Report on the Fourth Canadian Internet Forum
Montreal, Quebec
September 18, 2013
Overview:

- Full-day event held in Montreal, September 18, 2013.
- 229 in attendance (139 in-person, 90 via webcast).
- Second CIF in 2013, not a ‘stand-alone’ CIF; held in conjunction with CIRA’s Annual General Meeting.
- English/French with simultaneous translation.
Social activity:

- 512 tweets with the #CIRAif hashtag.
- Potential reach of 1,177,063.
Topics:

1. International Internet governance (presentation).
2. Domestic Internet governance (panel)
3. Update on CIF activity (presentation).
International Internet governance:

Paul Brigner (Internet Society)

• Brigner provided an overview of the global Internet ecosystem with a particular focus on the institutions and process:
  – ICANN, ISOC, IGF, ITU.
• Brigner also identified current challenges, using the WCIT-12 as an example:
  – The growth of Internet in developing world.
  – The need to maintain multi-stakeholder model.
Panel 1: Domestic Internet governance:

Tim Denton (industry expert), Heather Dryden (Industry Canada), Michael Geist (University of Ottawa), Sylvie LaPerriere (Google), Mark Raymond (CIGI).

- Panel discussed the domestic Canadian Internet governance ecosystem.
- Panellists highlighted the differences between and challenges of international and domestic international governance.
- Discussed the difference between governing how the Internet works (technical) versus how the Internet is used.
Panel 1: Domestic Internet governance (cont’d):

• In Canada, the Internet is not regulated as a broadcast medium.

• Most urgent domestic issues, according to panellists:
  – The Internet must be accessible and affordable.
  – The need to protect the freedom to publish online; the freedom to innovate.
  – Avoiding the temptation to use technology to solve the problems of human behaviour.
  – Digital copyright, including international treaties and the need to update Canada’s existing copyright laws.
Panel 1: Domestic Internet governance (cont’d):

• Challenges for domestic Internet governance:
  – Content is multi-jurisdictional – created in one nation, hosted in another on a TLD from a third nation.
  – Governing technology could affect global interoperability of the Internet.
  – Implementing multi-stakeholder model domestically, bringing all stakeholders together.
  – Engaging all stakeholders; ensuring public scrutiny of policy development.

• Full video of the panel is available here: http://youtu.be/yvJFeTGCCVk?list=PLDYMYNytZVGwVDowdfm4lMSmgxQtfVyM1
Canadian Internet Forum update:
Byron Holland, President and CEO (CIRA)

- Holland provided an update on Internet governance activities since the last CIF (February 2013), including WCIT-12.
- Highlighted the revelations of the extent of online surveillance on behalf of governments, particularly the United States, and why it matters to Canadians.
- Holland identified the conflict between the U.S.’s support for a free and open Internet and their surveillance activities.
Canadian Internet Forum update (cont’d):

• While the threats to the multi-stakeholder model were clear at WCIT-12, the U.S.’s credibility to defend the multi-stakeholder model has been diminished.
• This fact leaves the multi-stakeholder model vulnerable to future attack.
• Holland also presented CIRA’s research on Canadians opinions on online surveillance (research available here: link).
• Concluded his presentation with a call for Canadians to get informed and get involved in governance issues.
• Full presentation is available here: http://youtu.be/5uUjfP9Ez5c?list=PLDYMYNytZVGwVDowdfm4lMSmgxQtfVym1
Panel 2: Cyber-security policy and implementation:

Ron Deibert (CitizenLab), Frederick Gaudreau (Surete du Quebec), Matthew Johnson (MediaSmarts), Michel Vanier (RISQ).

• Panellists discussed what is at stake for Canadians with regard to cyber-security.
• Weak cyber-security points in Canada:
  • Daily, persistent attacks on private sector.
  • Coordination between actors is difficult.
  • Confusion over roles and responsibilities.
  • Little accountability of government agencies.
  • Lack of public and private investments in digital literacy.
Panel 2: Cyber-security policy and implementation (cont’d):

• Youth was the demographic identified as most at risk, but also where the biggest difference can be made.
• Education is key (for all Canadians).
• The need for a foreign policy position on the Internet seen as important as most users are in the Global South, therefore most threats are from the developing world.
• Full video of the panel is available here: http://youtu.be/7GHzZ4lxem8?list=PLDYMYNytZVGwVDowdfm4lMSmgxQtfVyM1