



Meeting Minutes

2026-08-12 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting #10

Note taker: Adam

Timekeeper: Shasha

Facilitator: Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Gurpreet
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	Gurpreet
New ▾	Artwork: - Floating the idea of gathering to create simple but visually-grabbing artwork for upcoming in person events such as the Migrant Rally meetup and Tech Walks in September and October - Banner v Placards v Something Else - Logo Stencil v Printing - Supplies budget - Long Term Storage - If of interest, Civic Space Sunday Aug 23? Merge with TWC art night Aug 19? Who does what?	10m	Shasha
New ▾	Have your say advancing AI transparency: here	2//6:27	Gurpreet
Update ▾	Waymo Updates: - Labour Webinar: August 26, 2026 - Webinar Series - Luma page: https://luma.com/7viunmc7 - Call with Chris Glover - Call with Workers Action Center & Rita Smith (Taxi news) - Social media	15m//6:44	Adam
Update ▾	Transition Committee: - Taking steps towards holding an inaugural board election! - Notes here:	10m/6:54	Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	- TfD Transition Committee - Notebook - Open question on voting system: single-transferable vote? yes/no? - Is anyone a voting system nerd?		
Update ▾	Privacy rights enforcement research & action - Attending today the Landlord & Tenant Board court case as a material witness of the tenant Javier Ruiz Soler against a property management company - the case is on insufficient CCTV policy and unclear handling of data from CCTV cameras - Started some research on Bill C-36 and its proposed regulator independence Bill_C-36_proposed_regulator_independence...	2m//6:56	Jitka (not present)
Update ▾	Tech walk in Sep (and possibly Oct?) - Designed the path for the first walk. If anyone has any feedback, feel free to add by Thursday - Thoughts on charging a small fee to handle initial set up costs - Luma to be set up by Friday - Also asking for suggestions for 2nd walk around network infra - Reached out to Climatefast and Civic Tech Brampton for potential collab	5m//7:01	Aarushi
Other ▾	Getting Involved & Signing up folks to the newsletter: Roles?	5m//7:06	Adam
Outro ▾	Getting volunteers for the CTTO pitch roster for next month: - TfD - Civic Tech Pitch/Host Roster - Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	5m//7:15	[Gurpreet/Khasir]
Outro ▾	Wrap-up: Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m//7:17	Gurpreet

Attendees:

- Adam, Khasir, Sunnie, Gurpreet, Shasha, Aarushi, Nelson

Notes:

- [Shasha] Artwork: Upcoming in-person events. Simple placards/banners would be good to be identified. Who would be in? Maybe making it a social event to reduce burden? Civic Space Sunday is a good contender.
 - Do we want a banner? One of each: small placards and larger items, and then a banner. Even pins. Banners might not be practical. Placards and pins!
 - We'll meet up to draw the placards, posters, and pins. August 23rd at Civic Space Sunday
- [Gurpreet] AI Transparency form: inviting members to fill the form/document. We will see how much input we get to determine whether we go forward. Suggestion: add a table of contents.
- [Adam] Waymo updates. Announcement put out for labour webinar on Luma and on our newsletter (aug 26, 18:30).
 - Also waiting on graphic from Nelson before bigger announcement.
 - Marv will moderate and people with SM access can help with sharing the Luma event.
 - If anyone interested in sharing discussion/question ideas, add on the Google doc (**to be shared by Adam**)
- Feedback on Waymo
 - Call from MPP Glover. Will present to his caucus and consult with them about more info from province
 - Talked to journalist from Toronto Today (Cherise?) who suggested social media pressure. Need to be more active on social media, 2 posts/week
 - Workers' Action Centre: flagged language (potentially xenophobia?); want to not protect local econ but get cheaper labour. Get in touch with blue collar workers. SM game more important though
 - Taxi News- will connect with Rita Smith
 - Brainstorm punch video ideas; lot of research in the open letter so can utilise parts of it as posts
 - How do we get more reach? Some forum or community org who can post it. Adam led to a platform ([Lead Now](#)) who we can pitch our idea to. If so, sanitise message. Another platform to help us; decentralises the process
 - Ways for more media traction? Getting more diverse groups to sign on can gain attention. Currently not much news either.
 - Adam will get more active on SM, work on images and videos for posting, look into Lead Now and other similar platforms
- [Khasir]
 - Transition committee: any preference on voting strategy? Need to ask Sebastian (or someone else in Civic Tech who has experience in voting systems)
 - Lawyer feedback is good. Need to pick a number of people to elect.

- [Jitka] Attended the landlord & tenant board court case against a property manager with CCTV policy. She attended as a witness. Did some research on privacy for the case.
- [Jitka] Bill C-36: Initial research on the proposed overhaul of the privacy commissioner. So far the biggest threat is the independence of the commission as they will report to the cabinet instead of parliament.
- [Aarushi] Tech walk!!!! Finished a plan for the surveillance walk. The first walk will be similar to the Jane's walk. Are we charging fees? We might be able to buy equipment for our events and meetings. Put it up to a vote. Sunnie notes a Pay What You Can model.
- [Aarushi] Reaching out to Climatefast, Civic Tech Brampton for a tech walk. Khasir notes that it is better to have more seats available than none.
- [Adam] Getting involved
 - Folks on rotation for newsletter and getting involved page (on our website) each week. Set up a call at least
 - Adam and Khasir have been reaching out to people who have expressed interest in volunteering
 - Similar to a long-term system like CTTO, so that burden of bigger, more regular tasks (responding to emails, share newsletter, etc.) is distributed evenly
 - Should we designate people or ad-hoc? Could be on a monthly or quarterly basis
 - Adam can put out the question on the volunteer channel

Action items:

- ☐ Adam will get more active on SM, work on images and videos for posting
- ☐ Once Luma is ready, webinar to be advertised to other groups and on SM
- ☐ Aarushi to post vote on whether we charge for the Tech walk

TfD: Meeting Minutes

This is a running document of meeting minutes.

See also:

- [TfD shared Google drive](#)
 - [List of TfD events](#)
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26-07-08 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting #9

Note taker: Khasir

Timekeeper: Nelson

Facilitator: Gurpreet

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Nelson
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	Nelson
New ▾	[add items here!]		[your name here]
Update ▾	Privacy rights enforcement research - Here's a document with my current research questions - In short, the goal is to compare systems from the perspective of tech accountability (Canada now (PIPEDA), Canada proposed (Bill C-36) vs Europe (GDPR + AI Act)) and show clear gaps in the Canadian system(s) - I'd love to get some feedback - maybe you (Adam?) came across articles I haven't that would be helpful in answering some of the questions... Related to this, I'm preparing for a material witness role at a court hearing Javier vs. a property management company and their privacy-violating use of CCTV cameras	2m?	Jitka (not present)
New ▾	TFD AI Policy	5m	Gurpreet
Update ▾	AI Playbook: • The AI maturity assessment document is in progress. Please check it out and provide any comments or feedback: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r0JeDLU_7G1OMxYClzVFLhNnCi5ahwUE/edit • Will draft a document highlighting the final goal of the project and tracking the progress.	10m	Gurpreet
Update ▾	Flock updates • Chatted with another group interested in taking action • Shared their event details in slack (Jul 23, 6:30pm @ Trinity St. Paul Church)	2m	Khasir
Update ▾	Waymo	5m	

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Update ▾	Digital ID Uri to write draft stance on digital ID verification	2m	
Update ▾	Tech Tour	5m	Gurpreet
Outro ▾	Getting volunteers for the CTTD pitch roster for next month: - TfD - Civic Tech Pitch/Host Roster - Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	5m	[meeting host/Khasir]
Outro ▾	Wrap-up: Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	[meeting host]

Attendees:

- Nelson, Khasir, Gurpreet, Ushnish, Marv

Notes:

- Privacy rights enforcement research
 - Please comment on the doc:
 - Privacy Rights enforcement_Bill C-36, PIPEDA, GDPR_research questions
- TfD AI policy
 - Planning to have an AI policy for TfD
 - Inspired by AI stewardship program, where each attendee created one for themselves
 - Perhaps we can have different types of policies (external-facing, internal) focusing on what not to do and not to endorse
 - Each project can have their own AI use disclaimer
 - Want to avoid identifiable AI in public outputs
 - Acceptable vs prohibited (eg disclosing PII) use cases
 - Are we using frontier vs local models? perhaps encourage local use
- AI playbook
 - Please comment on: AI Maturity Assessment.docx
 - This document is intended to assess an organization's maturity on AI, and afterwards help them follow compliance and auditing
 - What are their compliance requirements?
 - And also what they're trying to achieve
 - Hard to ascertain how much AI is being adopted by an org - how involved are we in each step of the process?
- Flock updates
 - Spoke with external group

- Andre still working on doc
- Waymo
 - We're going to go with direct messaging and call out Waymo specifically, after a vote in Slack
 - If any other company were deploying this tech in Toronto...?
 - Eventually we have to take a call somewhere
 - Harder to campaign if we don't mention them at all
 - They're a US company
 - Not trying to make an example of them, but the specific practices we're not a fan of
 - Block Sidewalk was an effective hashtag and name
 - Was a project, not a company
 - More difficult with Waymo, since they're a company
 - Perhaps we should highlight the bad practices more than the name
 - This goes far beyond Toronto - there are companies testing self-driving vehicles in Ontario
 - We are targeting the province
 - Try to spread amongst all the cities
- Digital ID
 - Working on our stance on digital ID / social media verification
 - Related to Stop Killing the Internet
- Tech Tour
 - Planning a tour around surveillance in Toronto
 - Devices which capture information
 - This Monday will do a brief exploration
 - Also some people will check out the Hidden Rivers tour to see what other tour exists already

Action items:

- ☐ Please comment on the doc:
 -  Privacy Rights enforcement_Bill C-36, PIPEDA, GDPR_research questions
- ☐ Please comment on:  AI Maturity Assessment.docx

26-06-10 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting #8

Note taker: Aarushi

Timekeeper: Adam

Facilitator: Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Marv
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	Marv
New ▾	[add items here!]		[your name here]
Update ▾	TfD Film Club - Recap on debrief at CTTO - Field additional feedback - Up next	8m	Shasha & Jitka
New ▾	I suggest we all take on self-appointed fancy titles for media interviews and job applications, per our strategy workshop “Lead Privacy Researcher” “Campaigns Lead” “Director of Communications” “Community Ambassador” “Outreach Lead” - etc. etc.	5m	Khasir
New ▾	Potential proposal for a city walk focused on digital tech (seeking input from everyone and trying to understand the process of creating+sharing proposals)	5m	Aarushi
New ▾	Javier (IPC) who’s fighting a property management company (I used to rent from) received a very validating report from the OPC. I’d like to help him as a TfD member & resident.	3m	Jitka
Update ▾	Waymo Open Letter - Finished the open letter, ready for publishing - Drafted social media texts to post - Proposal: Simple graphic to post on Instagram - Duration of signature collection: Throughout the summer and into municipal elections	10m	Adam
New ▾	Covering lesser-known Waymo stories - Rachel Gilmore style: Quick and with thoughts - Short reels, 20 seconds or so - In support of the Waymo Open Letter - Goal: Engage TfD audiences and reach advocates	7m	Adam
Update ▾	Newsletter updates Subscribers, growth & future marketing	10m	Marv

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	- Feedback? How to move people from Luma to the Buttontdown?		
Outro ▾	Getting volunteers for the CTO pitch roster for next month: • TfD - Civic Tech Pitch/Host Roster • Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	5m	[meeting host/Khasir]
Outro ▾	Wrap-up: Who wants to be next month's meeting host? • Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	[meeting host]

Attendees:

- Aarushi, Khasir, Adam, Marv, Jerome, Jitka, Nelson, Shasha, Lichen

Notes:

- Film club debrief and updates
 - Only 1 response from feedback (5 stars!)
 - Issue with installation but more on the filmmaker side
 - Luma+tech week+revue tickets = clunky
 - Didn't anticipate the rush, so space was an issue
 - Problems not that big but expected for the first time
 - Next time we can ask theatre to reserve or some partnership with the theatre
 - Crypto payments (?)
 - Luma was doing too much, so if cinema could reserve for us, that would be easier
 - Bank account could ease ticket buying process
 - Organisers changed- HotDocs were giving discount but they weren't able to show it so Revue was alternative
 - No capacity to buy all tickets upfront- converse with next partner to streamline
 - Find bar with more flexibility in occupation
 - Possibility to host in a more public space? Library, park, etc; a future goal
 - Need resources to pay screening fee; can piggyback on free screening
 - may be worth exploring other venues, my friends did a screening at the royal where they sold tickets on eventbrite themselves
- Strategy workshop and titles
 - Useful for media interviews and job search
 - Feel free to update LinkedIn!
 - Volunteering but equivalent to part-time job; can put it in either section (Prof Exp or Volunteering)

