



HELP KEEP THE INTERNET OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC

Keep up the pressure on the politicians and the major telecommunications companies to protect net neutrality. Keep up the letters and demands for action.

GET INFORMED

- www.nupge.ca/issues/Internet.htm
- www.michaelgeist.ca
- www.whatisnetneutrality.ca
- www.democraticmedia.ca

SIGN THE PETITION

www.neutrality.ca

DEMAND ACTION

Send emails to the following and demand that they act to protect net neutrality.

Industry Minister Honourable Tony Clement
Clement.T@parl.gc.ca

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
complaints@cbsc.ca



national union

NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC AND GENERAL EMPLOYEES

- B. C. Government and Service Employees' Union
- Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
- Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union
- Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Canadian Union of Brewery and General Workers
- New Brunswick Union of Public and Private Employees
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union
- PEI Union of Public Sector Employees
- Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees

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The National Union of Public and General Employees is an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress and a member of the Public Services International.



NET NEUTRALITY AND

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL

GET CONNECTED
YOUR RIGHT TO INTERNET ACCESS

STAY CONNECTED
YOUR RIGHT TO NET NEUTRALITY



If Canadians want more free speech we'll gladly sell it to 'em

GETTING CONNECTED

Spanning a large and growing digital divide

IT'S NO EXAGGERATION to say the Internet has brought wide-ranging changes to the way that millions of Canadians—and hundreds of millions of the world's people—work, shop, communicate and relax.

Access to the Internet is rapidly becoming a necessity for many in the developed and developing world.

In a very real way access to the Internet, in particular the faster broadband capability, is becoming yet another defining issue between the world's haves and have nots.

Most people are surprised to hear that even in Canada many communities outside major urban areas often do not have access to broadband Internet.

Such disparities in access have serious implications respecting access to broadband Internet service as an issue about democratic governance.

Is this profoundly important tool going to be available to all citizens or will it be a tool of the world's elites only?

Canada's federal government used to take a leading role in creating access to the Internet for its citizens.

Sadly, we are falling dramatically behind many other countries in expanding access. Since 2003 we have seen a steady decline in our standing among the OECD countries with regards to broadband access and growth rates.

Canada is a big country.

Ensuring broadband access for all Canadians is going to require action by the federal government.

It has been done in the past—it's time for action again.

STAYING CONNECTED

A free flow of all content

EQUALITY OF ACCESS provided to users is one of the great appeals of the Internet and the web.

The smallest website or web log (blog) has as much chance of being seen as that of the largest corporation. Small and creative websites can effectively reach large audiences.

Some corporations want to limit this great advantage of the Internet.

They want to make sure that some websites will be "more equal" than others—based, of course, on the ability of the content provider (those who create the website) to pay.

Net Neutrality is the desire to reject this imposed inequality. It is rooted in the principle that all Internet traffic be treated equally—regardless of subject, origin, destination or application type.

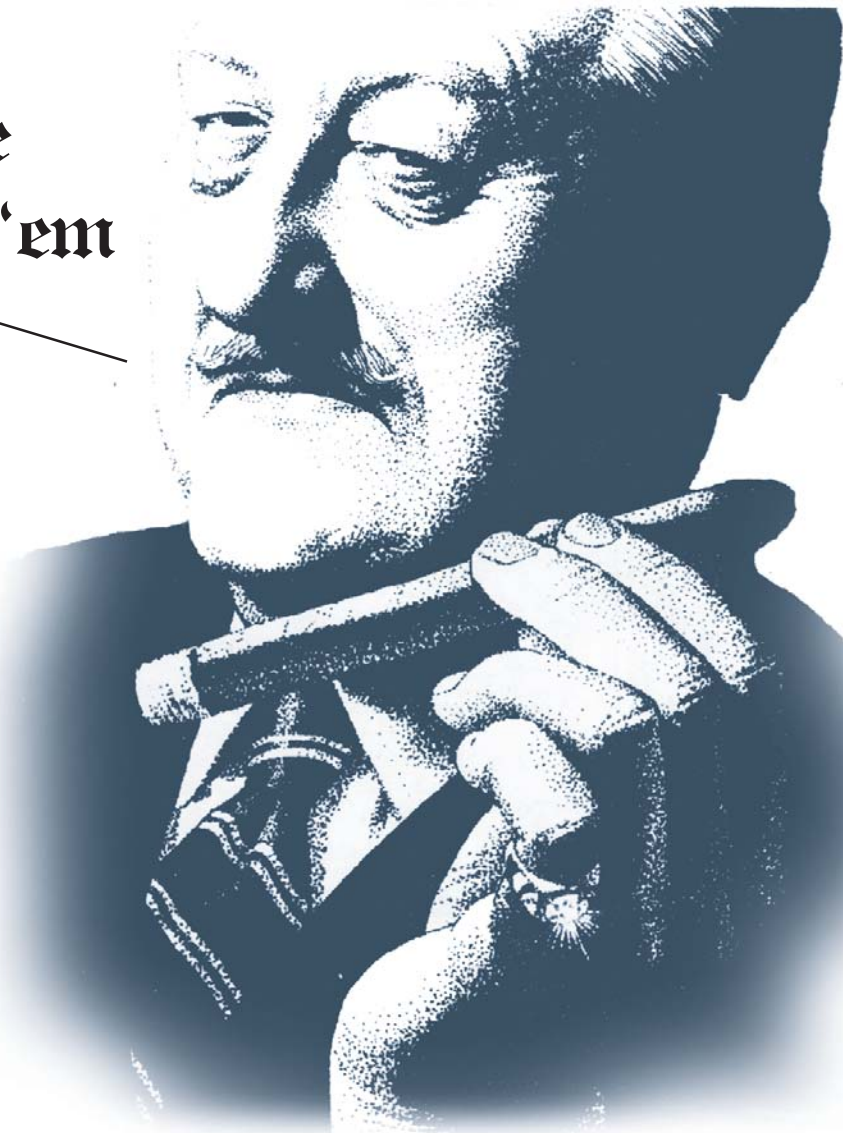
Some corporations want to create a two-tier Internet that would allow them to slow or even block content that is not in their corporate interests.

