Telecommunities Canada

President's Report

November 30, 2022

Meetings and Newsletter

Unlike last year, we did not have any intermittent meetings in 2022. Personal bandwidth among TC members and executive was simply not up to it. Possibly the strain of coping with pandemic restrictions drained our creative energies. As a result, there is still only one newsletter on our site at the moment: http://www.tc.ca/tcnewsletter/TCnewsletter%20%231.pdf

Hopefully, we can improve on this in the coming year.

Youtube Channel

With the help of Adrian Schmidt, TC now has a youtube channel. The channel currently has three items:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyK8ZBttGX89Q7f4h7GxWGw

Membership

Our membership list currently shows 48 members. We are in the process of checking duplicate and expired entries. We expect the final list will show between 30-40 members.

Website

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

International Activities

I have now completed my maximum two consecutive terms as the North American At-Large Organization's (NARALO) representative to the ICANN At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). I am still very involved with the At Large community, particularly as the At-Large lead on the evolution of ICANN's multistakeholder model. Throughout the pandemic, ICANN's public meetings were held virtually, until June 2020 when hybrid meetings were enabled. For personal safety and other reasons, I did not attend either the Den Hague (June) or Kuala Lumpur (September) hybrid meetings in person. However, I was very active as a virtual participant, including organizing and chairing a number of sessions.

On Oct. 19-20, I attended the 2022 NARALO General Assembly in Hollywood, CA. The GA focused on a three-part strategy of Empowerment, Engagement, and Encouragement with an emphasis on outreach and engagement and policy issues to help inform and motivate the membership to become involved. The final report will be circulated on the mailing list and posted on our website.

Why is this important?

Within the ICANN multistakeholder model, At-Large is the constituency that presents the perspectives

of Internet end users in policy discussions. The participation of organizations like TC is vital to the integrity of this model. TC is one of 22 North American At-large structures plus individual members which together form the NARALO.

Policy discussions I have focussed on this year:
- continuing as At-large lead on the ICANN strategic objective related to the evolution of their multistakeholder model over the next 5 years. The ICANN multistakeholder model is unique in the Internet ecosystem. It is 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, developing the rules for the next round of top level domain name applications and ensuring 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 including being part of the planning term for At Large events at these meetings.

- contributing to a discussion inside the ICANN system re: the nature, use and role of volunteers. This resulted in the following co-authored article in the CircleID trade publication:
Facing the future of ICANN's volunteer recruitment
https://circleid.com/posts/20220328-facing-the-future-of_icann_volunteer-recruitment

Participation in Schools of Internet Governance

Schools of Internet Governance are one or two day workshops designed to offer a broad perspective on internet governance and role of numerous organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in maintaining a stable and secure internet. They are organized by volunteers. They sometimes coincide with ICANN public meetings, sometimes occur outside of such meetings. There is also a completely virtual version. These schools are important training grounds for participation is internet governance activities at many levels. Over the last year, I have done two lecture sessions on the multistakeholder system as it operates in the internet ecosystem and chaired a panel of several speakers on this topic.

National Activities

Canadian Internet Governance Forum

I am still on the steering committee for the Canadian Internet Governance Forum which is still operating in the format of monthly one hour presentations/discussions on agreed upon topics.

Why is this important?

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) provides a multistakehoder 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 which takes place in various regions around the world. 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
Request for support for student journalists in BC petitioning the province for legal protection for student journalists. It was decided that, although it was a worthy activity, this was too far outside of our mandate.

Participation in the "Taming Big Tech" lectures hosted by the Center for Free Expression (Toronto Metropolitan University - formerly Ryerson)

Miscellaneous

I unsuccessfully ran for a seat on the CIRA board. This election was once again won by a candidate who e-mailed all CIRA members seeking their support. Although the Not for Profit Corporations Act allows for such activity, CIRA specifically requests candidates not to use this tactic as it can be seen as an invasion of members' privacy. After some investigations and thanks to the assistance of one of our TC members who reported that the e-mails in question also contained tracking information, I have formally sent a letter of complaint to the CIRA board.

I also unsuccessfully applied for a position on the Advisory Council of PIR -- the Public Interest Registry. PIR is unusual in that it is a not-for-profit corporation created by the Internet Society (ISOC) to manage one of the legacy top level domain names -- .org. It is a major funder of ISOC which has chapters all around the world. The Advisory Council serves as an intermediary between end users and PIR organization and board. There are currently 2 Canadian members on this 9 member council.

Marita Moll