

## Network History in the Great Lakes Region and Tkaronto

Toronto has a layered history of internet and wireless access projects including...

Internet and wireless access projects including Wireless Nomad, and Wireless Toronto date back to the early 2000s, what have been identified by Christian Sandvig (2004) as the first way of European and American community wireless, which by and large did not challenge the structure or function of the internet.

More recently, in what Alison Powell and Leslie Shade (2006) amongst others identify as a second wave in mid-2000 on, CNs developed around practices and discourses of what Powell describes as 'contextualization and politicization of Wi-Fi' as an open network built by and for citizens."

In Toronto this includes the reBOOT reLAY pilot project in Parkdale. Within in their design and material instantiation, these CNs, within which I would include Toronto Mesh, rely upon technical discourses of grassroots infrastructure decentralization, open source/hardware, and network engineering.

There were activist communications projects Nataby Dao, or the THE OAT COLLECTIVE

## Land acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the sacred land that Our Networks takes place on—it has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

The 'Dish' or sometimes it is called the "Bow" represents what is now southern Ontario (from the Great Lakes to Quebec and from Lake Simcoe into the U.S.). \* We all eat out of the Dish – all of us that share this territory – with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty, which includes, taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace. [1]

(Organize, Autonomize, Triumph), who emphasized providing free, safe, and secure communications tools in a model similar to Riseup, those members also supported groups at the city-level.

In addition, Non-profit internet service providers, including Toronto Free-Net which has operated for over 20 years. And further, low-cost internet and digital literacy projects, the Toronto Public Library has been an active organization here, most recently through their hotspot borrowing program with in-kind partnerships with major ISPs.

## Places

CN Tower—Whose main purpose during planning and construction phase was to help with communication services, although now it serves as a main tourist attraction.

University of Toronto Snet—Canada's largest supercomputer centre which provides resources for Compute/Calcul Canada, a national infrastructure for supercomputing-powered research.

Toronto Free Net Office—A non-profit Internet Service Provider (ISP), and one of its oldest, Toronto Free Net ISP. Serving the GTA since 1994, when

"The Great Lakes region takes its name from the corresponding geological formation of the Great Lakes Basin, a narrow watershed encompassing The Great Lakes, bounded by watersheds to the region's north (Hudson Bay), west (Mississippi), east and south (Ohio). To the east, the rivers of St. Lawrence, Richelieu, Hudson, Mohawk and Susquehanna form an arc of watersheds east to The Atlantic.

The Great Lakes region, as distinct from the Great Lakes Basin, defines a unit of sub-national political entities defined by the U.S. states and the Canadian Province of Ontario encompassing the Great Lakes watershed, and the states and Province bordering one or more of the Great Lakes."

> Toronto for All:  
torontoforall.ca/indigenous-peoples-of-tkaronto/  
> [1] Land Acknowledgements:  
tcjournalism/ryerson.ca/and-acknowledgement/  
> Native Canadian Centre of Toronto: nccct.on.ca  
> First Story App: firststoryblog.wordpress.com  
> Wikipedia: wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\_Lakes\_region

few people could Internet service or had access outside of research networks

Unassuming Colocation Facility—Naviyata/TNW Networks, Northern Ontario Building Built in 1925 by Chapman & Oxley, "Conveniently located adjacent to the Adelaide Central Office and in the heart of Toronto's business and financial district, our Toronto colocation facility is an ideal location to colocate your critical servers.

Cogeco Peer 1—"Cogeco Inc. is a Canadian telecommunications and media company headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, which serves residential and commercial customers through various subsidiaries.

151 Front Street—Canada's largest and most important carrier hotel owned by Allied Properties REIT, which didn't have a history with telecommunications. Mr. Emory, who bought 151 Front St. West for \$192-million in 2009.

Also the site of Toronto Internet Exchange Community (TorIX) is a not-for-profit Internet Exchange Point (IXP). As of July 2018, TorIX has 234 members[1] and peak traffic rates of 537 Gbit/s, making it the largest IXP in Canada.

