Digital access in the north: Rights, risks, and opportunities for young people in Canada's north

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Abstract

Northern youth in Canada are limited in both their access to the internet and access to supports when compared to their southern counterparts. However, internet connectivity and affordability is beginning to improve in Canada's north, providing opportunities, as well as creating risks for young people. Highlighting a recent decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission this paper will discuss how regulatory decisions can positively impact the lives of young people in the north, particularly by providing greater access to affordable broadband internet access. In exploring how greater connectivity creates opportunities for youth, I will use some examples of young people in the northern territories who are using the internet and related technologies to further share their culture, develop northern focused businesses, and expand their educational opportunities. When examining the risks young people face in an increasingly digital environment I will discuss online challenges faced by youth in general, including victimization and online discrimination, and explore some limitations northern youth may experience when asserting their rights online, particularly in smaller remote communities.

Keywords
Youth, digital divide, access to justice, broadband, internet, education, Canada, Yukon

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Introduction

The future of Canadian northern youth will be an increasingly digital one. As internet based technologies become more central to young people's experiences in the north, northern communities will need to consider how they can best facilitate positive online opportunities for their young people, as well as how to best support young people when they experience online harms. This paper first introduces the reader to the concept of digital divide and how it impacts northern youth in Canada specifically. Second, it reviews a recent Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission decision that will likely increase internet access in rural and remote communities in the north. Third, it uses four examples of young people in the north using the internet to create cultural, business, and educational opportunities in the territories. Fourth, it highlights some risks that young people may face and discusses the need for increased supports for youth experiencing online harms. The aim of this paper is to have the reader consider the changing digital landscape for northern youth and to imagine the possibilities for young people in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Digital Divide

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development defines the digital divide as:

> … the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard both to their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities. [2]

In Canada, an urban-rural digital divide remains, leaving many young people living in Canada's northern territories without high-quality and affordable internet services. The Canadian Internet Registration Authority's 2016 Internet Factbook found significant gaps between rural communities and urban centres when accessing high-quality and high-speed broadband internet.[3] This means that, for young people living in rural communities in Canada's three northern territories, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, much of their internet access remains slow, limited, and expensive. Nunavut is particularly hard

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[2] OECD, "Understanding the digital divide" (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, 2001), online: <https://www.oecd.org/sti/1888451.pdf>.
[3] CIRA, "CIRA internet factbook 2016: Domain industry data and Canadian internet trends" (Canadian Internet Registration Authority, 2016) at 17-19.

hit by this divide, with the average internet basic package[4] offering a 20 GB data cap at 1.5 Mbps download speed for $80 CAD per month, with each GB over costing an additional $15.[5] These low data caps and download speeds severely limit what young Nunavut youth can do online. Limitations like these reduce young people's opportunities and their ability to partake in online communities, engage with online services, and develop the technologically based skills expected of a modern young person.

Modern society is increasingly digitally focused and centered around internet connected technologies. Young people are expected to have digital literacy and technological skills to succeed in the workforce, academia, and even their social lives.[6] For northern young people, the lack of connectivity, affordability and access to high-quality internet services[7] creates social, economic and educational barriers.[8] For example, services that require high bandwidth requirements, such as educational video streaming may not be practically available in communities due to low bandwidth capabilities.[9] Even where higher-quality bandwidth is available, the high costs of internet services in rural communities limit the ability of rural schools to provide high-quality internet services to their students.[10] Outside of school, youth develop technological skills, learn how to express themselves independently, and engage socially with others, through the use of internet facilitated technology, such as cell phones,[11] but the digital divide limits northern youth's ability to fully engage in this type of communication and skill building. However, as will be discussed below, a recent decision by Canada's telecommunications regulatory body will likely lessen the digital divide by increasing access to high-quality and high-speed broadband, thus opening up opportunities for young people in Canada's north, as well as creating new risks for young people. These changes are bound to alter the lifestyles of young people growing up in northern Canada and northern communities will need to prepare themselves for this social and cultural shift.