- City walk proposal
 - Barcelona group hasn't been responding
 - Could do a rerun of our own walk?
 - Aarushi is working on a more detailed proposal to share with the group
 - Data centre at king's and straghan
 - Decentralised architecture; Jitka (more during the Fall), Marv, Shasha might be interested too
 - Maybe ask some people already working in this space; ghost transformers
 - There's also 3650 Danforth, Stack Infrastructure Data Centre
 - Carlo, Alexander and Rolheiser, Lyndsey, Data Centred: the Shifting Landscape of Canada's Digital Infrastructure (March 24, 2026). Schulich School of Business Real Assets Research Paper Series (forthcoming), Available at SSRN:
 - <https://ssrn.com/abstract=6464099>
 - <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6464099>
 - [A data center walk with environmental groups would be cool](#)
- Privacy report OPC with Javier
 - Case of property management companies violating privacy
 - Javier complained against them
 - OPC agrees, based on a response
 - Javier interested in working with Jitka, as a former renter and TfD member
 - Personal privacy rights awareness
- Waymo open letter
 - Letter ready for social media; out by end of week, maybe next week to be published?
 - City report out but province has more power; Waymo applying for the pilot so in the process
 - Make the info more accessible to people
 - Send letter to ON
 - Accessibility advocate conversation- but argument changes in the accessibility section
 - Lichen is an accessibility researcher- Waymo doesn't support accessibility; research on people with disabilities and their dissatisfaction with the tech, car designs
 - Lichen to help!
 - This report from the American Federation of the Blind has a section on AV's: <https://afb.org/research-and-initiatives/ai-series/ai-quagmire/executive-summary>
 - There are also good resources from the US Access Board: <https://www.access-board.gov/av/>
- Waymo social media push
 - Use reports from US and introduce nuance to driverless vehicle debate
 - Don't pit city against waymo

- Make simple graphic for social media
- Use people with larger reach/lots of followers to amplify messaging; reporters (Toronto Star, 404 Media), Show Up TO; TikTok influencer
- List of allies- use them!
- Insta and YT very shorts-focused so videos would be good! Adam could speak on it
- Marv can also help in amplifying using his contacts
- If we plan the time to post, then all of us can be online and share/repost at the same time
- Share draft with a bunch of orgs and schedule for a particular date
- Vass Bednar
- need continuing posts to drive traction after we release the letter as well. I'm fine with creating some initial graphics
- LI, insta, tiktok use focus groups
- Shouldn't wait too long; get the letter out first- next Tuesday at Civic Tech
- Prepare and record in advance!
- Buffer pre-schedules posts for you, tells you when/how often to do it for the most engagement, and provides analytics. <https://buffer.com/>
- Newsletter updates
 - 92 subscribers
 - Good growth in the last few weeks
 - Offer partners space in our newsletter
 - Going good, keep sharing with partners
 - Reach out to Marv for any feedback!
 - Share all materials with Marv by Tuesday evening each week
- Luma to Buttndown
 - Email blast to subscribers

Action items:

- ☐ Group to share letter at Civic Tech
- ☐ Aarushi to prepare v1 of the walk itinerary by end of week (14th Jan)
- ☐ Lichen to provide materials on accessibility advocacy for Waymo

26-05-13 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting #7

Note taker: Marv

Timekeeper: Shasha

Facilitator: Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Jérôme
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	[meeting host]
Announc... ▾	TfD Strategic Workshop with Scott during May 24th Civic Space Sunday	2m	Jitka
Announc... ▾	TfD Film Club: The End of the Internet May 29th - screening + Q&A + discussion in a bar + can somebody please pitch it at the next Civic Tech?	3m	Shasha & Jitka
Update ▾	Collaboration with MassCulture on Digital Transformation Program	3m	Gurpreet
Update ▾	Transition Committee Adam and Khasir to meet with lawyer Michelle tomorrow	3m	Khasir
Update ▾	Waymo - Open letter almost complete, just waiting for feedback from accessibility advocate Adam Cohoon, who will meet with Adam and Khasir on Friday - Also expecting feedback from lawyer Michelle tmr	5m	Khasir
New ▾	Discussion around communication tools (Slack) Pros: - No maintenance needed - Unlimited users supported - Access to a wider community which shares knowledge, events, news and insights Cons: - Limited administrative controls - If we attract negative attention, could affect the wider Civic Tech Toronto Slack as a whole - Privacy issues (US CLOUD Act etc.) - Not open source	10m	Khasir
Outro ▾	Getting volunteers for the CTO pitch roster for next month:	5m	Jérôme/Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	📅 TfD - Civic Tech Pitch/Host Roster - Runbook here: 📖 TfD Volunteer Runbook		
Outro ▾	Wrap-up: Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: 📖 TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	Jérôme

Attendees:

- Jérôme, Uri, Khasir, Gurpreet, Jitka, Aarushi, Shasha, Marv

Notes: Notetaker: Marv

TfD Strategic Workshop - How can we best use our limited resources?

- Who are potential allies for advocacy?
- How can we do things effectively to best meet our goals?

Come by on Sunday the 24th to workshop ideas

TfD Film Club

- Good response so far on the Luma!
- Can anyone pitch this at Civic Tech TO next week? Arushi will take the lead
- Room capacity is 220 for the actual film. Our capacity for the Q&A is ~20, we seem to be close to the limit already but will double-check with ticket sales.

Mass Culture

- Waiting for some updates from their side
- Looking for expert info on AI policy, data governance, user research. 8-10 meetings throughout the year so they would like recurring input.
- They would like 2 people from TfD to help out in each meeting. It would likely be dependent on the topics being discussed so we can take a call before each instance

Transition Committee

- Meeting with a lawyer this week to see the best course forward for incorporation as a nonprofit
- Transition committee will guide the process of setting up the board of directors
- [add. May 14: Notes here 📖 TfD Transition Committee - Notebook]

Waymo

- Nonprofit lawyer will be checking the letter for legal language & ensuring our goals are clear & achievable
- Awaiting feedback from accessibility advocates about concerns that should be included

- Hope to send the letter out once these points are addressed

Communication Tools

- 'About us' page will be updated soon
- Slack pros & cons discussed, check agenda
- Certain projects might benefit from a more private comms channel, Signal seems to be an option
- Matrix, open-source Slack, can be an option too
- GG keeping vandals in check
- In the future we'll maintain both editable original docs & view-only PDFs

Action items:

- ☐ Pitching Film Club at Civic Tech TO next week? Arushi is willing to step in.

26-04-08 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting

Note taker: Shasha

Timekeeper: Khasir

Facilitator: Marv

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Jitka
Update ▾	Transition Committee • Updates (not much but still progressing) •  TfD Transition Committee - Notebook	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	AI Playbook	5m	Gurpreet/Poe
New ▾	Inviting people to the Luma meetings	5m	Jitka
New ▾	Upcoming strategy workshop with Scott on Sunday April 19 - waiting for a plan	1m	Jitka
Update ▾	AI Privacy toolkit further development: • Implementing feedback • About to create a Google Form survey to collect answers • Going to submit it as a Jane's Walk • Presentation at Civic Tech Brampton in May? •  Quick Privacy Check_to be tested.pdf	5m	Jitka
Update ▾	Newsletter - any feedback? Places to improve?	5m	Marv

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Update ▾	Social media - channel created, let's put in place a framework for strategy/roles	10m	Marv
Update ▾	Waymo • Updates: Orgs joining in on this • To-do: Policy brief and media	15m	Adam
Update ▾	TfD Film Club • Updates • Next steps • Please review / provide feedback on draft guiding document here: ☰ TfD Film Club Guiding Document • Previously discussed proposal here: ☰ TfD: Meeting Minutes	5m	Shasha
New ▾	FYI: Media spokespeople list • ➕ [Public] TfD Media Contacts • Asking people to be on this list if you want to be available to speak to media	3m	Khasir
New ▾	Flock possibly coming to Toronto (the first in Canada) • Row over 'virtual gated community' AI surveillance plan in Toronto neighbourhood • Shaken by break-ins, an affluent Toronto neighbourhood takes action - The Globe and Mail • Cynthia Khoo of PCAI is interested in collaborating • Flyering campaign? ◦ Other ideas / who's interested in doing something?	5m	Khasir
New ▾	Pitch roster • Idea is to empower people to speak for TfD at Civic Tech Toronto and decentralize the dependency on Khasir • Runbook here: ☰ TfD Volunteer Runbook • If the group agrees, then we can have people sign up here for the next month? One week at a time ◦ ➕ TfD - Civic Tech Pitch/Host Roster	10m	Khasir
Other ▾	Toronto Tech Week • May 25 - 29, rolling acceptance • Should we do something? ◦ Talk? Social gathering?	5m	Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	○ Create a new working group? ● Civic Tech Toronto is planning something, but status is stalled for them right now		
Outro ▾	Wrap-up ● Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	Jitka

Attendees:

- Khasir, Shasha, Adam, Jerome, Aarushi, Marv, Vyomesh, Jitka, Gurpreet, Andrew

Notes:

Transition Committee:

- Khasir and Adam had a meeting with Ben (advisor) to hear from someone with expertise.
- Next steps would be moving forward to create a board.

AI Playbook:

- Gurpreet working on a collaboration surrounding AI governance and AI enablement.

Luma Meetings:

- Jitka wondering about trying to invite people to events via Luma, especially for folks not on Slack.
- Folks agreed that this could be a good idea.
- Maybe we should limit the Volunteer Meetings to 15 people as it might get unwieldy otherwise.

Strategy Workshop:

- Sunday, April 19: Jitka talking to Scott about the plan for the day

Privacy Toolkit:

- Got great feedback on the draft from the IPC office.
- Jitka working on adapting it into a simple Google form so that we can collect responses, submitting it as a potential Jane's Walk, presenting at Civic Tech Brampton in May.
- If you have any ideas about the Jane's Walk, let Jitka know, deadline is April 20.

Social Media:

- We now have 52 people on our newsletter. Hurray!
- Please let Marv know if you have any feedback by Tuesday EOD for next Wednesday's newsletter.
- Nelson recently joined the group and is really passionate about socials.
- Currently on: Mastodon, LinkedIn, Instagram, BlueSky
- We also have a new social media channel on Slack.

Way*o:

- Setting up shop in Toronto, opening an office here.
- Adam and Khasir have started reaching out to possible partners to build a coalition to petition politicians on this issue.
- So far TTC Riders has joined. Rideshare organizers on board.
- Current strategy is outreach (policymakers / politicians) + media push to other orgs with more capacity by helping provide materials and resources where we can. Visibility.

Film club!

- Shasha & Jitka working on guiding doc and seeking feedback.
- Sussing out potential choices for the Spring film.
- Don't want a channel for this
 - Promo would be in #proj-tfd and #general, and the newsletter
 - Don't want to separate people
- Do we have graphics we can use for events?
 - We have a logo but no graphics
 - Nelson or Aarushi might be able to help

Flock

- Beware of doorknocking in potentially hostile neighbourhoods
- Khasir sharing about this news, fielding ideas for what we might be able to do.
- Khasir meeting with Cynthia

Civic Tech Pitch Roster

- Khasir sharing pitching roster document to see if we can decentralize this role a bit more.
- Added pitch roles up to May 12.

Toronto Tech Week:

- May 25-29 - maybe see if Film Club can program for these dates?
- Khasir can help with app if needed (at least 2 weeks before)

Action items:

- ☐ Khasir leading next steps with Transition Committee to form the board

- ☐ Luma managers to start doing Luma invites moving forward and see how it goes
- ☐ Next meeting: discuss how to handle new volunteers when it comes to the Volunteer Meetings / orientation
- ☐ Jitka to advise on the plan for April 19 ahead of the event
- ☐ Khasir looking for someone to bring a portable mic for the 19th
- ☐ Jitka adapting the Privacy Toolkit into a Google form and submitting this as a potential Jane's Walk event in May before April 20 deadline
- ☐ Jitka to present Privacy Toolkit at Civic Tech Brampton in May
- ☐ Marv drating newsletters
- ☐ Khasir and Adam working to build coalition and plan for Way*o campaign
- ☐ Adam working to prepare materials to assist other orgs with more media capacity including working with Aarushi on the policy brief
- ☐ Shasha to assist Khasir and Adam with media training / EPK
- ☐ People can join the Way*o organizing channel if interested in helping #proj-tfd-selfdriving
- ☐ Please provide feedback for the film club doc: [TfD Film Club Guiding Document](#)
- ☐ Shasha & Jitka to ask Nelson if interested in helping with graphic / brand kit / if not Aarushi can do Canva.
- ☐ Khasir meeting with Cynthia
- ☐ To continue filling in pitch roles document as we move along
- ☐ Shasha & Jitka to see if we can align the film programming with Toronto Tech Week. Khasir can assist with application (at least 2 weeks before).

26-03-12 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting

Note taker: Marv

Timekeeper: Shasha

Facilitator: Jitka

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Adam
Update ▾	People's Consultation on AI Debrief - Went pretty well! - Asking for help with report	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	Magna Motion to look into avenues for privacy in the City of Toronto's power, to be considered at City Council.	5m	Adam

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	Political fact sheet to be sent.		
Update ▾	Transition Committee (It's on my list, haven't started the channel yet)	2m	Khasir
New ▾	TfD Film Club! See proposal details: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tExFHgY5HCyr7OO73f01puRBNFqQ8a25jbp70eO8wPI/edit?tab=t.9fgry2w8o9ym	10m	Shasha
Outro ▾	Wrap-up Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	Adam

Attendees:

- Khasir, Adam, Shasha, Marv, Jitka, (who else?)

Notes:

People's Consultation on AI Debrief

- Went well! Short notice not an issue
- Speakers brought a lot to the event. Praise for Andrew's perspectives, good to see Camila there as a data annotator. Glad to be in a room of like-minded AI skeptics. Venue was great.
- Breakout sessions were helpful for answering privacy questions
- Possible improvements: Questions for speakers could have been more direct, little too noisy, would have brought a tripod for camera work, would have preferred more back and forth between speakers and audience.

