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7 Gabriel Dalton's October **Newsletter**

Gabriel's Dive into DeFi, Voting Systems & Community Leadership

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Hey!

I hope you're doing well! For those who might be new here, I'm Gabriel, a 16year-old founder of Oasis of Change, an organization dedicated to sustainability through eco-friendly web development. I'm currently in Grade 11 and pursuing projects at The Knowledge Society (TKS) that explore how technology can solve real-world problems, especially in finance and governance.

What I've Been Up To 📈

1. Exploring DeFi for Financial Inclusion

I recently published an article on Medium titled How Aave's DeFi Lending Protocol is Expanding Access to Credit in Developing Countries. Writing this helped me dive deeper into how decentralized finance (DeFi) can bypass traditional banking systems, making credit and lending more accessible globally.

2. New TKS Project: Decentralized Voting System

For my TKS replicate project, I'm working on a decentralized voting system, inspired by my involvement with my building's strata council. This prototype will focus on secure, anonymous voting using blockchain technology. The goal is to develop a transparent system that maintains user privacy, so all participants feel comfortable expressing their true opinions on community matters.

3. Hands-On Experience with Community Leadership

Joining my strata council has been a great opportunity to contribute as a young voice. It allows me to identify and discuss issues in my household community while also gaining insights into governance and decision-making, both of which will help shape my decentralized voting project.

4. Hack49 Hackathon: Data Privacy & Olach

I was thrilled to be accepted into Hack49, a global hackathon focused on data privacy, waste management, and healthcare. During this intense 3-day event, I developed *Olach*, a secure note-taking platform that stores all your notes directly on your device, eliminating external server dependency. It's a solution for those seeking privacy in their personal documentation, and I'm looking forward to the results in a few days!

Achievements & Highlights \mathbf{Y}

- New Insights in Decentralized Finance: Writing about Aave's DeFi protocol gave me new perspectives on financial inclusion and inspired my project ideas for TKS.
- Leadership in My Community: Joining the strata council has been a valuable experience in community leadership and collective problemsolving.
- Project Progress: The initial stages of my decentralized voting system are underway, with a focus on privacy, security, and usability.



- 1. Thanks to the TKS Community: Special thanks to my mentors and peers at TKS who continue to challenge and inspire my projects!
- 2. **Gratitude to the Strata Council:** For welcoming me into the team and showing me the ropes of local governance.

What's Next?

- Developing the Voting Prototype: I'll be finalizing the technical details
 of my decentralized voting project over the next few months, aiming to
 create a scalable prototype.
- Revamp for <u>Oasis of Change</u>: I'm also working on a website update to better showcase our projects and impact.
- Continuing in DeFi: I plan to explore other DeFi protocols that tackle accessibility issues in finance, building on my recent research.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have questions, or ideas, or want to connect. Your feedback and ideas are invaluable as I continue exploring the impact of decentralized systems!

Warmly,

Gabriel Dalton

P.S. If you want to read more about any of these projects, check out my Medium or LinkedIn.

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