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[4] Christine Dooby, "Nunavut plagued by high-cost, low-speed internet, CRTC hears" The Globe and Mail (12 April 2016).

[5] See: https://www.qiniq.com/classic-plans/

[6] Matthew Johnson, "Experts of Amateurs? Gauging young Canadians' digital literacy skills: How Canadian youth use, understand and create digital media" Media Smarts (31 March 2014); Tea Hadziristic, "The state of digital literacy in Canada: A literature review" Bookfield Institute (April 2017).

[7] CIRA, "CIRA internet factbook 2016: Domain industry data and Canadian internet trends" (2016) Canadian Internet Registration Authority at 17-19.

[8] Steve Sorochan, Submission to the CRTC, Telecom Notice Consultation 2015-134, Review of Basic Telecommunication Services: Final Submission of the Government of Yukon, (25 May 2016) at para 79.

[9] Government of the Northwest Territories, Submission to the CRTC: Final Argument, Telecom Public Notice 2015-134, (25 May 2016) at para 42.

[10] E Dianne Looker & Victor Theissnen, "Beyond digital divide in Canadian schools: From access to competency in the use of information technology" (2003) 21-4 Social Science Computer Review 475 at 481.

[11] Yong Jin Park, "My whole world's in my palm! The second-level divide of teenagers' mobile use and skill" (2014) 17-6 New Media & Society 977 at 981.

CRTC Decision

In December 2016, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CTRC)[12] ruled that broadband internet is a basic telecommunications service, altering the CRTC's regulatory framework and universal service objectives.[13] This decision aims to ensure that rural and remote Canadians have access to similar levels of broadband internet services compared to what is available in urban areas. The CRTC ruled that all Canadians should have access to broadband internet speeds of at least 50 Mbps when downloading data and 10 Mbps when uploading data, including an option to subscribe to an unlimited data allowance, as well as increased wireless availability along major transportation roads.[14] Setting out its goals, the CRTC wants 90% of Canadians to have this level of access by 2021, and other 10% of Canadians within 10 to 15 years.[15] The CRTC has established a fund to assist with achieving these goals.

In this decision, the CRTC noted that Canadians living in rural or remote communities do not have the same access to broadband internet services when compared to Canadians living in urban centres. This was true in regards to the speed, capacity, quality and price of internet services, where rural and remote Canadians were not able to access comparable services, even at a higher price. The CRTC recognized that in the north there were unique factors to consider, it noted that the number of people per household can be quite high in the north.[16] As such, the broadband caps in households with multiple people sharing a single internet connection quickly maxes out the data caps, making it important to have access to higher data allowances at affordable rates to accommodate households in the north.

The purpose of this decision was to enhance access to affordable and high-quality internet services; encourage investment in infrastructure; increase social and economic development; and to help Canadians make informed decisions about their internet services. The decision noted that access to broadband internet is essential not just for economic benefits but for "educational, cultural, and social needs" as well,[17] it stated that:

> Modern telecommunications services are fundamental to Canada's future economic prosperity, global competitiveness, social development, and democratic

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[12] The CRTC is a regulatory body that regulates and supervises broadcasting and telecommunications, including broadband access, in the public interest.
[13] Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2016-496, online: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2016/2016-496.htm> [CRTC 2016-496].
[14] CRTC 2016-496.
[15] CRTC 2016-496 at para 114.
[16] CRTC 2016-496 at para 84.
[17] CRTC 2016-496 at para 92.

discourse. In particular, fixed and mobile wireless broadband Internet access services are catalysts for innovation and underpin a vibrant, creative, interactive world that connects Canadians across vast distances and with the rest of the world.[18]