Magna

- IEC meeting coming up. Council considering out position
- Looking into what the city did to regulate other industries (namely Uber & Airbnb) in order to find the best POA & way to contact the city
- Freedom of information requests have been sent to get more info about this investigation
- Connections being made with people within our community/extended network to get insights

Transition committee

- Research ongoing into the future course of action for incorporation/formalising agreements (non-profit, remain volunteer-run, something else?)

TfD Film Club

- Jitka has an interest in co-hosting
- Merging interests of documentaries & activism shared by many in the community. Hosted quarterly initially.
- Go to the cinema together, keep it low-effort but embrace the passion of ideas being fresh after viewing
- Reaching out to contacts in the film industry to get special access & gatherings in place
- Should this be just for us in Civic Tech TO? Suggestion to start a test run to see how this would work
- It could be a recruiting/outreach tool. A supplement to the advocacy work
- Instructions to the attendees - Have a look at the proposal and come up with suggestions

Social Media

- Is this something we want to do? Is it possible with current volunteering time constraints?
- Grappling with the algo is a problem on most social networks today
- Maybe future volunteers could be helpful for Insta. Let's ask our volunteer channel
- We will definitely be getting good educational content out of our work.

Follow-up on point on open list of roles

- Volunteer channel would be the place to put this.
- Place requests for volunteers & also have people offer their volunteer time
- How do we ensure that we're checking these lists and ensuring it stays current?

Wrap-up

- Jitka will lead the next meeting!

Action items:



26-02-12 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting

Note taker: Shasha

Timekeeper: Khasir

Facilitator: Adam

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Gurpreet
New ▾	Should we number our Planning Meetings?	2m	Gurpreet

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Update ▾	Tech Brief Launch!! - Overview - Plans for future	5m	Adam
Update ▾	Privacy Flowchart • See slides: TFD Privacy Flowchart - Slide Deck • Channel on slack: #proj-tfd-flowchart-tech-policy • Goal: Create a user-friendly tool for activists to conduct privacy impact assessments at scale • Welcoming volunteers who want to investigate the loopholes in the current tech policy system	10m	Jitka & Jai
New ▾	Proposal: Research Hackathon/Co-work • Goal: Meet and research together, learn new things (e.g. Power Mapping exercise, digging through some data etc.) • Who's interested? When should we do it?	5m	Jitka
Update ▾	AI Playbook for Non Profits • Recommended action: Suggest NPOs or get in touch with the NPOs you are familiar with to document information here. • Goal: Analyze the challenges and goals of non-profits to architect a tailored roadmap to support their transition to AI.	5m	Gurpreet
New ▾	Proposal: Transition Committee • See Proposals tab for details • Goal of this Committee would be to transition Tfd to nonprofit status • This would involve setting up applications and an election process • Recommended action: Approve this proposal, and at least 1 other person joins Khasir in this Committee (or Khasir finds someone else to join)	20m	Khasir
Outro ▾	Wrap-up • Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: TFD Volunteer Runbook	2m	Gurpreet

Attendees:

- Malica, Gurpreet, Adam, Jitka, Khasir, Shasha

Notes:

- We agreed to start numbering our planning meetings.

TECH BRIEF LAUNCH:

- Tech briefs are now live on the site. Work in progress.
- Jai working on data centre tech brief.
- If anyone wants to learn about how to use Word Press to do this, talk to Adam.
- Now we should think about improving the site and getting the word out about it.
- Maybe pitch at Civic Tech to get the word out?
- Khasir presenting at Civic Tech Brampton - another opportunity to spread the word.

PRIVACY FLOWCHART:

- The motivation behind the project is making privacy legislation accessible via a user-friendly privacy toolkit.
- Goal 1: Privacy Impact Assessment - using the Privacy Commissioner of Ontario guidelines not great because it focuses on the public sector and ignores the private sector, hard to understand, boring
- Solution: LLMs for Social Good - a simple checklist that people can use to discern whether something could be problematic. It indicates risk levels. Inviting you all to go through it and provide feedback
- Jitka's Powerpoint accessible after the call here:
 - [TFD Privacy Flowchart - Slide Deck](#)
- Review draft: [Quick Privacy Check_to be tested.pdf](#)
- Seeking feedback on what to do with it next
- Could it be a tool to make it easier to file a complaint with the Privacy Commissioner's office?
- After feedback: plan a meeting with the Privacy Commissioner's office for their input
- How will these eventually be shared? Maybe on the website, in the newsletter, reaching out to allies who would find it helpful, sharing with politicians' aides

PROPOSAL - RESEARCH HACKATHON / CO-WORK:

- During the Waymo campaign, there was talk of maybe doing a research hackathon for a group to meet together and work together on deep dive research. Maybe we can do this for the Flowchart project?
- A day or half a day, one time event focused on one project in particular.
- Good opportunity to do more work together. Civic Tech meetings are quite short and hectic for this.

AI PLAYBOOK FOR NON-PROFITS:

- In discovery phase interacting with non-profits to understand their needs
- Research document here: [AI readiness.xlsx](#)
- Created a questionnaire to help guide conversations with organizations.
- Open to feedback.

PROPOSAL - TRANSITION COMMITTEE:

- Members of the Transition Committee would set up application process for board members, intake, run the election.
- Pros are outlined in the [Proposal Document](#)
- Primary benefit would allow us to scale up beyond Tuesday night meetups at Civic Tech TO as the central organizing point
- Looking for folks to be part of the Transition Committee
- What would the board selection process look like? Submit resume + fill out application form + elections
- Jitka, Shasha, Adam open to helping Khasir

WRAP-UP:

- March 12 is next meeting. Adam to host. Khasir to send runbook.

Action items:

- ☐ Khasir: Update numbering & runbooks for monthly meetings
- ☐ Adam: Continue working on + adapting tech briefs layout incorporating feedback
- ☐ Everyone: Look at the Tech Briefs section of the site and share any feedback or let Adam know if you want to learn how to update the site in Word Press
- ☐ Adam: Pitch Tech Briefs at Civic Tech
- ☐ Khasir & Gurpreet: Pitch Tech Briefs at Civic Tech Brampton
- ☐ Everyone: Review Jitka's Powerpoint and draft Checklist and provide feedback
- ☐ Jitka: Plan a meeting with the Privacy Commissioner's Office + eventually iron out channels for sharing the completed / public-ready document
- ☐ Jitka: Share details on suggested co-working time & location so folks can join
- ☐ Everyone: Review AI readiness document and share any feedback for the AI Playbook approach
- ☐ Everybody who needs to: More research on Non-Profits / processes / workflows (Khasir linked some in the Proposal)
- ☐ Khasir to set up Transition Committee
- ☐ Adam will host next month's planning meeting, Khasir sending Runbook

26-02-10 | Civic Meetup Breakout

- Quick mention of AI Flowchart, still figuring out the specific name of what it's supposed to be.
- AI Consultation: Completion of some questions, Khasir has some ideas on fulfilling the consultation in a certain way. Signal group chat underway to organize the effort with Tech Workers Coalition (potential working group).

- Adam met with the Dean of the Information School to connect, spoke to a Montreal non-profit that offers self-hosting services to explore ways in which ethical and open source software is serviced, and will meet with Chris Glover (MPP for Fort York - Spadina) for the tech committee.
- Spent the rest of the meeting going through the people's consultation for AI.

26-01-14 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting

Note taker: Jai

Timekeeper: Shasha

Facilitator: Khasir

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	Melica
New ▾	[add items here!]		[your name here]
Update ▾	Privacy Flowchart • See slides: TFD Privacy Flowchart - Slide Deck • Channel on slack: #proj-tfd-flowchart-tech-policy • Goal: Create a user-friendly tool for activists to conduct privacy impact assessments at scale • Welcoming volunteers who want to investigate the loopholes in the current tech policy system	5m	Jitka & Jai
Update ▾	Retainer agreement with lawyer Michelle Kushnir • See contract: 2026 Jan 12 - TFD draft retainer letter.docx regarding legal advice particularly around incorporation • Recommended action: Khasir signs the letter on behalf of Tfd	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	Operating Manifesto: • [WIP] Tfd Operating Manifesto • Final call for comments! Will be put to a ratification vote on the week of Jan 19, 2026	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	CDM Campaign Update: • Filing privacy complaint • Reached out and gathered information on CDM's response	5m	Adam

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	Loop in involved parties (Evan Light for example)		
Update ▾	Townhall Meeting: - Reaching out to interested parties (email template and contact list) - Aiming to get buy-in and then move on to organizing - Need to do some research on present orgs	10m	Adam
Update ▾	Tech Briefs: - Quick showcase of blog on website - Data storage tech brief - Feedback?	5m	Adam
Outro ▾	Wrap-up Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	Melica

Attendees:

- Khasir, Adam, Marv, Ushnish, Shasha, Melica, Jai

Notes:

- Privacy flowchart
 - Slides: [TfD Privacy Flowchart - Slide Deck](#)
 - Motivation: Our goal in tfd being privacy watchdogs, we keep an eye out for specific issues like Magna etc that could pose as privacy issues
 - Open issues: how to find the fine line between comprehensive yet scalable analysis, which institutions play a critical role in shaping privacy landscape and what loopholes remain open. (link to document here)
 - Jitka and Jai aim to develop a toolkit to serve as a user-friendly entry point for privacy impact assessment.
 - Current tasks being tackled as part of this are reviewing past privacy-focused initiatives tackled by TFD in the past, such as Magna, CDM. Preparations around the privacy townhall.
 - Also would be cool to have a good UI on top of the privacy impact assessment. Power mapping is also an important next step but currently focusing on the more preliminary steps to develop a better understanding of what needs to be done.
 - Call for action:** all docs are public are on Google drive (including slides), anyone who is interested is welcome to join the initiative.

- Retainer agreement with lawyer Michelle Kushnir
 - Help provide general legal advice to TFD, especially if we pursue incorporation
 - Help is **pro-bono**
 - **Recommended action:** Khasir will sign + provide address on behalf of TFD
 - **Recommended action:** Let Khasir know thoughts on Slack
- Operating Manifesto
 - Will put it to a vote next week for **one week**
 - Can have discussions through comments in the document
 - **Action:** Look through the document and provide comments
- CDM Campaign Update:
 - They haven't responded, so we followed-up with them
 - They updated the information regarding the technology
 - No longer references how they store data
 - To be added to the privacy complaint
 - Khasir documented the exact times the page was modified
 - Slightly more precise, but not a major change
 - Have done due diligence, now moving on to **filing a privacy complaint**
 - **Question:** Have we done any cross-comparison with what went on with Clearview AI at Eaton Center?
 - Looked at privacy complaints / reports, but not deep into the technology itself
 - **Question:** Where can we find the information logging changes to the website?
 - [Link here](#) -> went through Internet Archive to find changes
 - **Action:** If you would like to participate in filing the privacy complaint, message the Slack
- Townhall Meeting:
 - **Goal:** Gather as many people who are interested in TFD's goals as possible
 - Planning work can be found on [this Kanban board](#)
 - Jitka [drafted two e-mails](#): people who are not yet involved, and people who already signed the letter
 - Once we reach enough engagement, we can decide how this event will take shape
 - Ideally closely-knit; involve people from the get go
 - **Question:** Do we want people who have more expertise running campaigns?
 - Ideally, cross-expertise, but with an engineering/tech slant
 - Jim's friend runs a Signal group called Lefties Supporting GNU, can help
 - **Question:** What is the breadth of the groups we want to reach out to? E.g. artists/authors that are more focused on this subject
 - Originally thinking 50-100 people, but this may be too much for a first event
 - Still good to reach out to groups to learn from them + help organize + do ally-building, but risk is that we broaden the audience too much
 - Mix of technies + non-technies would be better, especially because tech culture is dismissive of others' perspectives + need greater understanding / common ground among both sides
 - Good to broaden our network through weak connections

- **Action:** Hoping to delegate the e-mailing task across members
- **Action:** Let the channel know about people/orgs that could be reached out to
- Tech Briefs:
 - Manas wrote a brief on AI (ML, neural networks, LLMs), so we did not get to the deployment part
 - Next: Brief on data centers + deploying LLMs
 - We can tag the posts once we have more
 - **Question:** Is this a blog section of a larger TFD website?
 - Yes, it would be a new tab of the home page
 - **Question:** Do we have the capacity to maintain it? Is it cumulative? Or do we want it to be more of a “news” section?
 - General description of the technology, so it should be fairly independent of time
 - **Question:** Instead of having it on the website, can we have it on Obsidian? If we want them to be explainers, we might want to pursue this in stages (like a Wiki kind of thing)
 - Could be cool!
 - **Feedback:** Already have a lot in the navigation bar, might be good to have less. Also point about dates: people may choose whether or not to follow up with people based on the dates of the articles, so if we’re “inactive”, that might be bad. If we add dates, it would be important to **maintain** the blog.
 - **Feedback:** When ready to publish, Khasir/Adam can play around with WordPress to see what looks good
 - **Question:** Do we have a section/button at the bottom to allow people to reach out if they see an issue with the article?
 - Haven’t been added yet, but definitely worth putting in
 - **Feedback:** If page on the website instead of a PDF, you can enable comments, and the website has a method for contacting TFD more generally anyways
 - This could be something we post in our newsletter
 - **Action:** Anyone who is interested can take this on
 - **Action:** Would like feedback on the tech briefs we have so far (currently a WordPress draft) + the format of the website
- Wrap-up
 - Who wants to host the next meeting on Feb 11th?
 - TBD

