

February 18, 2026

**Subject: Pilot Program: AI for Seniors Workshop series**

Dear Pat Goyeche, Coordinator, Community Programs  
The Glebe Centre Community Programs - Abbotsford

This proposal details a hands-on program to teach older adults safe use of modern AI tools, aiming to bridge the digital skills gap and empower seniors. Our goal is to boost public AI literacy, especially among underserved local populations, through our workshop series.

### About ORAH and our mission

The **Ottawa Responsible AI Hub (ORAH)** is piloting accessible, evidence-based AI workshops in community hubs to ensure equitable learning for underserved seniors (55+/70+). This pilot is the first step in our broader A.I. education and public literacy program.

### Program context and content

Our proprietary curriculum will be customized to be **context-specific and scenario-based**, directly addressing the real-life tasks and challenges faced by seniors. An initial pilot will be conducted in a hybrid flex mode at 1 location (Abbotsford) then rolled out to potentially other locations and/or continued at pre-pilot location during a phased approach.

Target community partners	Interested organizations
1. <a href="#">Glebe Centre Community Programs at Abbotsford</a> (City centre) 2. <a href="#">Rideau-Rickcliffe Community Resource Centre</a> (Ottawa east) 3. <a href="#">Waterford Retirement - Independent Living</a> (Ottawa south) 4. <a href="#">Rural Ottawa South Support Services</a> (Rural Ottawa and beyond, Low income, PwD seniors) 5. <a href="#">The Good Companions</a> (City centre; Low income seniors) 6. <a href="#">Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre</a> (Ottawa west)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rotary Club - Oshawa</li> <li>● More to come</li> </ul>

Topics will be informed by questions received in advance from your organization’s members.



## Program overview

**Location** The Glebe Centre Community Programs - Abbotsford (Pre-pilot location) **Duration**

Up to 8 weeks (1x session per week)

**Timing** May to June 2026

**Schedule** Friday mornings, 90 minutes per session

**Format Hybrid Flex Model** (In-person and live online) to include seniors in Ottawa and surrounding **rural and remote communities** (Eastern Ontario).

**Pre-planning** ORAH to led: Youth Partner volunteer recruitment (Facility/ORAH); Participant waivers (Opt/in/Opt out of pictures for website, informal research study); Submit your question about A.I. (Question box at Front desk reception, 4-6 weeks prior to series)

**Mentorship 1:1 Tutorial** with a trained Youth Partner volunteer, ensuring personalized support for every participant.

### Workshop structure

one clear, scenario-based topic (e.g., "Using AI to find local services", "fact checking news with AI for misinformation", "Using voice assistants safely with AI", "Spotting AI deepfakes/Scam prevention tactics"). **Delivered live with a mix of micro teach, community leaders panel discussion and in person, hands on component simultaneously online with closed captioning.**

**2. 1:1 Tutorial (45–60 minutes)** - Personalized hands-on practice **Personalized support:** Each senior is paired with a trained Youth Partner volunteer. **Hands-on practice:** The Youth Partner assists the senior with a practical activity, adapting to their device, pace, and specific questions (whether in-person or online via screen sharing).

### Materials and logistics

Each weekly session is split into two parts:

**1. Mini Teach (30–45 minutes)** - The Micro-Lecture / Lunch 'n Learn or Coffee/Tea A short lesson on

iPads (Community Centre loaners available); Bring Your Own Device Facility has wifi-enabled, projector, activity room with groups of 4/table; GoogleMeets

**Guiding principles: Simple, accessible, and inclusive** The

course is built on principles that make learning easy and comfortable for everyone:

● **Universal Design for Learning (UDL):** Flexible teaching methods (visual, verbal, hands-on) accommodate diverse senior learning styles for effective learning. ● **Inclusive**

**AI Framework:** Adapted from UDL, this framework teaches seniors Prepared by: Antonia McGuire AI Education and Public Literacy Lead

Prepared for: The Glebe Centre Community Programs - Abbotsford



[www.responsibleaiottawa.ca](http://www.responsibleaiottawa.ca)

responsible AI use, including critical evaluation and spotting bias/misinformation.

**Accessibility:** Materials will use simple language, large fonts, and high contrast. Live sessions will include **closed captioning** for all participants.

### Next Steps

Let's meet to finalize the workshop series soon, discuss areas of collaboration and logistics.

- In the coming weeks, I'll be
  - a. developing the scenario-based curriculum topics based on your community center's feedback
  - b. recruiting and training Youth Partners in hybrid facilitation and accessibility best practices.

### Vetting and training

- To be will be led by the Ottawa Responsible AI Hub prior to the pre-pilot commencement.
- Alternatively, volunteer youth partners may be substituted with a preferred community group if an existing partnership is in place (e.g., a local high school).

### Volunteer recruitment

We are actively seeking 10-15 youth partners interested in participating in the AI for Seniors as A.I. tutors during the 1:1 hands on workshop (part of train-the-trainer program), this May-June.

### Requirements:

- 16 years or older and must:
  - speak fluent English; bilingualism is an asset
  - have day time availability, 1x week (preferred Friday mornings)
  - Ideally, be fulfilling a community service requirement for school or affiliate
  - be reliable, patient, a good communicator and works well with others
  - be available for training, able to commit and fulfil their volunteer hours
  - treat everyone with respect and embody the values of diversity, equity, inclusion
  - obtain a valid records and background check, specifically:
    - [Level 3/Vulnerable Sector Check \(VSC\) with the Ottawa Police](#)

At this time, we propose running the pre-pilot at no cost to your organization for the benefit of our learning and your community feedback. I look forward to continuing our conversation about this initiative and how we can activate this AI for Seniors pilot, starting this spring.

Warmly,

Antonia McGuire, AI Education and Public Literacy Lead  
Ottawa Responsible AI Hub

**Prepared by:** Antonia McGuire AI Education and Public Literacy Lead

**Prepared for:** The Glebe Centre Community Programs - Abbotsford