Some have criticized the decision because they believe northern areas will likely be included within the 10% of Canadians where it will take 10 to 15 years to provide improved services, and set affordable rates were not included in the decision, so although access will be improved the costs of access will likely continue to be higher in Canada's northern communities.[19] However, this decision was generally lauded as beneficial for people in northern Canada. Jonathan Baynes, the executive director of IT at Whitehorse's Yukon College noted that current download speeds in the Yukon limited educational opportunities for those living in remote communities, whereas the mandated improved speeds would increase educational opportunities for those people living in the north.[20] At the time of the ruling, only those Yukoners living in the capital city of Whitehorse and a nearby town, Carcross, had access to the minimum internet speeds set out in the decision, and no one in the territory had access to unlimited data subscriptions.[21] Furthermore, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities believes that improved internet access would help keep young people in their home communities[22] and the First Mile Connectivity Consortium noted that First Nations communities would benefit from this decision by increasing their ability access and manage their own internet connections.[23]

The high costs of investing in infrastructure and providing high quality services in these small communities have limited the market forces that would incentivize private companies to improve internet services,[24] therefore regulatory decisions such as this one are important to improving young people's access to quality internet services common in modern society. This decision will unquestionably increase northern Canadian youth's access to internet connectivity over time, thereby improving their ability to access

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[18] CRTC 2016-496 at 1.

[19] Sidney Cohen, "CRTC's ruling on internet draws more praise" Whitehorse Daily Star (27 December 2016).

[20] "CRTC ruling will improve internet in territories in time, says providers" CBC News (23 December 2016).

[21] Maura Forrest, "CRTC ruling could bring faster internet to the North" Yukon News (30 December 2016).

[22] "CRTC broadband decision: Big win for rural and northern communities" Federation of Canadian Muncipalities (21 December 2016).

[23] "New CRTC 'Basic service objective' decision supports First Nations digital innovation" First Mile Connectivity Consortium Press Release (22 December 2016).

[24] E Dianne Looker & Victor Theissnen, "Beyond digital divide in Canadian schools- From access to competency in the use of information technology" (2003) 21-4 Social Science Computer Review 475 at 481; Steve Sorochan, Submission to the CRTC, Telecom Notice Consultation 2015-134, Review of Basic Telecommunication Services – Final Submission of the Government of Yukon, 25 May 2016.

educational resources, digital social communities, and opportunities for economic development and cultural exchange. However, it will also create new challenges for young people and the people that support their well-being. As young people in the north becoming increasingly connected, it is important to consider how to support young people by encouraging their digital opportunities and supporting them when they experience online harms.

Opportunity

Even with the current limitations faced by northern youth, young people in northern Canada have found ways to use the internet as a positive force in their lives. In the following section I will highlight four examples from the Canadian territories that demonstrate the ways young people are using the internet to promote their culture, create northern businesses, and educate themselves. In providing these examples, I encourage the reader to imagine the new opportunities made available to young people as their access to high-quality internet increases, as well as to consider the limitations that are placed on these youth due to the current digital divide.

Speak Gwich'in to Me

Jacey Firth-Hagen, a 24-year-old Gwich'in woman originally from Inuvik, Northwest Territories, began a social media campaign called the Gwich'in Language Revitalization Campaign to help revive the Gwich'in languge.[25] Originally from Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Firth-Hagen recognizes that the Gwich'in language is in need of a resurgence, as there are only around 400 fluent speakers in the world.[26] At fifteen, she began learning Gwich'in and knew many Gwich'in words by the time she reached her twenties, but could not speak the language fluently. Firth-Hagen wanted to learn more and encourage others to speak Gwich'in, so she began a social media campaign using the hashtag #SpeakGwichinToMe to spread the use of the Gwich'in language.[27] She uses online tools to share her work with others, including posting Gwich'in words and lessons on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, as well as using SoundCloud and YouTube to help people learn how to pronounce the words properly. The internet has allowed Firth-Hagen to promote her culture to a larger audience, spread access to the Gwich'in language

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[25] Rosanna Deerchild, "#SpeakGwichinToMe: Using social media to reclaim language" CBC: Unreserved (4 September 2016), online: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/lost-found-and-shared-indigenous-language-speakers-on-the-rise-1.3410203/speakgwichintome-using-social-media-to-reclaim-language-1.3413960>.