Action items:

- ☐ Feel free to join the [#proj-tfd-flowchart-tech-policy](#) Slack channel and join the initiative discussed under agenda #1(Privacy Flowchart)
- ☐ Feel free to let Khasir know about the retainer agreement in the Slack
- ☐ Operating Manifesto: Put comments into the document next week before it gets ratified
- ☐ CDM Update: If you would like to participate in filing the privacy complaint, message the [Slack](#)

- ☐ Khasir will post about available roles to help with in the Slack
- ☐ Townhall Meeting: Hoping to delegate the e-mailing task across members
- ☐ Townhall Meeting: Let the channel know about people/orgs that could be reached out to
- ☐ Tech briefs: Anyone who is interested in writing brief about data centers/LLMs, message Adam (Jai/Ushnish can follow up on Slack)
- ☐ Anyone who wants to speak for TFD at Civic Tech Brampton

25-12-10 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting

Note taker: Shasha

Timekeeper: Marv

Facilitator: Adam and Melica

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	n/a
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	Melica
New ▾	[add items here!]		[your name here]
Announce... ▾	Civic Tech Toronto Holiday Party on Sun Dec 21! - Location: 1RG https://luma.com/qo6rexjh?tk=F2CxUT	2m	Khasir
Update ▾	TfD organization doc  [WIP] TfD Operating Manifesto - Changes from the previous version - What I intended for the doc - Call for feedback - Next steps	10m	Khasir
New ▾	Related to above: Radical openness - Would like to open these and all other Google Docs by default - Decision required	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	Magna FOI	5m	Melica
Update ▾	Updates on CDM Ad-Billboard Campaign - City Council - Media attention - Privacy Complaint - Next steps?	5m	Adam
New ▾	Email list & newsletter-building discussion. Proposed in order to:	15m	Marv

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
	- reduce dependence on social media & slack - provide community with regular updates - create a measurable communication strategy to make the most of limited volunteer hours		
Other ▾	Offer from a lawyer to do pro bono advising • Michelle Kushnir • Would help with the legalities around any risky actions we might take • No downsides that I'm aware of • Decision required	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	Tech Brief - Where to publish? - AI & Data Centre Briefs for ClimateFast	10m	Adam
Update ▾	AI Governance Playbook - Refining the target audience - Researching the non profit ecosystem - will create a centralized, working document to facilitate real-time collaboration	5m	Gurpreet
Update ▾	Tech Policy Flowchart • Channel on slack: #proj-tfd-flowchart-tech-policy • Miro board - mapping institutions involved & adding relevant materials • Welcoming volunteers who want to investigate the loopholes in the current tech policy system	5m	Jitka & Jai
New ▾	[if time permits] Idea: Publish a memo with Build Toronto • What do we think of this idea? • Pros and cons / Debate ◦ More exposure ◦ But is it exposure we want? ◦ Can shape the vision of Build Toronto • If we decide to do this, does anyone want to write the memo?	10m	Khasir
Outro ▾	Wrap-up	2m	Melica

Attendees:

- Melica, Shasha, Khasir, Gurpreet, Sean, Marv, Jitka, Adam

Notes:

Civic Tech Toronto Holiday Party (Khasir)

- Holiday Party happening at 1RG, Khasir shared details and encouraged folks to bring a friend

TfD organization doc (Khasir)

- Khasir shared Google Doc and made updates to it, inviting feedback from everyone

Radical Openness (Khasir)

- Khasir posed the question about making all documents available for others to comment on
- Marv and Melica suggested maybe adding levels of access would be a good idea
- Consensus: For some projects that are more confidential, those can be permission-based access
- Suggestion that maybe full access to meeting minutes might be a concern > what about removing personalized details?
- Sean suggested maybe following the Civic Tech model? No recording without consent. Khasir mentioned this is all publicly accessible too.
- Marv: maybe we add the question of level of access for each individual document and bake it into the process

Magna FOI (Melica)

- Magna has left Toronto but Melica still trying to get access to what they submitted to the Ministry of Transportation
- Melica and Tom working on, she has reviewed documents, still needs a bit of work, hopefully done soon

Updates on CDM Ad-Billboard Campaign (Adam)

- Adam thinks maybe a Cybersecurity group at U of T (?) sent out a press release
- Adam going on podcast tomorrow to talk about this
- Tried to depute at City Council but there were higher priority items that overrode
- Will give CDM some time to respond, if not then we will file privacy complaint on our end
- Brought up idea of doing a townhall with other orgs who co-signed the letter
- Brought up idea of doing an investigative journalism wing of this campaign
- Also the idea of sending an email to CDM to request personal data as a test and if we suspect they are collecting personal data, do a "privacy ddos" to overwhelm with personal info requests

Email list & newsletter-building discussion (Marv)

- Marv has a background in marketing & tech and thinks social media is important for visibility, but it's important to focus on owning our own network and building an email newsletter
- Folks agree on building a newsletter
- Marv brought up the question of the right platform - Substack? Sendgrid? Paragraph? Ghost? Brevo?
- Marv will dig deeper into the pros and cons so folks can vote on an option, would love to contribute a few hours a week to this

Tech brief (Adam)

- Has a tech brief on video analytics in Google Drive - where do we publish these kinds of documents?
- Maybe on the blog part of the website
- Maanas is already writing a tech brief on AI
- Does anyone want to write a tech brief on data centres specifically? To ask wider group?

Offer from a lawyer to do pro bono advising (Khasir)

- Khasir mentioned Michelle Kushnir willing to do pro bono legal advice for TfD
- Melica asked about their experience in the area > her experience is in general non-profit work and organizations
- Will wait for agreement and all take a look at it and go from there

AI Governance Playbook (Gurpreet)

- Had first meeting focused on scope and goals, first lesson: don't schedule calls on Monday mornings he he
- Right now working on refining the target audience and learning more about the non-profit ecosystem so that the document can be better tailored to usage
- Should they go ahead and draft or have another brainstorming workshop first?
- Jitka thinks it would be good to go ahead and draft and have it be a living document that evolves

Tech Policy Flowchart (Jitka & Jai)

- Trying to figure out gaps and loopholes that allow tech like the Union Station tech to roll out without checks and balances, power mapping
- Anyone interested in helping please join the channel on Slack, #proj-tfd-flowchart-tech-policy and let us know
- Links are in the channel under "Project Flowchart materials" folder

Idea: Publish a memo with Build Toronto (Khasir)

- Khasir brought up Build Toronto and whether the group would be interested in submitting memos to counter the overwhelming pro-corporate undertones. He talked about pros (getting our ideas out there, countering the things we don't like) and cons (participation could have potential harm to reputation of TFD through association). In the end undecided.

Action items:

- ☐ Everyone go to the Holiday Party 😊
- ☐ Wider group to add feedback / comments to the TfD Organization doc in Google Docs
- ☐ To add determining each document's privacy level to the process of creating each individual document
- ☐ Melica and Tom to complete Magna FOI draft
- ☐ Adam to report back on his podcast interview
- ☐ Adam to wait a bit for CDM to respond, if not then will file privacy complaint on our end
- ☐ Idea of sending CDM a test email to request personal data - to get a volunteer from general membership?
- ☐ Idea of townhall - who will outline next steps?
- ☐ Idea of investigative journalism wing - who will outline next steps?

- ☐ Marv to research email platform pros and cons and share with the group
- ☐ Adam to publish tech brief on blog part of website
- ☐ To ask wider group if anyone interested in writing tech brief on data centres specifically
- ☐ Khasir to share draft agreement with Michelle Kushir with the group to assess
- ☐ Gurpreet to draft AI playbook and begin living document as we go along
- ☐ Anyone interested in assisting with Tech Policy document, please join the Slack channel and let it be known

25-11-12 | General Volunteer Planning Meeting

Note taker: Cole

Timekeeper: Adam

Facilitator: Andrew

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	n/a
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	Khasir
Update ▾	Magna followups - Any news about Magna - FOI	10m	Ushnish, Khasir
Update ▾	TfD values and structure - Presentation of draft (link) - Brief discussion - Call for feedback - Next steps	10m	Khasir
New ▾	AI Governance playbook	5m	Gurpreet
Update ▾	Data Centres	10m	Ushnish
New ▾	Digital camera-enabled billboards - Context - What we've done - What we plan to do - Call for feedback	10m	Khasir, Jitka, Adam
New ▾	Flowchart - mapping institutions involved in allowing new tech in Toronto etc. - Context - case study of digital camera-enabled billboards - Call for recommendations and volunteers	5m	Jitka

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	n/a
New ▾	Tech Briefs - Document tech we research - Call for volunteers	5m	Adam
Outro ▾	Wrap-up	2m	Khasir

Attendees:

- Adam, Andrew Ilersich, Cole, Gurpreet, Jenny, Jitka B., Khasir, Melica M, Shasha, Chris

Notes:

- Magna follow ups (Khasir)
 - Magna was recording faces with delivery vehicles but now left
 - Khasir emailed Magna reporter, no response
 - Emailed city staff (Magna report writers) – got response
 - City staff sent letters to premier, privacy commissioners – no response yet
 - So city report on Magna is delayed
 - We could file FOI request to province about approval
 - Is anyone interested in helping file one of those?
 - FOI timeline for response is 30 days, excluding clarification
 - Melica tentatively volunteers
- TfD values and structure (Khasir)
 - Reviewing document together now
 - Separate campaigns within TfD that report to main group
 - All activities/info should be accessible to all
 - [Doc is explained]
 - Volunteers should be accountable to broad group
 - Question: what is the difference between the values in the doc and on the website?
 - Answers
 - (Khasir): Doc is internal guiding principles, website is external guide for what projects to take on
 - Org values vs political values
 - Org values (doc) is how to behave as a group (ex. sharing)
 - Website values: what we advocate for (ex. privacy)
 - Add comments this week
 - Should the website be linked in the doc?
 - Doc will likely be posted on the website
- AI Governance playbook (Gurpreet)
 - From consultation last week

- Trustworthy AI systems
- Startup toolkit/playbook focusing on ethical AI usage, governance
- We could try to create this resource
- Targeting Canadian startups
- Adam, Jitka, Melica would like to be involved
- Diverse perspectives will be useful
- Defining “ethical AI” etc will be part of the work
- Data Centres: Met online with a number of people working on Data Center projects in the US, courtesy of hello@terraloire.com The people we met include Harrison Ribero and Lorelei Hojay from dream.org. They have a number of campaigns, including Stop Toxic Tech and Green the Grid. Check them out here dream.org TLDR there is lots of Data Center activism in the US, not necessarily coordinated at a national level but there are local hotspots, as many Data Centers are being located in low-income Black and Brown communities.
- Digital camera-enabled billboards (Adam)
 - Viral reddit post exposed Union bus billboards that filmed people
 - Used for ad analytics (facial recognition?)
 - New campaign for TfD
 - Letter written, not sent to company (Cineplex Digital Media), privacy commissioners yet
 - Trying to gather signers
 - Upcoming city housing/infra meeting could be a venue to discuss this
 - How can we raise this issue?
 - CTV [reports](#) they were installed three years ago, surprising!
 - Campaign goal: Cineplex stops facial detection, confirm privacy is not violated as they claim
 - They don't really inform people (sign is small), so no informed consent
 - Maybe bringing this to city hall can get the city to regulate privacy better
 - Better regulation on the legality of doing this is needed, notifying citizens
 - This Cineplex division is being bought by a US signage company, Creative Realities
 - Should we send the letter to a city councillor(s)? Book a meeting?
 - We could contact our city councillors as individuals and point them to the letter
 - We could expand the letter scope to MPs and MPPs as that's where privacy legislation is
 - Clarification
 - Federal priv. Com. is responsible for private companies
 - Prov. priv. com. doesn't have jurisdiction over private companies but maybe be interested anyway
 - We spoke with a privacy professor, could collab with him to file privacy complaint
 - Nathaniel Erskine-Smith was involved with fighting Sidewalk Labs, would be friendly and good person to partner with
 - A lot of areas with signage are public-private areas, like the PATH

- We will need to focus on pushing for more specific laws for these spaces
- Flowchart (Jitka)
 - Talked to JJ Fueser, she wanted to map all the institutions/orgs involved in “new tech” in Toronto
 - How were the signs allowed, what can municipalities do, etc
 - Result: flowchart useful to municipalities to show what they are able to do in these situations
 - Tech tends to be “allowed by default”
 - Privacy commissioner can’t enact fines
 - Who is allowing/enabling different projects
 - What tech requires what approvals
 - Is there an existing data explanation process?
 - We have no privacy enforcement mechanisms :(
- Tech briefs (Adam)
 - Ad billboards have “anonymous video analytics”
 - No explanation/diagram/architecture publicly available for this
 - Adam wants to write some general info articles about this system to inform the public
 - Example of this: <https://sfs.eff.org/>
 - Needs experience with graphics
 - Try to diagram the generic system without reverse-engineering the product
 - Could contact journalists who have covered the relevant technology
- **Volunteer items**
 - <Try to recruit from wider TfD slack channel>
 - FOI: Melica, Khasir
 - AI Governance: Adam, Jitka, Melica
 - Flowchart: [not covered]
 - Tech Briefs: Chris