## Spirit

On 2019-02-14 12:41 a.m., someone smarter than us wrote:

"Maybe the real mesh network is the friends we made along the way"  
—Max Veylsman, Our Networks 2018

"Resistance is constructing everything that we need to maintain the life of our people"  
—Zapatista community member quoted in Syn/ia Federico, Re-enchanting the World, 2018

"On one hand... [we live in] an always-almost-falling-apart world. On the other, a world in constant process of fixing and reinvention, reconfiguring and reassembling into new combinations and new possibilities—a topic of both hope and concern..."

The fulcrum of these two worlds is repair: the subtle acts of care by which order and meaning in complex sociotechnical systems are maintained and transformed, human value is preserved and extended"  
—Steve Jackson, Rethinking Repair, 2014

905 King Street is their sister facility Canada's first Electric Telegraph was in Toronto, inaugurated 19th December 1846> (plaque at St. Lawrence Market), Niagara electro-magnetic telegraph company.

CBC Building 251 Front Street—Formed from CBRBC in 1936 by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), CBC was controlled by the national government, and funded largely by a Taxes/licence fees) from owners of radio sets.

> Dawn Walker walking tour

"The repair or replacement of broken infrastructure is...necessary for any form of sociality to extend itself"

—Lauren Berlant, The Commons: Infrastructures for Troubling Times, 2016

"values are the facts of the future... Our world was shaped by the values that presided over its creation. Technologies are the crystallized expression of those values."

—Andrew Feenberg, Technologies, 2017

"Being the change you want to see in the world does not imply a complete rejection of society, it means to stay in the zone of creative tension between the ideal vision and the way the world works right now."

—elavole, %YHtAveLW0qGdy2JXne8kx7F6vXMCh-NLyziq?ewA8=sha256, on SSB, 2019

our:####  
networks

# RE: Infrastructures

## September 20–22

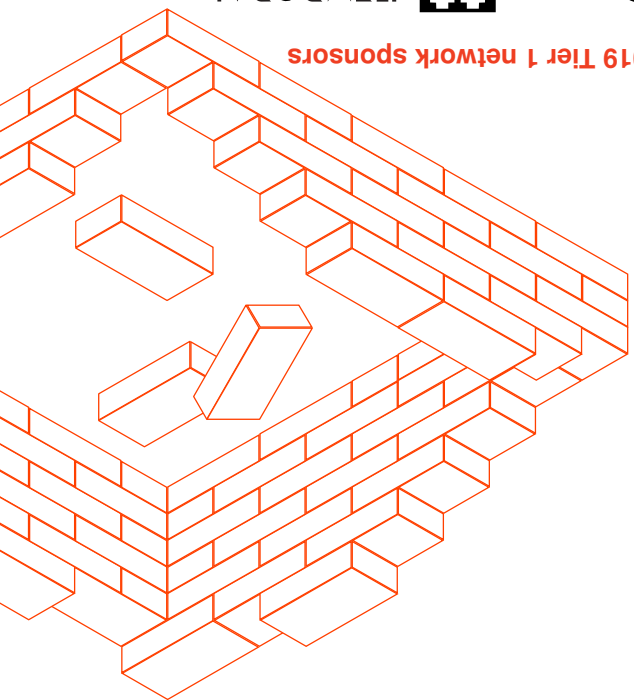
Toronto Media Arts Center  
32 Lisgar Street

## About the conference

RE: Infrastructures explores the collective care and maintenance of alternative networking practices—new protocols, peer-to-peer connections, offline-first computing, and community-based governance.

How can these emerging *Infrastructures of ...* provide spaces to imagine radically different futures, resist easy co-option by the forces of late-stage capitalism, and work in solidarity as plural networks seeking emancipatory change?

How can our networking be reparative? In what ways can we remediate existing communication infrastructures? Are there uncooptable computing reconfigurations? How can we reconstruct technology after refusal? What are regenerative approaches to resist status quo tech?



# Program 2019

## Code of Conduct

Our Networks is dedicated to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion or technical skill level.

