

March 21, 2018

Response of Timothy Denton to the Nominations Committee

<http://internetsociety.ca/2018/03/13/board-nomination-information-2018-agm-may-14th-2018-save-the-date/>

I am answering the questions by grouping them appropriately. In some cases the questions overlap.

Answers to questions 1 and 3.

Why do you want to serve/why should you be elected?

I want to be on the Board to continue the development of the chapter into the premier policy voice for Internet issues in this country. Our goals were expressed in the Chapter's submission in the Bell fair Play petition to the CRTC made in March, 2018.

1. The Internet Society Canada Chapter (ISCC) is a not-for-profit corporation that engages on Internet legal and policy issues to advocate for an open, accessible and affordable Internet for Canadians. An open Internet means one in which ideas and expression can be communicated and received except where limits have been imposed by law. An accessible Internet is one where all persons and all interests can freely access websites that span all legal forms of expression. An affordable Internet is one by which all Canadians can access Internet services at a reasonable price.

It is important to realize that the Chapter has no permanent allies or enemies: that organizations may act as opponents or allies, depending on the issue involved.

We are living in an era where many forces are mobilized to make the Internet expensive, constricted, burdened with licensing requirements, and hazardous.

Above all I remain committed to free expression within the boundaries of law. These are views that are called liberal, in the proper sense of that term. In that sense, the Internet Society, Canada Chapter, advances those ideas in the public sphere by effective lobbying and policy interventions.

Term

2. I am seeking a two year term.

Skills and experience

4. What specific skills or experiences do you have that make you the best candidate for the ISCC Board?

Relevant biographical information can be found on my website,
<http://www.tmdenton.com/index.php/personal-background>

I have been a national commissioner of the CRTC from 2009-2013. I have been for a long period associated with the management of the numbering resources of the Internet, through my being on the board of ARIN. I have at various times since 1999 worked for the registrars' stakeholders group in the ICANN space, variously as Secretary and as a consultant. I have been on the Board of CIRA and been a member of the At-large Advisory Council in ICANN.

While on the CRTC, I was part of the panel that sorted out the net neutrality issue in Canada (Internet traffic management procedures) in a way that has resulted in an appropriate balance between the interests of carriers and users. I have consistently promoted the use of resale and sharing of fixed and mobile facilities as the only proven way to generate competition in a field characterized by market dominance of a few carriers, as an advocate and as a commissioner.

I have favoured the development of greater technical understanding of the Internet on the part of policy makers. I remain concerned that proposals coming before the CRTC fail to understand how the Internet works, and would, if implemented, seriously harm it.

7. Please describe your understanding of the role of a Director on the ISCC Board.

I assume you are not asking for a disquisition on the legal responsibilities of a Board member in Canadian law.

Being a board member requires an understanding of the positions of other people, patience, a willingness to listen, flexibility in execution, and the exposition of principled positions where these are called for. The trick is in knowing where to seek consensus and when to engage in principled discussion, including disagreement.

As a chairman, I have further duties to the organization. These consist of shepherding the organization through its discussions in a way that achieves appropriate levels of consensus and purposeful activity.

5. and 6. Top Three Challenges and Opportunities

What do you feel are the top three challenges and opportunities facing the Canadian Internet Community during the next three to five years? (The question is unclear as to whether you are asking for three or six answers. I will deal with the challenges first.)

These are derived from my observations of current issues, and are subject to radical revision according to circumstances.

- a) licensing

The right of people to communicate is always threatened, and today in Canada the threats have several origins. The first is the desire to make the Internet into an extension of the Canadian broadcasting system. The latest variant of this effort is the Bell Fair Play petition, which has sought to use the telecom Act to enforce property rights under the Copyright Act.

Response: the ISCC should continue to intervene before the CRTC, ISED, Heritage and if necessary and possible, the courts, to oppose licensing of websites and the extension of the Broadcasting Act to the Internet.

b) Censorship

I see this threat as proceeding from the efforts of social media companies suppress views they or their employees do not like.

Response: As the companies that engage in the suppression of views (social media platforms) are beyond Canadian jurisdiction, only multi-stakeholder processes or multi-lateral Internet efforts can oppose these sorts of activities. In effect, no immediate approach within the ISCC's competence appears to be available, though I would be happy to be proven wrong on this one.

c) Affordability/cost

The price of bandwidth in Canada is high and the adoption of bandwidth-intensive uses in Canada is lower than it is in other countries.

Response: The ISCC should continue to intervene as appropriate to loosen the tight grip of the major carriers on the Canadian telecoms market, usually through resale and sharing, or spectrum liberalization.

Opportunities:

Grow the organization into the premier Internet advocate in Canada.

8. If elected as a Director, can you make the required time commitment to contribute significantly to ISCC in accordance with what is generally expected of Directors?

Yes.

9. If elected as a Director, are you prepared to abide by the ISCC Articles of Continuance, Bylaws, Board Resolutions and Policies as amended from-time-to-time?

Yes.

10. Do you agree to abide by the ISCC process for candidate nominations for the election of Directors that has been described to you?

Yes