This issue is not solely about exorbitant corporate profit or the growing power of telecommunications companies—it is also about the democratic rights of citizens to exercise control over one of the greatest innovations in communication history.

It is also about decades of massive investments by governments in Canada in the research, development, building and maintaining of the Internet being taken away from us by private companies.

The National Union believes the federal government must act to ensure that Canadians have non-discriminatory access to the Internet.

Visit www.nupge.ca/issues/Internet.htm for more background materials and ways you can take action.



Net neutrality

is the principle that every internet service provider will treat all Internet traffic equally; and will not in any way interfere with, or interrupt, the transmission of any content regardless of its subject, source, ownership or destination.

How Internet companies give us the business*

Telcos is short for "telecommunications companies". These companies now provide broadband service using fibre optics. Although most of them started off as crown corporations (owned by the government), they were privatized in the 80s. Examples include Bell Canada, (Central Canada), MTS (Manitoba), Telus (Western Canada), Aliant (Atlantic) and SaskTel (Saskatchewan).

Today's Internet requires high-speed access to provide multimedia and real time experiences. This level of service needs bigger, faster networks, which requires large investments by Internet Service Providers.

ISPs want to minimize the risk of these investments. Third-party services like VoIP (Vonage), streaming video (YouTube) and P2P compete with the services the ISPs are offering. The ISPs want to give priority to their services. This network management by ISPs would limit the ability of individuals and small companies to develop and deploy new applications and content.

Examples of non-neutral practices in Canada

- The most famous example of non-neutrality occurred during the Telus labour dispute. Telus blocked access to a pro-union site by blocking the server on which it was hosted. Researchers at Harvard, Cambridge and the University of Toronto found that Telus's actions resulted in an additional 766 unrelated sites also being blocked from subscribers.
- In addition to blocking, another non-neutral activity is the ability to

privilege content. Shaw, a cable Internet provider charges a Quality of Service (QoS) fee to customers who choose to use another company's VoIP service, rather than Shaw's own digital phone service.

- Bell Canada started "shaping" the transmission of the Internet content it carries in April 2008. This shaping limits the bandwidth available for use by some sources, in order to make it more available for use by other preferred sources—most probably those owned by Bell Canada.

- Rogers is one of the few network providers to admit deploying traffic shaping technology, although the company has offered few details regarding what kind of traffic receives discriminatory or preferential treatment. Allegations have been made that Rogers' traffic shaping practices degrade the performance of popular file-sharing applications like BitTorrent. Rogers is also on record as exploring new kinds of billing systems, including "metering" systems which charge customers for downloading video and using other bandwidth-intensive applications.

- HostOnFiber, a small Edmonton-based ISP offering web hosting services, has admitted to interfering with Internet content. In September 2006, HostOnFiber evicted a client's website featuring an online Goth/Vampire subculture magazine called Some Lives Are Different (SLAD). HostOnFiber removed the SLAD site from its servers despite the fact that it carried appropriate warnings and contained legal content.

* Material provided by <http://whatisnetneutrality.ca/>