[26] UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger, online: <http://www.unesco.org/languages-atlas/index.php >.

[27] Samia Madwar, "NOTY shortlist: The preserver" Uphere Magazine (1 December 2015).

across the world, and to provide practical learning opportunities for people interested in speaking Gwich'in.

See:
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/speakgwichintome/ @speakgwichintome
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/Speakgwichintome/
- Twitter: @SpeakGwichin #SpeakGwitchinToMe
- Documentary film trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGL0pF69Q2w&feature=youtu.be

Digital divide: Potential challenges to consider

Young people living in communities with low data caps and downloading speeds are limited in how much of Firth-Hagen's work they can access. For example, to stream a video online it is recommended that the internet subscriber have between 0.7 Mbps to 5.3 Mbps.[28] Those who only have access to low downloading speeds, such as those living in Nunavut, may not be able to stream higher quality videos without significant delays and will be limited in the amount of content then can view.

Dickson Designs

"To be recognized for this is amazing, I feel like it's not just a win for myself, it's kind of proof to tell a generation behind me you can make a career from your culture." -Heather Dickson, Woman Entrepreneur Award by Startup Canada

Heather Dickson is a young Tlingit/Nuxalkmc woman who currently lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. She started her fashion company *Dickson Designs* in May 2015. Her "granny hanky headbands" are one of her most popular products; they artfully combine traditional beadwork with a modern take on the bright scarves, or "granny hankies", traditionally worn by Indigenous women Elders.[29] Recently awarded the Woman Entrepreneur Award by Startup Canada,[30] Dickson ships her products to customers across Canada and globally twice a month, as much of her business is from online customers outside of Yukon.[31] Her granny hanky headbands often sell out within hours of her posting her products on her website, which serves as an online platform where she can sell her wares. Keeping her

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[28] See: https://www.ottcommunications.com/how-much-internet-speed-do-i-really-need/

[29] Waneek, "Waneek's Modern Warriors- Heather Dickson" Working it Together.

[30] Lindsay Bright, "2017 north regional award winners celebrated in Whitehorse" Startup Canada (19 September 2017).

[31] Priscilla Hwang, "Yukon's Granny Hanky headbands expands beading design line" CBC News (25 March 2017).

work focused on the north, she employs beaders from Yukon, Nunavut, Northwest Territories and northern British Columbia to produce the colourful, traditional beadwork that is central to her product line. She also provides information on "artist cards" about the beading artist along with her products.[32] Dickson's skillful use of Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to promote her products are clearly central to her businesses success. She encourages her customers to share selfies they have taken wearing her product and uses this medium to promote her product, but also to celebrate the people who wear her products and artists who create the beadwork for her fashion. The internet facilitates Dickson's ability to run a business in a northern community that celebrates northern Indigenous culture.

See:
- Website: https://www.dicksonfashiondesigns.ca/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/grannyhankyheadbands/
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dicksondesigns/

Digital divide: Potential challenges to consider

Yukoners face high internet subscription fees and for subscribers that go over their data limits the costs can be extraordinarily high.[33] Internet subscriptions costs have recently begun to be improve,[34] but are still expensive and limited. They can still act as a restriction to running an online business in the north. For those business owners in the smaller and more remote communities, access to high-speed internet as outlined in the recent CRTC is still a long way off,[35] creating impediments for establishing an online business. There are also issues with infrastructure that can cause issues for northern businesses. For example, businesses in the Yukon have been impacted by internet outages when the single fibre line connecting the Yukon to the internet[36] has been accidently severed, as it happened in 2015[37] and 2016.[38] In Nunavut, issues with the satellite system

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[32] Priscilla Hwang, "Yukon's Granny Hanky headbands expands beading design line" CBC News (25 March 2017).

[33] Jesse Winter, "NorthwesTel customers fight huge internet fees" Yukon Fees (8 January 2014).

