Internet Society
Canada Chapter

5TH ANNUAL
DIGITAL ACCESS DAY
Tuesday, November 29, 2022
9:00 am ET
Networking reception to follow: 5-7 pm ET

We believe the internet helps address serious social and economic needs. But too often, the digital divide mirrors existing inequities. Our current experience with COVID-19 shows that the transition in these extraordinary circumstances is far from smooth. More specifically, people without access to ICTs are even more disadvantaged than before. In many cases, the lifeline provided by technologies is only available to those who can access them.

The 5th Annual Digital Access Day is bringing together thought leaders from NGOs, the tech sector, government, universities, and those most affected by the digital divide to talk about good work already underway, identify what else can be done, and measure progress.

NOTE: *Speakers are TBA. This document will update closer to event date.*

Agenda

Time (EST)	Session	Speakers (TBA)
9:00 am	**Welcome**	
9:10 am	**Remarks & Intro to Minister: Presenting Sponsor**	
9:15 am	**Keynote: Minister Champagne or Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development Canada**	
9:30 am	**No Sector Left Behind: Ensuring Digital Resiliency in Canada's Supply Chain** Even before the COVID-19 crisis began, the pace of technological change was a challenge for many business and supply chains. The pace of change has accelerated since the pandemic began with the result that everything is more digital. More and more, supply chains rely on data, analytics, and digital tools to increase efficiency and profit. As technology and digital use increase, so too must	

	security to protect those digital assets. Further, consumers, businesses, and trading partners are increasingly looking for data as part of tracing a product and its components from production to the consumer to be able to authenticate, and trust, what they purchase. The ability to keep pace with this change and mitigate evolving risks will impact who is most likely to thrive as we continue to shift more and more to a digital economy. This panel will delve into the current challenges, the future of digital, and how all stakeholders from government to industry stakeholders, particularly in critical infrastructures like food supply chains, can contribute to building resilience in an ever-changing digital landscape.	
10:30 am	**Health Break**	
10:45 am	**Forewarned is Forearmed. To be prepared is half the victory: Giving Canadians the cybersecurity tools they need** Cybersecurity skills and technologies are becoming an ever-vital part of personal and enterprise networks. Cyber attacks can be devastating for an organization's operations and reputation. Unfortunately, when attacks occur on healthcare and other public institutions, they can have dangerous consequences. Too few Canadians and Canadian organizations have the proper cybersecurity tools and technologies to keep their data, devices, and networks safe and secure. It is important for vulnerable sectors and Canadians to have access to cybersecurity tools and technologies in order to have a robust cybersecurity ecosystem across the country. In this panel, we'll discuss the barriers to expanding access to cybersecurity technologies and how Canada can become a leader in cybersecurity through cross-sectoral collaboration.	
11:45 am	**Lunch**	

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1:00 pm	**Achieving Digital Equity- What does it look like?** Digital equity and inclusion face major barriers across Canada. Achieving digital equity will bridge other equity gaps such as economic, health, and education. What does digital equity look like? The scope of digital equity has remained mostly limited to broadband access and skills required to interact with digital technology. We believe this scope needs to expand, particularly to include opportunities for growth and leadership in the digital world. We need to improve digital equity for organizations, and we need to build a digital ecosystem—including policies, business practices, and norms—that enables all people and organizations to succeed in the digital world.	
2:00 pm	**Affordability** Online access is increasingly important to apply for jobs, complete schoolwork, download government forms, pay bills and connect with families and friends with some even going so far as to claim that internet access has become a basic human right. Lower-income Canadians often face a tough choice - paying for internet service or paying for basic necessities like food or transportation. In the 2019 budget, the federal government committed to a multi-year plan that will provide high-speed internet access for all Canadians by 2030, but the commitment did not outline a plan to tackle internet affordability, an often overlooked component of the digital divide. What does the solution look like to close this digital divide? Is it expanding existing programs like Connecting Families? Regulated retail pricing? Expanding wholesale access to incumbent networks? A mixture of all three, or something completely different?	
3:00 pm	**Break**	
3:15pm	**Keynote**	

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Time		
3:30 pm	**Resiliency/Competition** Reliable network access is no longer a nicety - it is a cornerstone of modern life in Canada. When Rogers failed in July the impact was felt across the country - calls to emergency services failed, Interac payments were down, concerts were cancelled, and countless businesses had to stop work for the day. More recently when hurricane Fiona devastated the east coast of Canada we saw more of the same - network failures and communications impacted. In the wake of the Rogers outage the Federal government mandated that communications providers work together ensure mutual assistance and roaming in the event of an outage but is this enough or do we need to push further into structural separation of the larger networks into multiple entities - one that operates the physical network (cable, fibre, etc), one that operates the wireless network (LTE), and one that provides services to end-consumers?	
4:30 pm	**Closing Remarks**	
4:40 pm	**Networking Reception** **Opening remarks** **Rachel Thomas, MP**	

Attendees:
Digital Access Day brings between 120 and 150 high-level public servants and C-suite private sector and NFP thought leaders.

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