Action items:

- ☐ Get groups going
 - ☐ FOI: Khasir, Melica
 - ☐ AI Governance: Gurpreet, Adam, Jitka, Melica
 - ☐ Flowchart: Jitka, Jai
 - ☐ Tech Briefs: Adam, Chris
- ☐ Khasir to work on v2 of org doc before seeking feedback again

25-10-08 | General Volunteer Meeting

Note taker: Jenny

Timekeeper: Ushnish

Facilitator: Sonal

Agenda		
Topic	Time	Presenter
Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m (6:00)	n/a
Agenda overview	3m (6:10)	Khasir
Overview and assignment of meeting roles	5m (6:18)	Khasir
Purpose of this monthly meeting • Provide overview of ongoing campaigns • Allow for suggestions of new campaigns • Provide updates from committees • Announce volunteer opportunities • Consult everyone to form consensus on direction or strategy	3m (6:21)	Khasir
Magna campaign debrief • What happened and how we won! • What's next (FOI?)	10m (6:31)	Khasir
Proposal for new campaign: Report and recommendations of tech policy for Toronto City Council • In advance of next year's municipal election	15m (6:46)	Khasir
Data Centers in Ontario: What Do We Know About Them? If you want to nerd out on Data Centers, check this online event For super nerds, Critical Data Center Studies reading list	5m (6:49)	Ushnish
Amazon Ring is implementing Facial Recognition If you want to nerd out on Amazon Ring, Privacy and Surveillance, check out the report by EFF	5m (6:54)	Ushnish
Discuss survey questions for '30-day National sprint' for consultation on AI strategy. Following the national sprint, the government will review submissions and publish the highlights. A new strategy will be developed by the end of 2025. • Deadline Oct 31 • Link	10m (7:04)	Gurpreet
Proposal for outreach committee • To run workshops? • To handle social media? • To throw events? Attend events? (e.g. Cohesion.love)	10m (7:14)	Khasir
Proposal for advisory committee	5m (7:24)	Khasir
Youth volunteers available (proposal)	5m (7:29)	Khasir

Proposal for campaigns server (Slack)	5m (7:34)	Khasir
As TfD, support and/or sign the Open Letter by Canadians4DigitalSovereignty.ca ? Excerpts: “Canada must legislate a sovereignty framework before engaging in binding international commitments that could otherwise embed foreign governance logics into our infrastructure.” -And- “...this letter urges the federal government to move forward on fourteen proposed priority action measures...”	5m (7:39)	Sean
Wrap-up	5m (7:44)	Khasir

Attendees:

- Khasir, Jenny, Ushnish, Thomas F, Jitka, Gurpreet, Sean, Sonal, Jim R, Jerome, Adam M, Henry W, Cole

Notes:

- Reason for role assignment: more collaborative effort instead of Khasir running everything
- Purpose of monthly meeting
 - Venue for people to find out what's happening with the group and propose discussion items
 - Monthly meetings expected to be central meeting hub with planning hub, will branch off into committees to work on specific issues and reconvene/report back
 - Committees should be able to make decisions on those issues
 - How should decisions be made?
 - Up for discussion, Khasir should not make the final call
 - You can bring new proposals to the group
 - Suggest adding a slot in agenda for “quick ideas” as opposed to formal proposals
- Magna update
 - Self-driving pilot recording everyone's faces - was running from late May to early Oct
 - TfD folks spoke up in city hall about privacy concerns and bypassing city decision-making processes
 - Sent letter to Magna with concerns, did not receive substantive reply, offered to invite group with NDA, was eventually ghosted
 - News broke that they left the city
 - Question: should this be considered a win? Delivery roles are low-paid and precarious, shouldn't that be given to robots?
 - Also unclear as to actual cause of departure
 - They probably left to look for an environment with less local resistance, so we should keep an eye on where they go next and support groups in other cities who may not be aware of all of this
 - Should we look into whether they're running other pilots?

- Other potential task: FOI on emails between MOT and Magna for approval documents
 - Might be worth reaching out to Ministry of Transportation first
 - Maybe Mahdis will have contacts/ideas?
- Potential new campaign: recommend tech policy for Toronto city council
 - Looking forward to an ideal state of what things should be instead of always reacting
 - Planning report for next Toronto election
 - Ask candidates specific questions about tech policy based on report
 - How do we envision this relating to Build Toronto
 - Indirectly connected, Brian at More Neighbours is on board of Build Toronto alongside Eric Lombardi
 - Strong private-sector bias, anti government
 - Article about Hackathon was very entrepreneurial rather than civic service oriented
 - Build Canada (parent org) has pro-DOGE sentiments
 - Do we have ideas?
 - We should decide on whether this is a project we want to take on
 - Jim is interested in model of arms-length org controlled by governments that is non-profit
 - Sounds similar to Code for Canada
 - Questions about viability of model when not embedded with the IT systems you need to integrate
 - Concerned about capacity for the group - has opportunity costs for other campaigns this group can run, but multiple people are interested in supporting
 - Go Open Data is an open data nonprofit in Ontario, interested in setting up a cooperative of municipalities for the purpose of developing civic technology
 - Interest in data/technology sovereignty
 - Difficult to pitch new technology, switching cost and fear of adopting unproven technology
 - <https://www.go-opendata.ca/>
 - Who is interested in being involved in this?
 - Adam, Jitka, Khasir, Jim
 - Several others interested but no capacity currently
- Data centres in Ontario
 - Interested in doing a joint investigation into data centres and their impact on local infrastructure and environment
 - Not much reporting on what's happening in Ontario
 - One of presentations at Toronto Climate Work included person from IESO acknowledging electricity rates, pollution, etc are all going to go up due to increased grid demand, no way to manage projected demand (75% from data centres) with current system
 - https://app.electricitymaps.com/map/live/fifteen_minutes
 - Who is interested in supporting Ushnish in exploring this?

-
- Amazon Ring is implementing facial recognition
 - Massive installed base
 - Many residents are pro surveillance
 - There's a lot of discussion and resistance to this in the US but not much in Canada
 - Similar thing but with a different company & different cameras <https://deflock.me/>
 - Related to policy project
 - Companies can change TOS any time
 - Can you even opt out of facial recognition?
 - Louis Rossman
 - Subject to subpoenas like other companies, once data is recorded it is available
 - Ring cameras are not bad in and of themselves if everyone only had their own data, the centralization is the problem, esp when the data is in the US
 - Action item: should tie to policy report - police requests for data need to be by court order / auditable
- AI strategy survey - please provide input
 - Should we provide input as org in addition to individually? Is that weighted more?
 - Get list of questions from survey and start Google Doc to answer questions together, then wider group can provide comments and edit
 - Gurpreet has already done this
 - How do we achieve consensus? Questions are quite detailed
 - Form itself does not allow self-identification, concerned about brigading
 - Can also send long email instead of using survey if possible
- Outreach committee
 - Would like org to keep growing, assuming values alignment
 - Committee specifically working on growth via events, social media, posters, workshops, etc.
 - Workshops can be about raising awareness, not necessarily about joining group, e.g. how to handle privacy
 - We offer these as service to community
 - Does a clear values definition exist?
 - There's a list of values on the website
 - External facing values may not be the same as organizational ones
 - Values workshop?
 - Being explicit early on is always beneficial
 - If we're attending events it would be nice to report back
 - How big are we aiming to grow to?
 - Tech advocacy should be as common as technology is pervasive
 - Not sure if putting a numerical goal makes sense, focus on intention/values-alignment
- Advisory committee

- Khasir has been asking people if they want to be on advisory committee - meet once a month for some fixed period of time, get updates, provide oversight
 - Like a board with less responsibilities
 - Lighter ask than joining volunteering meetings - might have experience and advice but no time
- Unsure if we're at a scale where we need advisory committee, and membership is also relatively well informed
 - Maybe just a list of contacts?
- Potential precursor to incorporating a nonprofit, which requires a board
 - Boards are arms length from day to day operations, but they are in charge and direct the overall strategy
 - TFD requires more internal governance definition about how decisions are made and/or appealed, are officers elected, etc.
- Youth committee - will discuss in slack
- Slack - Not everyone is on Slack or want to be on Slack
 - Should there be one for TFD separate from Civic Tech?
 - Slack is discoverable, concerned about future liability
 - Slack is not very values aligned
 - Alternatives
 - Zulip
 - Rocket.chat
 - Mattermost
 - Jitsi
 - Bridge from Rocketchat to slack <https://docs.rocket.chat/docs/slackbridge>
 - Slack EMM
 - Don't necessarily need to make a decision right now - unlikely to be a risk in the immediate future
 - Danger of slack
 - <https://skyfall.dev/posts/slack>
 - Slack is free for nonprofits up to 250 people
- Canadians for Digital Sovereignty wrote open letter to Mark Carney - are we interested in signing as a group?
 - Generally seems values aligned
 - 14 recs
 - Overall themes:
 - Building sovereign tech
 - Do not rescind Digital Services Act
 - Getting rid of Bill C-2

Action items:

- ☒ ~~Khasir: update agenda template to follow Intro/Update/New business pattern~~
- ☐ Ushnish: will look at whether Magna has other pilots running and report back
- ☒ ~~Thomas and Khasir: to have follow up meeting on potential FOI request~~
- ☒ ~~Khasir to follow up with Adam and Jitka about putting together policy docs plan~~

- ☑ ~~Khasir: Follow up with Mahdis to see if she knows anything specific about why Magna left / the approval from MTO~~
- ☑ ~~Gurpreet: Put together Google Doc of questions and share out, please provide notes and comments and we'll have follow-up meeting to discuss in more detail~~
- ☑ ~~Khasir: To draft initial values doc and circulate for comment, Jenny to help~~
- ☑ ~~Khasir: Need to define more governance structures—will draft and post for comments and edits~~
- ☑ ~~Sean: To post C4DS letter in Slack, everyone please read and vote on whether to co-sign~~

25-09-15 | Magna Campaign Meeting

Present: Srini, Chris Melito, Mathushan, Jim, JJ, Ilya

Absent: Sonal, Akhil, Ushnish, Gabe, Mahtab, Tom Slee

Notes:

- Based on strategy doc:  Magna Campaign: Working Doc (tab: 25-09 Strategy Meeting)
- Assume incompetence rather than malevolence
 - Our email is still probably still in a Lawyers's mailbox
- Protest needs allies! Can't do it alone
- Magna was lobbying pretty heavily during our initial deputations
- Even if they're ignoring us, they know the issues
 - Councillors are not supportive
 - They are aware of the concerns, and are probably just plowing through regardless
 - **The change we want will probably not come from just conversation. We should give them a clear strong message**
- Agenda for Sept Infrastucture committee comes up this Friday
- It's worth keeping the door open, before going public offensive
- **Important to know what we want, and the standard we will set in terms of privacy and data collection**
 - "This is important to us, and you should be doing this"
- Outreach to include Saxe and Bravo and Perks
 -  Community orgs to contact
- Ilya's ramping schedule idea
 - The anxiety of knowing what will happen is worse than just having the actions happen
 - Here are the things we want, this is what we will do until you give us what you want
 - Random actions otherwise would have to be effective on their own
 - In the Power Broker, this was an effective strat in NYC in the early 1900s

- In fighting sports, feinting is more energy efficient cause you pretend to hit and the other person has to fully react
- We are dealing with one dept in Magna, not the entire entity
- “Damocles’ Sword”
- If we can do it, it’d be very effective
- Srini was reading about Toronto’s policy and automated vehicles
 - How can we help these automated vehicles do their job without affecting the public, not what are the compliance policies
 - In parallel, maybe **we should force the city to come up with rules they should comply with**
 - Should broaden this to AVs more broadly
- Also looked at study on public opinion on AVs (2018)
 - Most Torontonians are open to using AVs but no info on privacy opinion on AVs
 - <https://transformlab.torontomu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Benchmarking-Public-Opinion-on-Automated-Vehicles.pdf>
- We haven’t said exactly what we want
- Privacy by default
- **Vacuum of positive vision for privacy in the City, we have the opportunity to write the first draft**
- Digital infrastructure framework came about bc of Sidewalk Labs
 - <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/9728-DISFAcc2.pdf>
 - Not sure how this would help us
 - **Long term goal: Write a policy report/document with recommendations on privacy**
- We can ask why these policies only apply to the city and not to all entities operating in the city
 - The bar should be higher for non-democratic orgs
- Scariest and opaque thing: “we’re gonna start bringing this to neighbourhood groups, BIAs, the Gig Workers Union”
- Messaging: If you can’t do this without recording people, you are not ready for autonomous delivery
 - **If you can’t respect privacy, you are not ready**
 - This shortcut not allowed
 - This is not a nice to have, this is a strict requirement
- **Srini’s op-eds**
 - Two approaches: Cheating in a test vs encouragement
 - Basketball, start with the hoop at 10ft or start with it lower
 - You can predict where people are moving with just skeletal analysis, don’t need faces
 - Canada started the privacy revolution (Ann Cavoukian)
 - Does Magna want to stoop down to this level?
 - [“visible research” is sometimes good in its own right :)]

Agenda:

- Updates on communications with Magna
- Overview of possible approaches
 - Highlighting Srin's draft op-eds
- Decision of next steps

Action Items:

- ☒ ~~Khasir to send follow up email to Magna to ask on status~~
- ☐ Depute at committee with an update!
 - ☐ Related: Check if report will come back on Magna & Privacy policy
- ☒ ~~JJ can reach out to the office of Coun. Fletcher and CC Khasir~~
- ☐ Ilya to write blurbs to send out to community groups
- ☐ Ramping schedule - Khasir and Ilya to work on initial braindump to send to rest of group
- ☒ ~~Post Srin's op-eds for comment~~
- ☐ Everyone can add to list of  Community orgs to contact

25-08-26 | CTTO | DST

Present: Khasir, Gurpreet, Michiel, (Ushnish for a minute)

Agenda:

- Digital services tax discussion and actions

Notes:

- Most of our modern economy is built on services
 - If you tax only goods and not services, there's an unfair tax burden on one part of the economy
 - It's extractive to take money from residents and sent money elsewhere
 - In many ways, a reversal of Fordism (making goods cheaper to boost demand)
 - You have a functional economy when you put back what you take out. Breaking that cycle is like breaking the social contract
 - Do we get anything in return?
 - If you want to do business here, you need to do it fully. Have staff, an office, pay living wages etc
 - Can't extract value without giving back
- The USA as a "Data Colonizer"
 - We become dependent on their tech
 - Book: *Data Grab: The new colonialism of big tech and how to fight back*
 - <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/D/bo216184200.html>
 - Data colonialism is also discussed in India
 - No one in India owns the data that's being collected
 - Data is the new oil
- If we promote the DST, we need to consider the price we pay for it

- France implemented a similar tax, and businesses that were clients of big tech were the ones to pay 2% more (passed onto purchaser)
 - We agree that something like this needs to happen, but do we agree that this tax specifically needs to happen?
 - If we argue in favour of anything Trudeau's cabinet proposed, we've already lost
- The idea that we just roll over when a big American tech company wants to operate here, is an insult to our sovereignty
 - We are not a sovereign country if we don't control the money coming in and out
- One role of tax policy is to level the playing field for Canadian businesses
 - If Facebook had local competition, would the taxes the local company would have to pay make it impossible to compete?
 - Shopify seems to be the only Canadian company competing at that scale
 - Ireland as a tax haven for tech companies
- Problem: No one really understood what the DST was exactly

Action items:

- ☒ ~~Khasir to send notes to Ushnish about our stance and discussions~~

25-08-19 | Civic Tech

Present: Ushnish, Khasir, Jim, Gurpreet

Agenda:

1. Civic Spark unconference session debrief
2. Magna developments
3. Platform survey

Notes:

- Civic Spark went well overall
 - Khasir was not fully prepared unfortunately
 - Overall, participants were receptive and positive
 - But none approached Khasir about volunteering
 - Interesting points brought up about tech being high on Maslow's hierarchy of needs and having a theory of change
 - We should have a session to figure out a theory of change!
- Magna stuff
 - Khasir and Jim have worked on a disclosure document and modified the NDA provided by Magna
 - The main changes to the NDA surround Ilya and Jim signing as individuals as opposed to signing as TfD
 - Question: better to each sign a doc? Or is it okay to sign together on this doc?
- Platform survey

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1a9unYsbZ_FsIDrWfhI4waxaxAJSwsf4OREucR37uRs/edit
- Pros: Can easily create more channels for separate campaigns, more (legal) separation between TfD and CTTO
- Cons: We'd be limited to free tier on Slack unless registering as a nonprofit
- Jim doesn't think it's necessary to migrate off of Slack
- Ushnish: On a different Slack, we don't need to keep message history (better for purposes of non discovery)
- Side notes:
 - Event coming up featuring the Commissioner of the Competition Bureau Canada <https://www.canadianclub.org/events/matthew-boswell/>
 - Theory of change resources from Ushnish:
 - <https://www.theoryofchange.org/library/toc-examples/>
 - https://civictecto.slack.com/files/U0803SK9K24/F09BXMUUC3S/soci_21_06_program_evaluation_class_4_winter_2024_part2_theory_of_change.pptx

Action Items:

- ☒ ~~Khasir to show Ilya modified NDA and disclosure addendum~~
- ☐ Then Khasir to send email to Magna with docs and proposed visit times
- ☐ Khasir and Ushnish to schedule a theory of change session
- ☐ Khasir to visit Competition Bureau event on Sept 11

25-08-12 | Magna Planning Meeting

Present: Khasir, Jim, Ilya, Ushnish

Agenda:

1. We have been given the NDA to sign
2. What to do next?
 - a. Disclosure agreement?
 - b. Sign?
 - c. Refuse to sign?

Notes:

- What is the point of going?
 - We'd be able to ask them questions in person
 - But the NDA might bind us
- We have questions - what can they answer without us signing an NDA
- Timeline: We sent them questions, they want us to visit, they want us to sign an NDA
- Signing the NDA is risky
- They probably are just getting us to sign an NDA as a regular precaution

- Which is fine for people who they work with
 - But we are adversarial
- Divide and conquer strategy?
 - Have some people go and some people stay
- They are a large corporation
- One person is fairly confident that the Chinese wall technique can work (divide and conquer)
 - And doesn't think they'll be sue-happy
- They want to make money quietly
- Our only weapon is noise (other than reporting to privacy commissioner)
- Lead individuals may want not to sign the NDA to avoid limiting career
- Be careful when putting notes down that are discoverable (for legal discovery)
- We don't want to breach the NDA
- Orgs to reach out to
 - Annex BIA, Palmerston residents association, Parkdale, Roncy (someone might have a friend on this), Koreatown

Action items:

- ☐ Jim to work on disclosure agreement (Khasir to support)
- ☐ Find out who is willing to sign the NDA and reply to Magna
- ☐ Reach out to residents associations and BIAs
 - ☐ Khasir to prepare materials
- ☒ ~~Khasir to look into locking access to TfD info~~
- ☐ And possibly separating from Civic Tech Toronto

25-07-30 | Magna planning meeting

Present: Jim, Mathushan, JJ, Ilya, Khasir, Sonal

Agenda:

1. Ensure that folks have or will read the [post](#), this working doc and the [letter](#)
2. We have been asked to share our backgrounds and what we're looking to get out of the meeting
3. We have also been asked to sign an NDA
4. Come to consensus on messaging, questions to ask
 - a. Do not speculate - only mention factual information
 - b. Khasir suggests we should come to a consensus on this campaign being a single issue (*privacy*) and calling it a win if they agree to blur/anonymize faces like they do with license plates. And not pushing them to end the pilot entirely.

Notes:

- Magna people involved:

- Thomas - Operations Lead
 - Chris - lawyer turned product lead for the city delivery team
 - Ryan - legal counsel
- Ask them to send a copy of the NDA beforehand
- Ask them what they plan to show us
- Write a reverse NDA? This is what we want to talk about - a disclosure agreement
 - We can ask for their NDA first, then provide our DA after if we disagree
 - Red flags to watch out for: limitations to our ability to discuss our concerns or penalties for stepping outside their NDA
 - Not uncommon to ask for changes to NDAs
 - If we negotiate, anything to do with specific industry techniques, we're happy to sign about IPs, but not okay with preventing us to speak up about their impact on public space
- If there's disagreements some people can go sign the NDA and visit, and others can stay out from this
- Data retention period: We should ask how long "necessary" is?
 - We don't ask how long, we ask the criteria
- Privacy is more important
 - Not as important to how they operate, automation etc
 - Bianca lesson of privacy and privatization often being connected
 - Talk about terms and conditions
 - Who is the company's countersignatory? The province? Are they required to disclose that?
 - Privacy and governance are connected
 - Company's responsibility to the public
 - In what ways are you responsible for what happens to the vehicle or liability if something goes wrong
 - How many are you looking to run?
 - How are these cars engaging with the public
 - This is a pilot of technology and how tech interacts with the public
 - Create a list of questions to ask
- The optimistic version of them asking for our backgrounds is that they want to know who the audience is
- <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90m56>

Action Items:

- ☐ Khasir Hean Respond to Magna asking about NDA contents, providing our purpose of visit (privacy and governance issues) and get back to them later about backgrounds
 - ☐ Keep it short
- ☐ Everyone to write quick blurb about yourself if you're going
- ☐ Create a list of questions to ask about privacy and governance
- ☐ Please read the [post](#), this working doc and the [letter](#) if you haven't already

25-07-29 | Civic Tech | Algorithmic Pricing

Present: Khasir, Ashish, Henry, Cole, Shiva

- From Ashish
 - Maximum Retail Price (MRP) is a retailing concept practiced in some markets, such as India, where merchandise is shipped from the manufacturer to the store with the final retail price of the item (including all taxes) printed on the item package.
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/mrp-maximum-retail-price-pros-cons-rakesh-pandey-r7zvf/>
 - Countries Following MRP System:
 - India: MRP is a legal requirement.
 - Bangladesh: Follows a similar MRP system for consumer goods.
 - Pakistan: Certain categories of goods follow MRP.
 - Sri Lanka: MRP is mandated for specific products.
 - Nepal: Has a system similar to India's MRP.
 - Indonesia: For specific products, MRP may be applicable.
- We don't support hyper-personalization

25-07-22 | Civic Tech | Algorithmic Pricing

Present: Ushnish, Khasir, Ryan

- Ushnish: some research indicating that Uber/ridesharing detecting low battery for their pricing
 - <https://www.vice.com/en/article/uber-surge-pricing-phone-battery/>
 - Uber would charge higher for racialized neighbourhoods or pay less based on the location
 - Incentive systems are stacked against the driver
 - Lots of research on algorithmic pricing on drivers
- Renters - algorithmic pricing to optimize rent prices for landlords
- Amazon
- Knowing that companies are using algorithmic pricing would change shopping decisions
- Airline tickets
- FTC case against Amazon algorithmic pricing:
<https://www.cmu.edu/news/stories/archives/2023/october/algorithmic-pricing-understanding-the-ftcs-case-against-amazon>
- Canadian Competition Bureau investigating AI based rent setting
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/article/competition-bureau-says-its-probing-whether-landlords-are-using-ai-to-set-rents/>
- Argument for businesses: you don't have to buy the product
 - but in reality, there are lots of monopolies

- Algorithmic pricing as a way to maximize profits, snowball to speed up control of a market
- Is it possible to have the logical pathway between the algo taking your data → to the price
 - Transparency of the model workings is sometimes but not always possible
 - Possible to limit businesses to only use explainable models? Khasir doesn't think it's politically feasible or precedented

Hacknight: Tue, Jul 15, 2025

Present: Khasir, Ushnish, Gurpreet

Notes:

- Ushnish: worth going to see the Magna demo, still want answers
- Might be worth contacting a journalist to attend as well
- Ushnish will reach out to Civic tech Waterloo and Civic Tech Ottawa about pitching
- For Sidewalk labs, there were lots of public meetings
 - Government was on Google's side
 - Bianca et al kept bringing up issues until Google gave up
- Khasir talked about the 1RG Fabric unconference
- Action items
 - Khasir will ask the group who can attend the facility tour
 - Khasir will reach out to media
 - Ushnish will reach out to other Civic Tech groups

Hacknight

- Figure out what we want to ask the province
- Khasir signing the NDA might take me out of it
- Not Selling data to third parties - is this a condition of being allowed to pilot
- Sometimes companies don't even know that they need to do certain things
- Instead of shaming the company in a social media campaign
 - We can provide a list of other companies that protect privacy
- Broader strategic question
 - Mozilla used to do an annual report of what's not privacy protecting
 - Interesting to have a TfD privacy scorecard
 - Would Mozilla support this?
 - Not sure, they're going in on AI in a troubling way
 - "Ethical AI" but how much funding are they getting for this?
 - Jenny knows people who worked
- Chris knows data policies for other advertising agencies
- We can escalate as needed
 - Send recommendations from Chris to Magna → Visit facility → Send complaints to privacy commissioners → Run social media campaign

- Idea: Tech scorecard of companies that are impacting Torontonians that most people aren't aware of
 - Like PayIT (next week's speaker)
- Digital services tax
 - Good in principle, not too effective (2.5%)
 - Capitulating to Trump was the story
- Cory Doctorow: eliminate anti-circumvention laws
 - Illegal to reverse engineer tech
 - Against right to repair
 - Can't write a custom bot that talks to social media on your behalf
 - Illegal to scrape Facebook
 - breaklocks.ca
 - Collaborate with Jim

25-07-10 | C4TF | DST

Attendees: JJ, Khasir, Ilya, Jared, Muneeb, Silas

Notes

- Is it legal for a PM to rescind a law last-minute?
 - "Delayed implementation" is most likely how it will work
 - Will likely go to court (but who will sue is open question)
 - Also has a financial/CRA component - some of the money has already been collected
 - Canadian gov will need to pass a new law to reimburse orgs that have already paid
- Jared: insiders say the DST was fair to give away, DST was not a priority
 - But this should have been negotiated away rather than given
- We are in the honeymoon phase with Carney
 - But this is not elbows up at all
 - Lots of authoritarian capitulation
 - This is not the platform Carney ran on
- How did C4TF gather a list of orgs so quickly?
 - [Dear Mark Carney and François-Philippe Champagne: Canada cannot afford to concede more to foreign tech giants](#)
 - Muneeb attended the Democracy Xchange summit
 - Someone at Toronto Star (GR/gov relations person) saw this happening and assembled a group pre-emptively
 - It's a diverse group with different interests

