

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Future of the Internet: Access, Openness and Inclusion
A Town Hall Discussion**

Ottawa, ON – May 29, 2009 - Until now, Canada's Internet has been an open network -- and a level playing field for free speech, innovation, and free market competition. All that is now under threat.

A handful of companies are threatening to change the way Canada's Internet works. They want to replace the open network Canadians enjoy today with a discriminatory or "gatekeeper network" -- where they decide which content and services get the fastest access to our homes.

These companies have been caught:

- throttling or slowing Internet traffic to businesses and consumers;
- blocking access to web sites that criticized them;
- crippling consumer devices and applications.

This threatens Canada's free speech and economic competitiveness.

What: **The Future of the internet: Access, Openness and Inclusion
A Town Hall Discussion**

Who: **Michael Geist** – Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law
Bill St. Arnaud – Chief Research Officer, CANARIE
Charlie Angus – M.P. for Timmins, James Bay
Rocky Gaudrault – CEO, TekSavvy Solutions Inc.
Moderator: Marita Moll, Telecommunities Canada Director

When: **Wednesday June 10th, 2009
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm – Town Hall**

Where: **Ottawa Public Library, Auditorium
120 Metcalfe
Ottawa, K1P 5M2**

You can view the CIPPIC/CDM submission at:

<http://www.cippic.ca/uploads/File/Argument - CRTC-PN2008-19 - FINAL - 23Feb2009.pdf>

Find our panelists bios on the next page

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About CIPPIC: CIPPIC is the Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic, Canada's only technology law clinic. CIPPIC was established in 2003 at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section. CIPPIC's mandate is to advocate for balance in policy and law-making on issues arising out of new technologies.

About CDM: CDM is a network of public interest organizations and people pushing for media democracy in Canada.

About Save Our Net: SaveOurNet.ca is a coalition of citizens, businesses, and public interest groups fighting to protect our Internet's level playing field. We're calling on lawmakers and industry to protect openness, choice, and access for ALL Canadians — and stopping lobbyists and special interests from ruining Canada's Internet.

About Telecommunities Canada: TC works to ensure that all Canadians are able to participate in community-based communications and electronic information services by promoting and supporting local community network initiatives.

Abbreviated bios for our panelists:

Michael Geist – Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law

Dr. Michael Geist is a law professor at the University of Ottawa where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law. He has obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees from Cambridge University in the UK and Columbia Law School in New York, and a Doctorate in Law (J.S.D.) from Columbia Law School. Dr. Geist has written numerous academic articles and government reports on the Internet and law and was a member of Canada's National Task Force on Spam. He is an internationally syndicated columnist on technology law issues with his regular column appearing in the Toronto Star, Ottawa Citizen, and the BBC. Dr. Geist is the editor of In the Public Interest: The Future of Canadian Copyright Law, published in 2005 by Irwin Law, the editor of several monthly technology law publications, and the author of a popular blog on Internet and intellectual property law issues.

Rocky Gaudrault – CEO of Teksavvy Solutions Inc.

Rocky Gaudrault is CEO of TekSavvy Solutions Inc. - based in Chatham, Ontario. Rocky is considered a hero to many who believe in the importance of the open Internet both for his open Internet offerings, and for his weigh in on telecom policy issues and even taking on the biggest telecom carriers in the country. In May 2008 Rocky even went so far as to bus most of his employees to Parliament hill to rally for Net Neutrality.

Bill St. Arnaud – Chief Research Officer, CANARIE

Bill St. Arnaud is the Chief Research Officer for CANARIE Inc., Canada's Advanced Internet Development Organization. At CANARIE Bill St. Arnaud has been responsible for the coordination and implementation of Canada's next generation optical Internet initiative called CA*net 4. He has been the principal architect of the User Controlled LightPath concept of applying Service Oriented Architecture to network elements to allow users to create their own Internet network topologies and architectures fully integrated with their specific application and instrument needs.

Currently he is involved with a Green IT broadband and cyber-infrastructure initiative to build a "zero-carbon" next generation Internet in order to help reduce global warming by reducing CO2 emissions at universities and society in general. As part of this initiative one project is to encourage the use of carbon rewards rather than using carbon taxes to encourage consumer to reduce their carbon footprint through the provision of free fiber to the home and other free Internet services and applications.

Charlie Angus – M.P. for Timmins, James Bay

Charlie Angus was elected the Member of Parliament for Timmins—James Bay in 2004, re-elected in 2006. he has worked as a writer, broadcaster and musician; was a member of the Juno-nominated band Grievous Angels. Charlie has been honoured for "Outstanding Contribution to Northern Culture" at the 1999 Festival Boreal in Sudbury. Mr. Angus is a regular contributor to CBC, TVO and national newspapers.