[34] "Northwestel drops the price on Internet over usage; introduces new DSL usage blocks" NorthwesTel (1 Febrary 2016).

[35] Government of Yukon, "Governemnt of Yukon to bring unprecedented internet speeds to Carmacks, Teslin and Watson Lake schools, health centres and communities" Government of Yukon Press Release (7 June 2016).

[36] Herb Mathsen, "The odd timing of the Yukon's fibre line announcement" UpHere Magazine (27 October 2015).

[37] "Internet being restored 'gradually' to Yukon: Northwestel" CBC News (23 September 2015).

[38] Paul Tukker, "Chamber of commerce says construction crews that cut fibre line should be held accountable" CBC News (2 August 2016).

have caused similar internet outages.[39] These outages have cut off business owners from their clientele unexpectedly and have caused them to loose business.[40]

Connected North/TakingITGlobal

In partnership with content providers, funders, and community partners, Connected North and TakingITGlobal have created an interactive educational program for students at the Ghùch Tlâ Community School in Carcross Tagish First Nation. This program connects students in this community with over 386 interactive video sessions where students from Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Yukon can connect with each other and other specialized educators from different communities, providing unprecedented opportunities for cultural and educational exchange using online video streaming.[41] Programs like this give northern youth access to educators and students through the use of vide conferences without having to leave their classroom in their small community.[42]

See:

- Website: https://www.connectednorth.org/newsletters/june2017.html

Digital divide: Potential challenges to consider

This type of educational opportunity and exchange would not be possible without high-quality internet access and the costs of the bandwidth for these programs remain outside of the school's independent budget. Because this program relies on video streaming, and therefore a high level of bandwidth, it depends on charitable and private partnerships to help fund the program. Affordable high-quality internet is not yet available for these types of educational programs in the north.[43]

Pinnguaq

Pinnguaq Association is a Nunavut based not-for-profit tech startup-company that works with youth in Nunavut to create and interact with videogames. Young people in the Pangnirtung Code Club have worked with Pinnguaq to learn computer science and coding skills to create video games. The goal is both to have fun with young people, but

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[39] Chris Windeyer, "Canada's Territories yearn for better internet" Arctic Deeply (22 April 2016).
[40] "Internet being restored 'gradually' to Yukon: Northwestel" CBC News (23 September 2015).
[41] See: https://www.connectednorth.org/newsletters/june2017.html
[42] See: https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en_ca/never-better/csr-connected-north.html
[43] See: https://www.connectednorth.org/newsletters/june2017.html

also teach them marketable skills for the future.[44] This tech start-up has also developed "te(a)ch" lessons for young people to develop computer based skills.[45] It has developed a northern focused video game inspired by Inuit legends, called Beneath Floes, and is available in English and Inuktitut.[46] Pinnguaq's support is needed in Nunavut, where limited internet infrastructure has prevented schools that cannot guarantee a stable internet connection from developing classes that teach computer science skills.[47]

See:
- Twitter: @pinnguaq
- Website: www.pinnguaq.com

Digital divide: Potential challenges to consider

Limited and costly internet access in Nunavut requires Pinnguaq to teach some of their coding programs using an offline mode. When teaching young people coding skills, Pinnguaq often loads their coding programs onto computers so the internet is not needed for all of their programming, creating consistency in their training.[48] However, online coding is typically done using an internet connection and may limit the types of skills Pinnguaq can transfer to Nunavut youth.

These young innovative people in the north and the programs they are engaging with demonstrate the potential opportunities that exist with evolving technologies and internet access. Opportunities like these will only increase with improved internet access in the north. As demonstrated above, the digital landscape is changing the lifestyles and skills of young people and can be utilized in positive ways that embrace and promote northern lifestyles and cultures, however young people still face limits to their opportunities due to the lack of affordable and high-quality internet access. Regulatory decisions such as the recent CRTC decision mentioned above will hopefully improve access and thus opportunities for young people.

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[44] David Murphy, "Pangnirtung youth centre create their own video games at camp" Nunatsiaq Online (24 February 2014).