- Local companies that want investment
 - Progressive lefties
 - Progressive orgs, antimonopoly groups
 - Rule of law orgs
- Probably also buy-in with liberal caucus (preserving canadian content in netflix etc)
- Champion in caucus: Probably Freeland who introduced the DST
- The other day, Nobel laureate [Joe Stiglitz](#) wrote a piece on how Canada caved on the DST
 - [Trump bullied Canada over 'digital taxes' – and Ottawa submitted | Joseph Stiglitz | The Guardian](#)
 - Big media corps might be aligned with us -they've lost lots of money to big tech
 - Civic Tech was at the Toronto Star recently, and they mentioned losing 20% of staff due to big tech
- Hold big tech accountable
 - harder sell: strengthen digital sovereignty (tax big tech to support canadian media and tech)
 - they are amenable to writing op-eds
 - there's probaly a space for sth thats more organized-focused
 - CTF can write a letter
- MPs are on vacation right now, but the issue is still hot
 - But that means they're also not in a position to control the narrative
 - What if instead of emailing MPs, we do letters to the editor
- OECD process on a global level has been happening for 15 years
- 2-pillar agreement
 - 1. Allocate income to countries where revenue is generated rather than HQ'd (but this has died, DST is the replacement)
- Canada capitulating may lead other countries to do so
- UN tax convention: years away
- Some EU countries have implemented a form of DST but it's not EU-wide
- how much would big tech be taxed under a full tax as opposed to a DST?
 - silas: aside from the \$7.2B over 5 years, should be able to come up with other numbers to anchor it
 - narrative challenge: from the left, this is not enough, otherwise isn't this dumb
 - how about "what a shame that we've lost this opportunity to hold these companies accountable"

- muneeb: Where do we land if we combine revenue lost to DST cancellation, global minimum tax carve out for US companies, digital advertising loophole and other ways companies like uber/lyft + other ways multinationals avoid taxes
 - DST would not cover uber as it is termed currently (digital media and ad services: google, meta, microsoft, amazon)
- muneeb:
 - <https://www.taxfairness.ca/en/resources/reports/report-uber-low-taxes-lyft-ride-sharing-revenue> Our previous research on uber/lyft tax avoidance
- Are we fighting to defend it? drop it? replace it?
 - defending the idea of it
 - not giving in to trump and big tech
 - The DST represents something bigger than just \$7B over 5 years
- the negative impact that big tech has on canadian economy and home-grown companies is way bigger than any tax we'd impose on them
 - this might be how we capture the centre and right
 - they are impeding economic growth
- we need to end profit shifting, the DST was a partial solution anyways
 - "pay your fair share and play by the rules"
- What can we do right now?
 - use this latest waffling as a chance to say "what a missed opportunity to hold these folks to account. adding to other missed opportunities"
 - start a convo about monopoly, tax avoidance
 - report on corporate use of tax havens coming next week
 - there's a growing groundswell of people angry at the gov kneeling to big tech
 - pitch to the toronto star or other publications
 - the breach, ricochet, the sun ("elbows up - yeah right" angle)
 - take it into at least august
- theres a bigger tent to include unions etc on what sovereignty looks like (better in sept)
 - muneeb: look into people laid off by BCE, media or tech companies
 - <https://www.trueup.io/layoffs>
- there may be international opportunity for collaboration against the broligarchs
 - there are many good critics in the states we can work with
 - do some old-fashioned class consciousness
 - not bending the knee to the US (silicon valley)

- jared, muneeb, silas are already on the press
 - better to have jj, ilya, khasir since it'll signal that there's wider interest from new people (and also not have the same people writing in)

Action items

- ☐ Pitch op-eds to media publications
 - ☐ Toronto Star
 - ☐ The Sun
 - ☐ The Breach
 - ☐ Ricochet
- ☐ Silas to look into potential economics of a larger tax

Hacknight: Tue, Jun 24, 2025

Present: Khasir, JJ

Notes:

- JJ in talks with Alexandra Bravo on exploring business licensing as a workaround to get Magna and similar companies to comply (requiring data to be stored in Canada etc.)
- Khasir had a chat with Renee at GoodBot on privacy issues and Magna
 - [todo summary]

Hacknight: Tue, Jun 17, 2025

Present: Khasir, Ushnish, Sean

Notes

- Will be easier to gain public support by pushing primarily on the privacy lens
- Opposition is the Ontario gov't, Build Canada-type folks
- [25_06_17_meeting_chat.txt](#)

Action items

- ☐ Khasir to look up ethical standards for anonymizing or deleting PII from videos
- ☐ Khasir to research/ask around for standard training benchmarks for computer vision/self-driving tasks
- ☒ ~~Khasir to add Ushnish and Sean to the slack channel~~
- ☒ ~~Sean to ask around for the best way to approach the Ontario Privacy Commissioner~~

Magna Meetings

25-10-02 | Magna Strategy Meeting

Attendees: Khasir, Chris

Note taker:

Timekeeper:

Facilitator:

Agenda		
Topic	Time	Presenter
Intros (name, pronouns, what brings you here)	5m	n/a
New meeting format and role assignment	5m	Khasir
Proposed strategy document and discussion (Ramping Action Schedule tab): Magna Campaign: Working Doc	30m	Khasir
Debrief of the news today of Magna's ending the pilot	10m	Khasir
Next steps • Prepare statement and stance • Organize event?	15m	Khasir

Notes:

- They'll probably come back in one form or another, probably another jurisdiction
 - Maybe somewhere with a higher pop of underprivileged cause there's less local opposition
 - Maybe in another country
- Mahdis, who broke the story, has previously interviewed Ilya
 - But didn't quote him for the other story :(
- We should post some sort of announcement, that we were in the process of talking with Magna and our side of the story
 - We were hoping to come to some sort of understanding in terms of data policies
 - That meetings had been proposed but we never went to any
 - And Magna never provided any answers or justifications
 - We shouldn't say that this happened because of us
 - We spurred action of privacy commissioners
 - Influenced powers that be to more closely examine their actions
 - Best for us would have been collaboration with Magna -> also helps make it clear that we wanted the best for the community while not trying to actively shun them
 - Also say we collaborated with city hall
- Chris will look into their website a bit more to see if he can figure out if they're moving to another jurisdiction
- Chris: Digital advertising people do follow laws meanwhile digital billboards often do not

- Can be a possible future campaign
- Khasir would like to host a celebratory event
 - Maybe collab with Jenny with TWC!

Action items:



Previous Magna planning meetings in the main Meeting Minutes tab: [TfD: Meeting Minutes](#)



Proposals

Meeting Proposals

This tab is for meeting proposals! Most recent proposals are first.

TfD's Tech Tour

Proposer:	Aarushi
Proposal type:	Suggestion ▾
Date written:	Jun 13, 2026

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

TfD is doing important work and in the process has gained a lot of new knowledge and awareness about important tech-based issues affecting Canadians. As a growing organization, we have some great ways to share the work we've been doing but we may still have a limited audience. With people losing trust in big tech and the AI hype expanding, it is a good time to engage more Torontonians to advocate for just and equitable tech.

Jane's Walk showed that people are really interested in engaging with our work and contributing to it wherever possible, but we do not have a lot of TfD-specific programming going on. Further, after our Film Club event, a few people mentioned the similarities between our Surveillance Stroll and the movie's Internet Tour. There is thus both a gap and a need to organise tech-awareness events in Toronto.

What solution do you propose?

A monthly or biweekly urban walk that covers tech-related physical infrastructure in the city. My plan is to implement the programme in different phases. Each of these phases can have a different theme, like surveillance, internet, data centres etc. The idea is to allow people to personally witness where buildings, cameras, cables and other tangible infrastructure is located in the city. It is easy to think of the internet and various tech services we use as just software, something massless, but in reality, all of it is built on hardware that we may pass by each day without noticing. Each walk will have no more than 15 participants at a time in order to manage the programme effectively.

I am planning to host the event on Luma and run the tours till autumn.

1. From July-mid Aug, we will repeat the Jane's Walk Surveillance Stroll, with some tweaks in the path so that it is more accessible. To avoid security issues, we won't be stopping in some of the private areas along PATH; instead, we'll pass by them after explaining the topic in a more public area. Starting mid or late July, we can add another surveillance-focused path in the city that includes tools like acyclica and ALPRs.

2. Depending on a more solid itinerary, the second phase will focus on data centres and AI in some areas of the city, their function and their construction. This phase will run between Aug-mid Sep.
3. Phase three will expand programming to Internet infrastructure across the city. I am still researching this part to find out what parts of this infrastructure currently or historically existed in the city.
4. In case there isn't enough data on phases 2 or 3, we will focus on military intelligence infra (e.g. Casa Loma) and its connections to the US/NATO/local police.

Future expansion (after winter) can focus on autonomous vehicles. While it isn't currently possible to view an AV up close as a visitor outside of expos or research fairs, factories or company hubs could be a great place to showcase where this tech is actually constructed.

Items required:

1. Placard
2. Amplifier
3. Newsletter sign up QR code

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

This team at TfD

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

- If people spot infra related to the 4 points mentioned above, it could be very helpful to finalise the itinerary for each phase.

Matthew Jordan hosts walking tours as Hidden Rivers, including one on technology:

- [The Signal and the Noise | Wygo](#)
- His substack: [Hidden Rivers](#)

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

Does this look good? Would people be interested in volunteering (this could be for all phases or only some of them? Are there any particular partner organisations that I could reach out to?



TfD Film Club

Proposer:	Shasha
Proposal type:	Suggestion ▾
Date written:	March 3, 2026

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

This proposal comes from a place of really believing in the work TfD is doing and wanting to use my skill set to support existing efforts and contribute to the community in my own small way.

It merges many things that I love – the power of cinema, keeping big tech in check, and safeguarding democracy.

This proposal isn't saying "No" to anything, but it *is* saying "Yes" to:

- Strengthening community
- Providing a forum for galvanizing new members and re-energizing existing volunteers
- Creating a space that effectively harnesses the power of cinema to make an impact towards a goal such as growing the TfD membership, diversifying the membership (if that's what we want to do), strengthening TfD brand awareness, and supporting advocacy efforts
- Directing the momentum after someone has seen a film towards a specific action (in-person discussion, signing petitions, signing up for the mailing list, joining the organization, volunteering, brainstorming ideas)
- Supporting documentary cinema which I believe is an important cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Sociopolitical, independent documentaries expand empathy, increase broader awareness, and enrich a society's ability to engage more deeply and critically on certain issues. This art form is currently under threat due to the rise of streaming, drying up funding models, declining theatrical box office, and algorithmic creative decision-making. We need to demonstrate that it is valued with our collective buying power.

What solution do you propose?

I would love to help organize a quarterly TfD Film Club. The parameters are open to feedback, but at the moment I'm thinking:

- An in-person gathering in Toronto to watch a documentary or fiction film together in theatres.
- Co-hosted by 2 or 3 TfD volunteers.
- The co-hosts would select the film in advance, but anyone can suggest ideas.
- The film selected would need to have a tech and/or democracy theme to it. Bonus points for relevancy to ongoing advocacy work.
- Start with a quarterly event for now and see how it goes Spring 2026 – Summer 2026 – Fall

2026.

- We would try to get discount codes for our group.
- Create a Luma event for it.
- Attend the film together and select a venue close by for discussion afterwards.
- Invite guest speakers where possible.

Ideas for upcoming films:

- [THE AI DOC](#) (in theatres March 24, my friend is the director)
- [TECHPLOMACY](#)
- [THE END OF THE INTERNET](#) (in theatres this summer, my friend is the director and lives in Toronto)
- [THE SANDBOX](#) (my movie at Hot Docs this spring, director lives in Toronto, in theatres this Fall)
- [ELON MUSK UNVEILED: THE TESLA EXPERIMENT](#)
- We could also potentially watch films that have already been released like [CODED BIAS](#) on Netflix, but the idea with this Film Club is to really make the most of those valuable but brief moments immediately after someone has seen a film that moved them.

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

I'm running this by TfD lead organizers first so I can understand the proper processes for pitching it before doing so to the wider group at a volunteer meeting.

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

- Talk to longer term volunteers about the idea and receive feedback.
- Learn more about the Civic Tech TO Book Club and how it works for research.
- Begin gauging interest in attendance, 1 or 2 potential co-hosts, volunteers to assist with tasks like graphic design, Luma management
- Iron out a process for polling the larger Civic Tech TO group to gather information like: general interest levels; where in the city the most folks live; what days and times of the week work best
- Reaching out to personal film industry contacts such as distributors and cinema programmers to gauge interest and feedback before looping in the co-hosts to conversations to decentralize and tag team.
- Assessing whether this is just a community event or if the cinemas can promote it to the wider public as a branded TfD Film Club selection.
- Possibly using a short film to screen at Civic Tech TO as a test to gauge interest levels in film more generally and an avenue to receive feedback and point Civic Tech TO folks towards joining the Club.

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

Possible next actions:

- Revise this proposal and revisit at next meeting
- Accept this proposal and begin organizing the first TfD Film Club
- Reject this proposal
- Any other options possible

Transition Committee

Proposer:	Khasir
Proposal type:	Suggestion ▾
Date written:	Nov 28, 2025

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

I believe TfD should eventually incorporate as a nonprofit (and not a charity, which is a different kind of legal entity). It should be designed in a way to operate with minimal funding and not interfere greatly with volunteer activities in the way that we currently operate, while also providing the opportunity to scale the organization further.

