



**The Canadian  
Internet Society**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Dominion Chalmers - CarletonU  
290 Lisgar Street Entrance

## AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
8:30am - 9:00am	<b>Registration and Networking Breakfast</b> Attendees are welcomed with coffee and light refreshments, with an opportunity to connect with industry leaders, policymakers, and peers.	
9:00am - 9:05am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Franca will introduce the theme of “Digital Access Day” and discuss the critical challenges Canada faces in making digital access truly equitable, emphasizing affordability, digital literacy, and the safety of Canadians online.	<b>Franca Palazzo</b> Executive Director, The Canadian Internet Society
9:05am - 9:50am	<b>Keynote Address &amp; Fireside Chat — Canada’s Digital Reset: Why 2025 Provides a New Opportunity to Reshape Canadian Digital Law and Policy</b> Years of Canadian digital laws and policies now largely fall into two groups: those that have died due to prorogation and those that are likely to die due to Donald Trump. Michael Geist will unpack this dramatic shift and examine why it presents a new opportunity to reshape digital policy by prioritizing consumers, access, and innovation. The keynote will be followed by a 25-minute fireside chat moderated by TCIS President Lena Trudeau.	<b>Michael Geist</b> Professor of Law, Canada Research Chair, Internet & E-commerce Law, University of Ottawa  <i>Fireside Chat Moderator:</i> <b>David Akin</b> Chief Political Correspondent, Global News
9:50am - 10:00am	<b>Keynote Address — Ensuring Digital Equity: Bridging the Affordability Gap</b> This keynote will focus on the issue of affordability in internet access, particularly how the lack of competition among Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Canada affects pricing and access for vulnerable populations. The speaker will discuss policy changes and market innovations that could lower costs, ensuring all Canadians can participate in the digital economy.	<b>Natalie Campbell</b> Senior Director, North America Government and Regulatory Affairs, Internet Society

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
10:00am - 11:00am	<p><b>Panel 1 — The Impact of a New Government on Digital Policy: Opportunities and Challenges</b></p> <p>A change in government can profoundly reshape Canada’s digital landscape, influencing access, affordability, and competition in the sector. This panel will explore how a new federal administration could impact key digital policies, focusing on potential shifts in priorities, regulatory approaches, and funding commitments. Discussions will center on how evolving public policy can ensure digital access for Canadians across income levels and geographic locations. Panelists will also examine how these changes might shape the competitive environment for ISPs and other stakeholders, presenting opportunities for innovation and challenges to maintaining equitable access.</p>	<p><b>Tim Powers</b> Chair, Summa Strategies   Managing Director, Abacus Data</p> <p><b>Christine Van Geyn</b> Litigation Director, Canadian Constitution Foundation   Lawyer   Author</p> <p><b>Vandana Kattar</b> Head of Communications, Global Diversity and Inclusion &amp; Environment and Social Governance, TD Bank</p> <p><b>George Soule</b> Communications and Government Relations Strategist</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>David Akin</b> Chief Political Correspondent, Global News</p>
11:00am - 11:15am	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>	
11:15am - 12:00pm	<p><b>DAD Talk 1 — Affordable Internet for All: The Role of ISPs and Competition in Driving Down Costs</b></p> <p>This talk will explore the current state of competition among ISPs in Canada and its impact on affordability. With growing pressure on ISPs to provide affordable plans, this session will highlight strategies for fostering competition and innovation in the market to make internet access more equitable for all Canadians.</p>	<p><b>Bram Abramson</b> Commissioner, Ontario, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)</p>
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
1:00pm - 2:00pm	<p><b>Panel 2 — Cybersecurity and Online Safety: Protecting Canadians in a Digital Age</b></p> <p>As internet access expands, so do the risks to online safety. This panel will explore how to safeguard Canadians, especially vulnerable groups, from cyber threats, identity theft, and privacy breaches. The discussion will focus on strategies and innovations to strengthen privacy protections and cybersecurity measures for all Canadians in an increasingly connected world.</p>	<p><b>Ulrike Bahr-Gedalia</b> Senior Director, Digital Economy, Technology &amp; Innovation, Canadian Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><b>Brent Arnold</b> Partner, Gowling WLG</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Phalen Tynes-MacDonald</b> Deputy Editor, The Wire Report</p>

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
2:00pm - 2:45pm	<p><b>DAD Talk Slot 2 — Tech for Good: Driving Inclusive Innovation</b></p> <p>This inspiring session will spotlight the importance of inclusive innovation to drive prosperity and sustainability while bridging the digital divide.</p>	<p><b>Dr. Wendy Cukier</b> Founder and Academic Director, Diversity Institute   Academic Research Director, Future Skills Centre</p>
2:45pm - 3:00pm	<p><b>AFTERNOON BREAK</b></p>	
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<p><b>Panel 3 — Digital Literacy for the Future: Preparing Canadians for Tomorrow's Digital World</b></p> <p>This panel will examine the growing importance of digital literacy in Canada. Experts from education, non-profits, and industry will discuss how to equip youth, seniors, and underserved communities with the skills to navigate the digital world safely and effectively. Topics will include combating misinformation, fostering critical thinking, and promoting safe online practices. The discussion will focus on pathways to ensure Canadians are prepared for the challenges of a rapidly evolving digital landscape.</p>	<p><b>Kinga Petrovai, PhD</b> Principal, Workplace Learning Consultant &amp; Podcaster, The Art &amp; Science of Learning Inc.</p> <p><b>Matthew Johnson</b> Director of Education, MediaSmarts</p> <p><b>Erin Keeley-Messier</b> Program Manager, iSisters Technology Mentoring</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Valérie Gervais</b> Founder and CEO RKESTRA Communications</p>
4:00pm - 4:45pm	<p><b>Panel 4 — A Vision for the Future: Ensuring Digital Access for All Canadians</b></p> <p>This final panel will discuss the future of digital access in Canada, focusing on key areas such as affordability, literacy, and safety. Experts will debate what policies, market shifts, and educational initiatives are necessary to create a truly inclusive digital future, particularly in light of a possible new government.</p>	<p><b>Shelley Robinson</b> Executive Director, National Capital FreeNet</p> <p><b>Matthew Gamble</b> Vice Chair, TCIS   Principal, Int13 Consulting</p> <p><b>Michel Mersereau</b> Assistant Professor, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto</p> <p><b>Asennaienton Frank Horn</b> Director, Workforce Development, Indigenous Connectivity Institute</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Georgia Evans</b> Board Director, The Canadian Internet Society</p>

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
4:45pm - 5:00pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Franca Palazzo will reflect on the key insights of the day, outline the next steps for TCIS, and thank the sponsors, speakers, and participants for their contributions.	<b>Franca Palazzo</b> Executive Director, The Canadian Internet Society
5:00pm	<b>Networking Reception</b> An informal reception to conclude the day, providing an opportunity for attendees to discuss the day's key takeaways and build new partnerships.	