[ournetworks.ca/code-of-conduct](http://ournetworks.ca/code-of-conduct)

## Media policy

The rule of thumb is: Do not photograph, video, or audio record anyone at Our Networks without their express permission, sought in advance.

[ournetworks.ca/filming](http://ournetworks.ca/filming)

## Exhibited works

### Made in Iran

> Farhad Bahram

### Currency

> Sphere Collective

### Channel channel, a network for VPN access

> Biyi Wen

### The Magi system, exploring the aesthetics of network infrastructure

> Tobias Williams

### Torrents of sex

> Nahee Kim

## Saturday

	Main Room	Gamma Workshop Space	Zine Library
9:00	Registration		
10:00	Opening remarks		
10:15	Whose future are you serving?: Interrogating frontier imaginaries within P2P technologies > Laniyuk		
10:30	Waiting for NIN in New Orleans > Jennifer Seaman Cook		
11:30	Coffee Break		Screenprint our swag
11:45	DHT, BFT, OMG: Know your building blocks for decentralized applications (2019 edition) > Kirill Pimenov		
12:30	Collective resistance to state controls on information > Cecylia Bocovich		
13:00	Lunch		
14:00	Trouble in the bubble: Tech workers organizing in the industry > Danny Spitzberg	Publishing your first decentralized website with Dat > Georgiy Shibaev	Hotglue on Dat workshop for non-techies (kid-friendly!) > Gottfried Haider
16:00	Coffee break		
16:15	Cryptoeconomics: Towards mass behavioral engineering or a network commons? > Jaya Klara Brekke > Dan Hassan	The future for workers > Brett Wallace	
17:00	Social, artistic, and theoretical experiments with decentralized festivals > Andreas Dzialocha		
18:00	Keynote panel: May First, technology and revolution > Alfredo Lopez		
20:00	Outdoor screening		

## Friday

	Main Room	Gamma Workshop Space	Zine Library
12:00	<b>March for our futures: Youth climate march</b> Queen's Park 47 Queen's Park Crescent E		
13:00	<b>Registration</b>		
14:00	<b>Meshing around: DIY internet</b> > Jillian Murphy > Scott Rasmussen	<b>[PROTEST_BAR]</b> > Brett Ian Balogh	
15:00	<b>Hands-on networking</b> > Grant Gallo		
16:00	<b>Screenprint our swag</b>		
:30	<b>Regulationism and the need for a digital postmodernism</b> > Corey Abell		
17:00	<b>Spectacular grammar: Infrastructure as a Universal language</b> > Renée Reizman		
:30	<b>Remaking the web: Competing visions of decentralization</b> > Jack Jamieson		
18:30	<b>Keynote: Dr. Jennifer Wemigwans, A Digital Bundle Protecting and Promoting Indigenous Knowledge Online</b>		
19:30	<b>Kickoff party</b> <b>On the wire</b> > Adam McFillin <b>Pale Eyes</b> > Ben McCarthy		

## Sunday

9:30	Registration		
10:15	<b>Building a modern Memex</b> > Andrew Louis	<b>Resistant networks with retro-tech</b> > Libi rose striegl	
10:45	<b>Solar powered website</b> > Marie Otsuka > Lauren Traugott-Campbell		
11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>		<b>Screenprint our swag</b>
11:30	<b>Mesh lightning talks</b>	<b>Radical internet futures: Let's draw them together</b> > Elisabetta Ferrari	
12:15	<b>A technical introduction to IPFS</b> > Hector Sanjuan		
13:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
14:00	<b>Lightning talks</b>	<b>Collaboratively backing up IPFS content with IPFS Cluster</b> > Hector Sanjuan	
15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>		
16:00	<b>Networks as sculpture</b> > Lai Yi Ohlsen	<b>Feedback as exploratory self-research</b> > Sam McGarva	
17:00	<b>Amazonification: Decoding scarcity as weaponized precarity</b> > Hiba Ali		
17:45	<b>Closing remarks</b>		