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CIPPIC Launches DigitalAgenda.ca to Facilitate Grassroots Advocacy

First Project: Copyright Consultation Idea Torrent

Ottawa, ON – August 14, 2009 – CIPPIC, the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic of the University of Ottawa, has launched a new website aimed at facilitating digital advocacy. DigitalAgenda.ca is CIPPIC’s response to the government’s recent commitment to develop and pursue a strategy for Canada to regain its leadership role in the global digital economy. The focus of DigitalAgenda.ca will shift as different issues arise. Its primary initial focus will be the ongoing copyright consultation.

“DigitalAgenda.ca will provide a venue for Canadians to learn about digital issues as they arise, to discuss them, and let their government know how they feel about these issues,” says David Fewer, CIPPIC’s Acting Director.

“We want to do two things with this site,” states Staff Lawyer Tamir Israel. “First, we want to enable ordinary Canadians to participate in digital policy-making. But second, we want to be able to make that participation valuable and meaningful.”

“We seek to do so in the current copyright consultations through the use of an Idea Torrent,” states Fewer, “a tool that allows Canadians to suggest, analyze and vote on copyright reform ideas with the ultimate goal of producing a unique grassroots submission to the ongoing government consultation process.” The site will also host a letter writing tool that encourages users to customize a submission to the consultation.

DigitalAgenda.ca also initially provides information on the proposed anti-malware bill (the Electronic Commerce Protection Act), the Lawful Access bills, and on net neutrality.

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.

- 30 -

For Further information, see:

The Digital Agenda website: <http://www.DigitalAgenda.ca>

The DA Copyright Consultations Idea Torrent: <http://ideas.digitalagenda.ca/>

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