[45] Pinnguaq, te(a)ch: Septbember 2017 Report (Pinnguaq: 2017), online: <https://pinnguaq.com/posts/teach-september-2017-report/>.

[46] See: http://www.bravemule.com/beneathfloes/

[47] "Kids in Canada's most isolated territory are leaning to code - without internet" apolitical (21 September 2017).

[48] "Kids in Canada's most isolated territory are leaning to code - without internet" apolitical (21 September 2017).

Risks

While the internet provides new opportunities for young people, it also creates a new platform for unhealthy behaviours among and against youth.[49] These risks must be addressed in northern communities as more of their young people spend time online and gain improved access to the internet. Risks include bullying,[50] harassment,[51] discrimination,[52] privacy violations,[53] sexual violations, and violent behavior online[54] that may require support. Additionally, young people in vulnerable social locations such as, girl, Indigenous, racialized, LGBTQ+, and disabled young people may be targeted online in discriminatory ways[55] Although, behaviours like bullying, discrimination, and harassment against young people are not new, the internet creates new scenarios for the behaviours that young people will need to understand and navigate. In order to do so meaningfully they will need the support of trusted adults,[56] organizations, and institutions who are well informed about cyber issues. Furthermore, young people will need a level of digital literacy that allows them to understand the risks they may face online, what options are available to protect themselves from online harms, what supports exist for them when they do experience harm, and how to act as positive digital citizens.[57]

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[49] Jane Bailey, "A Perfect Storm: How the Online Environment, Social Norms, and Law Shape Girls' Lives" in Jane. Bailey & Valerie Steeves eds, *eGirls, eCitizens*, (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2015) at 36-39.

[50] Joyce Li, Wendy Craig, "Young Canadians' Experiences with Electronic Bullying", (Kingston: Media Smarts, PrevNet, Telus, November, 2015).

[51] Janine Zweig & Meredith Dank, "Teen dating abuse and harassment in the digital world" (2013) Urban Institute.

[52] David S Byers, "Recognition of Social Pain among Peers: Rethinking the Role of Bystanders in Bullying and Cyberbullying" (2016) 86:4 Smith College Studies in Social Work 335.

[53] "There ought to be a law protecting children's online privacy in the 21st century: a discussion paper for Canadians" (Working Group of Canadian Privacy Commissioners and Child and Youth Advocates, 2009).

[54] Jordan Fairbairn & Dillon Black, "Cyberviolence Against Women & Girls", (Ottawa - OCTEVAW, May 2015)

[55] A Wayne MacKay, *Respectful and Responsible Relationships: There's No App for That: The Report of the Nova Scotia Task Force on Bullying and Cyberbullying,* submitted to the Nova Scotia Department of Education (29 Februrary 2012), Department of Education, online: ; Robin M Kowalski et al, "Cyberbullying among college students with disabilities" (2016) 57 Computers in Human Behavior 416; Valerie Steeves, Young Canadians in a Wired World, Phase III: Encountering Racist and Sexist Content Online (Ottawa: MediaSmarts, 2014); Keith Brownlee, et al, "Bullying behaviour and victimization among Aboriginal students within Northwestern Ontario" (2014) 9:1 First Peoples Child & Family Review; GLSEN, Out Online: The experiences of LGBT youth on the internet (New York: GLSEN, 2013).

[56] YWCA "A guide for trusted adults" (2016) YWCA.

