

# Telecommunities Canada

## President's Report

November 30, 2021

### Meetings and Newsletter

With the help of zoom master Garth Graham, TC held a number of meetings over the last year. Invited speakers were from the Virtual School of Internet Governance, the First Mile Connectivity Consortium, the Ryerson Leadership Lab, the National Capital Freenet MESH project and University of Toronto researcher Michel Mersereau on digital access issues in Toronto social housing projects. TC members also participated in various on-line events. Newsletter #1 describing some of these activities is available here and #2 will be coming out shortly.

<http://www.tc.ca/tcnewsletter/TCnewsletter%20%231.pdf>

### Brian Beaton

This community was saddened to lose Brian Beaton, one of our long-time supporters and directors. An In Memorium note has been posted on the TC website

### Youtube Channel

With the help of Adrian Schmidt, TC now has a youtube channel. We will add further items as we move forward.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyK8ZBttGX89Q7f4h7GxWGw>

### Website

We are always grateful to our webmaster, Ian Allen who has been keeping our site up to date as requested.

### International Activities

This year I am in the second year of my second 2-year term as the North American At-Large Organization's (NARALO) representative to the ICANN At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). Within ICANN, At-Large structures and individual members form the basis of a community representing the interests of Internet end-users worldwide. TC is one of 22 North American At-large structures. The 15 member At-Large Advisory Committee votes on the final recommendations provided by various working groups commenting, from the perspective of impact on endusers, on proposed policy.

Why is this important?

Within the ICANN multistakeholder model, At-Large is the constituency that presents the perspectives of Internet endusers in policy discussions. The participation of organizations like TC are vital to the integrity of this model.

Policy discussions I have focussed on this year:

- continuing as At-large lead on the ICANN project to evolve their multistakeholder model over the next 5 years. The ICANN multistakeholder model is unique in the Internet ecosystem, a decision making system structured through by-laws to ensure that policy is developed through a bottom-up process which includes all constituencies.
- continuing participation in weekly calls of the CPWG (consolidated policy working group) to refine end-user perspectives on various policies being discussed including domain transfer policy, international domain names, and curative rights protections for IGOs.
- continuing participation in the At large Operations, Finance and Budget working group which comments on ICANN operating plan and budget documents
- continuing participation in ICANN public meetings (still currently virtual) including being part of the planning term for At Large events at these meetings.

### **National Activities**

I am on the steering committee for the Canadian Internet Governance Forum which has taken the format of monthly one hour presentations/discussions on agreed upon topics. Interest is high, at the moment, in the upcoming federal legislation re: online harms and internet platform taxation.

Why is this important?

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) provides a multistakeholder platform to facilitate the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. This is not a decision making body but it is still politically influential.

Regional fora are held around the world with some of their conclusions then being fed into the content of the main IGF (this year being held virtually in Poland). The CIGF acts as a multistakeholder forum to gather, discuss and disseminate Internet governance issues of importance to Canadians. For a report from the Nov. 2020 CIGF held in virtually see: <https://canadianigf.ca/cigf-2020/>

### **Other activities**

From my home in Ottawa I attended virtual ICANN public meetings in Cancun, The Hague and Seattle. The ICANN policy has been to maintain the timezone of the original location. ICANN is constantly re-evaluating the decision to hold virtual meetings. It is hard on the entire community. But, there doesn't yet seem to be a clear window to return to in -person meetings or even hybrid meetings.

I have given a presentation on multistakeholder models to the virtual school of Internet governance (VSIG). This school offers an intensive study of technical and social internet governance issues. For more information: <https://www.virtualsig.org/>

I am regularly invited to briefings organized by the ISED team which represents Canada in ICANN's influential Government Advisory Committee. In these briefings, various policy issues are discussed and input is sought from stakeholders.