



**Telecommunities Canada**  
**Télécommunautés Canada**

## **Newsletter #1**

**January to March 2021**

### **Monthly virtual meetings**

Recent guest speakers at TC virtual meetings:

- Glenn McKnight on the Virtual School on Internet Governance (VSIG) -- an online learning platform that offers a core set of studies on Internet Governance. This course is free to the learners. VSIG follows a ten-eleven week delivery format. During the first year, there were four groups of approximately one-hundred students each and plans are in place to launch in September 2021 a French and Spanish version of the course. The long term vision includes a multilingual platform that serves as a foundation for any face to face school on Internet Governance.

TC is involved with internet governance through its participation in the multistakeholder decision making process at ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). Several members have already had an opportunity to attend face-to-face schools of Internet governance. It is hoped that others will take this opportunity when it becomes available again. Until then, the virtual school has a lot to offer.

For more information see <https://www.virtualsig.org/>

- Rob McMahon, Coordinator and Secretary of the First Mile Connectivity Consortium. His work focuses on the appropriation of broadband and internet technologies by First Nations and Inuit communities. The First Mile Connectivity Consortium (FMCC) is a registered national non-profit organization in Canada. The FMCC membership includes First Nations community-based telecommunications organizations serving remote and rural communities. These organizations represent the telecom interests of the citizens in their member communities. FMCC research associates include experts on the topic of broadband infrastructure and digital technology adoption in remote and rural communities.

A podcast of Rob's presentation is available here: <http://www.ryakuga.org/podcast/rob2.mp3>

- Sam Andrey, Director of Policy and Research and Nour Abdulaal, Policy and Research Assistant, Ryerson Leadership Lab. This was a discussion about on the six Digital Access Workshops which have been organized by the Ryerson Team -- each focussed on a specific

aspect of the digital access. TC members are encouraged to participate in some of these as our experience in this area is longstanding and we do have some unique perspectives to contribute.

Overcoming Digital Divides: Workshop Series

<https://www.rversonleadlab.com/overcoming-digital-divides>

## **Found film**

In February, we rediscovered a film about the work of CAP sites in Nova Scotia. It features nine C@P sites in the Halifax area and tells a very poignant story about how important these sites were in the lives of the people and the communities. The documentary was made by Ariana Pahlke, still an active filmmaker in Canada, in cooperation with the Halifax Regional CAP Association.

This is an interesting historical piece about a visionary program that came to be deeply undervalued by policy makers. The film achieved some notoriety when there were attempts to block its release.

It can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5E-Fe1kf\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5E-Fe1kf_A)

## **Affordable Internet Day of Action**

TC signed on to the Affordable Internet Day of Action -- Mar 16, 2021. OpenMedia did an impressive job of coalition building with this event. If you were unable to participate, you can view it here:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/4KVaN0MAhh2nAZQ64G7l-8bc0B7HqgAyb\\_ZZsHUa5uXZvCE0Idc4h2KNp7Rhs1p.ZtX09IuRK\\_jbogd-](https://zoom.us/rec/share/4KVaN0MAhh2nAZQ64G7l-8bc0B7HqgAyb_ZZsHUa5uXZvCE0Idc4h2KNp7Rhs1p.ZtX09IuRK_jbogd-)

The participants were a checklist of Affordable Access advocacy agencies in Canada, (32 of them including TC).

<https://www.affordable-internet.ca/index.html#section-participants>.

## **International activities**

On the international front, the TC continues to be represented by Marita Moll who is a member of the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) at ICANN, the International Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers. She is leading the At Large work on the evolution of the ICANN multistakeholder model. ICANN's public meetings are currently being held virtually -- the regular March community meeting (22-26) was in virtual Cancun, Mexico. Major topics of interest included ICANN's role in curtailing DNS abuse; updates on new regulatory frameworks evolving in the EU which will affect all Internet users in the fields of privacy, abusive content and cybersecurity; digital sovereignty; and the updating of an applicant guidebook for a possible roll-out of new generic top level domain names. Among the many improvements to the guidebook were a number of recommendations to ensure some level of assistance and priority for community groups who apply for top level domain names.

## **Community Networks and Pandemic Assistance**

Monique Chartrand, Executive Director of Montreal-based Communautique, has reported that their Fab Lab has manufactured 35,000 protective visors for the COVID emergency environment since the beginning of the pandemic. "Our Fab Lab which has become a local factory" says Monique.

<https://www.communautique.quebec/visiere-de-protection-echofab/>

### **TC was represented at the following events during this period:**

Jan. 27 -- Presentation by Ron Diebert -- author of Reset and this year's Massey Lecturer. This talk was part of a CIRA members meet-up.

Mar. 4, 2021 What do Canadians want from their digital government platforms.( Internet Society Canada Chapter)

Mar. 16 Affordable Internet Day of Action (Open Media)

Mar. 22-25 ICANN70 (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers)

Mar. 25 -- Digital access workshop -- Indigenous, Rural, Remote Communities (Ryerson Leadership Group)

Mar.29 -- People and Prosperity: Planning for Canadian Growth. (Globe and Mail)