[57] Jane Bailey, "A Perfect Storm: How the Online Environment, Social Norms, and Law Shape Girls' Lives" in Jane. Bailey & Valerie Steeves eds, *eGirls, eCitizens*, (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2015); A Wayne MacKay, *Respectful and Responsible Relationships: There's No App for That: The Report of the Nova Scotia Task Force on Bullying and Cyberbullying,* submitted to the Nova Scotia

As northern youth become more connected online, their communities will need to consider how to best support the young people who experience online harms. They will need to take into consideration the unique factors that young people in northern communities face such as geographic isolation, limited social services, and the lack of access to affordable internet that would allow them receive certain services online. Young people often use a variety of systems of support them when they experience harms online. In discussions about online defamation among young people in Ontario, youth highlighted interpersonal/community-based responses, social media platform responses, school-based responses, and legal responses as resolutions they may consider when experiencing online harms.[58] However, it is well known that young people in the north often lack robust access to social services and face difficulties when trying to access to justice, especially if they live in rural communities.[59] This is further compounded by the fact that many service providers, educators, parents,[60] and law enforcement[61] are themselves, uninformed about young people's digital rights and experiences.

Supportive adults and institutions in the north may want to look to organizations with a history of supporting youth with digital harms to educate themselves on how best to support young people. In doing so it is important to consider how northern youth's experiences and access to services will be different than their southern counterparts. Northern specific programming and supports may be beneficial in ensuring that young peoples digital lives are supported, positive and healthy. This requires northern adults, educators, social services providers, youth organizations, law enforcement and others to become educated on young people's digital rights and experiences, including looking to young people to teach them about what it is like to be a young person online and how best to support them.

For those adults developing supports for young people, it is essential that they include young people in the decision-making about their online experiences. To provide meaningful support, young people must have a voice in determining and asserting their

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Department of Education (29 Februrary 2012), Department of Education, online: .

[58] Jane Bailey & Valerie Steeves, "Defamation law in the age of the internet: Young people's perspectives", Law Commission of Ontarion (2017).

[59] Law Society of Yukon, "Access to justice in remote communities" (ND);
Joan Nuffield, *The Challenges of Youth Justice in Rural and Isolated Areas in Canada* (Ottawa: Department of Justice Canada, 2003).

[60] A Wayne MacKay, *Respectful and Responsible Relationships: There's No App for That: The Report of the Nova Scotia Task Force on Bullying and Cyberbullying,* submitted to the Nova Scotia Department of Education (29 Februrary 2012), Department of Education, online: .

[61] Suzanne Dunn, Julie S Lalonde, & Jane Bailey, "Terms of Silence: Weakness in corporate and law enforcement responses to cyberviolence against girls" (2017) 10:2 Girlhood Studies 80.

digital rights.[62] However, as important as it is to include young people in their digital education and managing online harms, ultimately, supportive adults, including those that run the online platforms that young people use and the institutions that work with youth, must be responsible for ensuring that young people are provided with a healthy online environment and are properly supported.[63]

For youth based digital rights organizations see:

- Media Smarts: http://mediasmarts.ca/
- YWCA: A Guide for Trusted Adults: http://ywcacanada.ca/data/documents/00000543.pdf
- eQuality: http://www.equalityproject.ca/
- eGirls: https://egirlsproject.ca/
- Purple Sisters Youth Advisory: http://www.ysb.ca/index.php?page=purple-sisters-youth-advisory&hl=eng
- PrevNET: http://www.prevnet.ca/
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative: https://www.cybercivilrights.org/

Conclusion

Regulatory decisions like that of the CRTC will likely improve access to high-speed and high-quality internet in the north. With this increased access to the internet the lifestyles of northern youth will change. Young people in the north have already demonstrated their aptitude for adopting online tools and using them to positively engage with northern issues, gain skills, and earn income. Communities will need to adapt to these new practices and find ways to encourage the positive opportunities that they provide as well as develop meaningful ways to support young people when they experience online harms.

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[62] Jane Bailey, "A Perfect Storm: How the Online Environment, Social Norms, and Law Shape Girls' Lives" in Jane. Bailey & Valerie Steeves eds, *eGirls, eCitizens*, (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2015).

[63] UNICEF, Child Safety Online- Global Challenges and Strategies (2008, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre); Jane Bailey, "A Perfect Storm: How the Online Environment, Social Norms, and Law Shape Girls' Lives" in Jane. Bailey & Valerie Steeves eds, *eGirls, eCitizens*, (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2015).