



A NuVo World

TRANSFORMING NDG

BuyNothing NDG

A culture of sharing, reuse and neighbour-to-neighbour
generosity



Give freely. Ask freely. Waste less. Know your neighbours.

A practical invitation to build a healthier, kinder, more connected community.

A NuVo World: from vision to daily life

A NuVo World begins with a simple conviction: communities change when ordinary people choose to care for one another, consistently and practically. NDG is the proving ground - a place where residents, businesses, schools, faith communities and organizations can build a model of belonging that can eventually be adapted elsewhere.

Every person matters. Every act of kindness matters. Every neighbourhood can become extraordinary.

This program brief turns one part of the larger NDG Transformation Plan into an actionable community initiative. It is designed to be shared with prospective Champions, partners, volunteers, donors and residents.

BuyNothing NDG

A neighbourhood sharing network where useful things stay in circulation, generosity becomes habitual, and asking for help feels as natural as offering it.

The vision

BuyNothing NDG is more than a place to give away unwanted items. It is a practical demonstration of abundance: before buying something new, we ask whether someone nearby already has what we need; before throwing something away, we ask whether a neighbour could use it. The result is less waste, lower household costs and more human connection.

What the program does

- Creates an easy, welcoming way for NDG residents to give, receive, lend and borrow useful goods.
- Encourages 'ask first, buy second' habits for household items, children's goods, books, tools, furniture and everyday necessities.
- Uses exchanges as opportunities for neighbours to meet rather than treating sharing as an anonymous transaction.
- Connects surplus goods with community initiatives, families and organizations when appropriate.
- Celebrates repair, reuse, creativity and stewardship instead of disposability.

A simple operating model

The program can grow through neighbourhood-based online groups supported by a small volunteer team. Clear community guidelines should emphasize respect, no selling, no shaming, safety, privacy and equitable access. As participation grows, periodic in-person Give Fairs, repair days, swap tables and

seasonal drives can bring the online community into real neighbourhood spaces.

How we begin

First 90 days

- Appoint a volunteer Program Champion and a small moderation/welcome team.
- Publish a one-page community promise explaining how giving, asking, borrowing and gratitude work.
- Recruit Block Captains and community organizations to invite residents street by street.
- Create recurring themes such as Tool Tuesday, Children's Exchange, Book Week and Moving Day Rescue.
- Pilot one in-person Give Fair in a highly accessible NDG location.
- Track stories of connection as carefully as the number of items exchanged.

Safeguards

- Do not collect unnecessary personal information; exchanges should reveal only what participants choose to share.
- Keep food, medical, hazardous and safety-sensitive exchanges within clear, appropriate rules.
- Moderators address harassment, repeated no-shows, resale abuse and discriminatory conduct promptly.
- Participation remains voluntary; receiving never creates an obligation to give back.

What success looks like

Measure	What it tells us
Active households	How broadly the culture of sharing is reaching NDG.
Items kept in use	A practical indicator of reuse and avoided waste.
Requests fulfilled	Whether the network is helping residents meet real needs.
Neighbour connections	Stories and survey responses showing new relationships.
Volunteer participation	Whether residents are helping sustain the network.
Community events	The number and reach of Give Fairs, swaps and repair activities.

THE INVITATION: Give what you can. Ask for what you need. Meet the person on the other side of the exchange. Help make generosity part of everyday life in NDG.