Benefits:

- Offers limited liability legal protection
- Grants and money in general become easier to handle properly (aside: I think we should limit or prohibit corporate funding, and instead go for a crowdfunding/donation model)
- Formal governance structure and greater legitimacy
- Greater chance of TfD surviving long term
- Board can offer expertise and help with important decisions that volunteers may not be able to decide alone

Drawbacks:

- Requires annual tax filing and AGMs
- Annual board insurance is not negligible (few thousand \$ per year)
 - Optional but highly recommended
 - We can do some fundraising to cover these costs
- Will change how we do things somewhat (more structured)

Comparison of options by Goodbot here: [📄 Business Model Options Research](#)

What solution do you propose?

A Transition Committee, composed of 2-5 volunteers who would handle board applications and the transition to nonprofit status. A board is a requirement for nonprofit status. At minimum, the board needs a Chair. Other roles are typically Secretary and Treasurer. I (Khasir) have already had some people show interest in being part of a board for TfD, which would help with the transition.

This Committee would have the ability to make any decisions necessary for this transition, and would report back every month at the volunteer planning meeting.

Possible responsibilities of the Transition Committee:

- Create timeline and decide on responsibilities (as suggested below)

- Set up board application process
- Interview board candidates - just to get to know them better. Applicants are not screened during the interview.
- Set up board selection process (eg. election)
- Apply for nonprofit status
 - Write bylaws with board and volunteer approval

I strongly recommend that the Transition Committee set up an election for the incoming board, though the process will ultimately be left to the Committee. If volunteers are unhappy with the decisions of the Transition Committee, the Committee mandate and members can be changed, replaced or dissolved with a volunteer-led proposal and vote at a monthly planning meeting.

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

This volunteer planning meeting is the right place to discuss the proposal.

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

With regards to selecting the board, board members would ideally:

- Represent a diverse and relevant set of skills, knowledge, experiences, identities and backgrounds.
- Be an odd number of people for easier decision making (voting).
- Reflect the values of TfD.
- Be familiar with governing a nonprofit.
- Provide a network of people who TfD would benefit from.
- Have the time to commit to attending regular board meetings, providing advice, and performing other tasks required of the board.

See also  [WIP] TfD Operating Manifesto (7. Appendix) for relevant excerpts on how to structure a mutual aid organization.

More links:

- [Start and operate a not-for-profit | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/gov/start-and-operate-a-not-for-profit)
- [Not-for-profit corporations | Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/not-for-profit-society/pages/not-for-profit-corporations.aspx)
- [Nonprofit Fundraising Rules and Guidelines in Canada](https://www.canada.ca/en/not-for-profit-society/pages/nonprofit-fundraising-rules-and-guidelines-in-canada.aspx)

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

Possible next actions:

- Revise this proposal and revisit at next meeting
- Accept this proposal and begin forming the Transition Committee
- Reject this proposal
- Any other options possible

New Slack for campaigns

Proposer:	Khasir
Proposal type:	New Campaign ▾
Date written:	Oct 7, 2025

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

- For the Magna campaign, communication was slow as I had to email people multiple times to remind of meetings and sometimes make decisions
- The response time expected with email is a few days

What solution do you propose?

- New slack to keep all our campaigns in one place
 - Campaigns = Actions, strategic decisions, confidential info
- The Civic Tech slack would stay as a place for general onboarding and news

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

- This group

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

- Thoughts on using the existing Civic Tech slack instead?

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

Policy Recommendation Report

Proposer:	Khasir
Proposal type:	New Campaign ▾
Date written:	Oct 7, 2025

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

- Lack of future vision in terms of tech policy
- Be able to hold politicians to a given standard when it comes to approving use of technology & tech companies to do business

What solution do you propose?

- We write a report with policy recommendations, best practices, examples from other jurisdictions which are implementing good policies that we look up to

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

- This general volunteer group

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

- Next Toronto election: October 26, 2026
- Next Ontario election: 2029
- Next federal election: 2029

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

- Do we target municipal? Do we go more broad?

Outreach Committee

Proposer:	Khasir
Proposal type:	Suggestion ▾
Date written:	Oct 7, 2025

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

- Growth of TfD

What solution do you propose?

- Outreach committee who's goal is to increase the number of members of TfD
- Example activities:
 - Running events and workshops
 - Handling social media
 - Creating posters

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

- This general volunteer group

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

Student volunteers

Proposer:	Khasir
Proposal type:	Suggestion ▾
Date written:	Oct 7, 2025

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

- There are only 24 hours in a day

What solution do you propose?

- Taking on student volunteers who are trained in extending the day beyond 24h
- Students can work on some of today's proposals, eg:
 - Outreach

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?

Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

- This group

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

- Full details: <https://civictecho.slack.com/archives/C61CZLA5V/p1759764378283479>
- Students are trained in:
 - Presentation & Facilitation Skills
 - Mind Mapping & Ideating
 - Teamwork & Collaboration
 - Foundations of Project Management
 - Research
 - Marketing & Outreach
 - Customer Service & Professionalism
 - Accessibility Needs & Disability Justice
 - Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
 - Building Resilience
 - Leveraging Volunteer Placements to Advance Professional Goals
 - Inclusive Practices
 - Civic Engagement & Volunteerism
 - Climate Change & Sustainability

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?

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Other Meeting Notes

26-06-23 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Adam

Present in person:

Online:

Agenda and notes (please add below):

- Quick round of updates from everyone
 - Adam: Comms meeting
 - We decided to stay in soft launch mode for now of the Waymo letter
 - Will reach out to people in the Block Sidewalk campaign to understand their comms strategy and how they decided on the campaign name
 - Turns out there are lots of recalls on the Waymo vehicles
 - Karan: Sustainable technologies
 - Project Droplet: Autonomous water-borne boats to circumnavigate the world
 - Less traffic on water, needs less fuel
 - Water buoyancy is more efficient than flying in air (drones)
 - heading towards emissionless, decentralized water transportation
 - Edge computing
 - Toronto-based, also based in India
 - Gurpreet
 - AI Maturity document
 - Covers diff types of orgs
 - Want to make sure it is useful for all types of organizations
 - Check for compliance reqs, make it easy to use with minimal guidance
 - Also working on a document to explain the vision of this project
 - Want to turn it into a portal
 - Nelson
 - Did a photo shoot with Adam
 - Will need confirmation after Adam's consultation with Block Sidewalk
 - Also upcoming: labour organizing workshops (will post)
 - Khasir
 - Life update: got a full time job
 - Aarushi
 - Spoke with Khasir to CBC Marketplace
 - Research interview on surveillance pricing
 - Marv
 - Worked on newsletter
 - Anyone who wants to add things

- Delay adding Waymo
- Structured updates to the monthly meeting
- Debate recently on banning social media
 - Some people who are technical still believe in social media bans
 - We believe that it's hard to limit children
 - Educational solutions vs control solutions
 - Not a question of policy - felt disrespected by what happened (blanket statement)
 - Moderation policy - have rules
 - We need to accept all viewpoints, even those we disagree with
 - All we can do is try to educate people and not take it personally
 - Some people may try to provoke
 - Never convince someone of their views until you understand they are open
 - Not about right or wrong
 - Need to say we hear you
 - Unfortunate that no women responded, but as a women don't feel this was a gendered issue
 - India, privacy is a joke, lived experience
 - Tame as far as conflicts go
 - Have some cake together

Action items:

- ☒ ~~Khasir to split this tab out into a separate doc~~
- ☒ ~~Khasir to update monthly meeting host runbook to include project updates~~
- ☐ Make doc of our stance on social media banning / digital ID verification

26-06-16 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Khasir

Present: Khasir, Adam, Uri, David

Online: Gurpreet, Marv, Nelson,

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- [Adam] Waymo open letter release! Updates and notes from lawyer.
 - Not urgent - MTO will take a while and other processes
 - Our lawyer has been saying: might want to avoid using the name Waymo in our messaging, might disparage the brand
 - Avoid speculation, say "we are concerned" etc.
 - Waymo is the largest contender to enter the Canadian market (cf Waabi, Serve Robotics, Zeus, Cruise, Tesla)
 - Brainstorm new taglines
 - Say no to robotaxis +1
 - No robotaxis
 - [Block.AI](#)

- Tax the Robotaxis
- Axe the Robotaxis +1 +1
- No driver no accountability +1
- No Driver no rider +2
- Unsafe unaccountable
- They're taking our streets and our jobs
- Our streets, not your lab
- Our streets are not your test bed
- Keep your .. off
- We're not your lab rats
- "Keep Our Streets Algorithm-Free"?
- "Fund Buses Not Robots"
- "Keep Workers in the Drivers Seat"
- "Move People Not Profits" +2 +1
- "Streets Belong to Canadians"
- "Don't Let Bots Steal Jobs"
- trust people not programs +2
- Road Safety is About People
- "Not Yet" to Driverless Roads
- Not my taxi +1
- Big tech taxi
- No backseat robotaxi
- I hate robotaxis +1
- [Gurpreet] Update on study on digital sovereignty
 - Good discussion with Justine on thoughts and environmental perspective
- [Khasir] Aarushi and I are talking with CBC Marketplace about surveillance pricing
 - Evan Solomon's new announcement that they will have something ready by 2028, they want to be cautious and protect reward points...

Action items:

- ☐ Marv and adam to talk about sending out Waymo letter
- ☐ Change taglines

26-06-09 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: ~~Shasha~~ Adam (project updates week)

Present: Adam, Khasir, Giorgio, (1 more new person I can't remember)

Online: Gurpreet

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- Reminder: [Monthly meeting tomorrow!](#)
- [Gurpreet] TfD's review of Canada's AI strategy?

- [Gurpreet] [Here](#) is the document with the consolidated answers from the team regarding the intersection of Canada's data sovereignty and sustainable initiatives. Feel free to take a look and add any comments.
- [Adam] Waymo open letter: Final review

Action Items:

- ☐ Khasir to post doc with opinions on data sovereignty for study, to Slack

26-06-02 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Jitka

Present: Jitka, Adam, Shasha, Jim, Karishma, Kai, Marsel

Online: Nelson, Gurpreet

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- [Shasha & Jitka] Retrospective after our first TfD Film Club event!
 - Screening of The End of Internet on Friday, 30th May, by a local filmmaker
 - Small stories on the theme of decentralisation
 - First film event; planning to do this each quarter and in the same format (screening then discussions)
 - Only 1 survey response- 5 star!
 - What can be done better?
 - issue with interactive installation
 - anticipate larger crowd and maybe test the installation
 - Luma+tech week made the registrations a little messy
 - not enough space at the bar since we didn't expect so many people would join the discussion
 - but maybe this might not be the case if we do it outside of a big event
 - take care of director and their team
 - Do another debrief at the volunteer meeting and discuss the organisation of the next film club
- [Gurpreet] TfD's perspective on intersection of Canada's data sovereignty and sustainability initiatives. Supporting the study of Data and Artificial Intelligence Ethics at the University of Edinburgh, can we support the study by answering the questions [here](#)
 - Grad student from the University of Edinburgh had reached out for an interview about Canada's data sovereignty
 - Before interview, she needs an overall, collective perspective from TfD
 - Gurpreet will put down ideas in the document then share with the group for review/feedback
 - To be shared with Justine by Friday evening
 - Concerns with Slack

- [Aarushi] (Potential) TfD Tech Walk in the summer (?); quick update on policy and advocacy brief templates
 - Aarushi to reach out to the organisers of the Barcelona Internet Walk; Jitka also interested- proposal form and pitch the idea for the talk
 - Possibly during the summer
 - Gaps among generations; physical vs software vs interface
 - Free events can draw crowds
 - We can have themes for the walk!
 - Events in schools (?)- contact Ilya about his experience with Civic Dashboard; TPL person for Makerspaces- potential collab and support
- [Nelson] Liberal Tech Policy event debrief, poster takedown reminder
 - Tech week; spadina fort york chapter, provincial party; event on tech and innovation
 - Main argument by the organisers- lower capital gains tax; become US
 - Not a coherent, uniform position; many people were not supportive of the things discussed by the panel
 - Participants were high info voters
 - Missed fundamental problem with current government
 - **Takedown posters - Khasir, Nelson; find locations and remove otherwise fines**
- [Adam] Waymo letter is ready. Upcoming strategy
 - Open letter- added accessibility angle; Waymo horrible with accessibility despite their heavy lobbying
 - Final version almost done- lawyer gave okay
 - Prepare press, post on social media, coordinate with allies, city council (June 10)
 - Policy brief- possible additional resource for other orgs

26-05-26 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Aarushi

Present: Adam, Khasir, Nagata, Maanas, Anna, other Adam

Online: Gurpreet, Ushnish, Tommy, Aarushi, Sean

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- [Adam] Call for retrospectives
 - Internal retrospectives to learn about improving techniques, approaches and processes
 - External retrospectives to teach the public about our wins
- [Adam] Waymo updates: June 10th committee meeting on city bylaws for autonomous vehicles.
 - [Shashaank] update on the video, recording the footage today, going to edit in the b-roll and have a draft for the team at the end of the week.

- The most recent version of the script is here btw: [Waymo Script](#)
 - Lawyer has responded with more recent feedback (in private drive)
 - Next IEC meeting is on June 10th. There should be an agenda item on autonomous vehicles privacy and traffic and the city's capacity to regulate those areas.
- [Khasir] Strategy workshop recap
 - Notes in [slack thread](#) (#proj-tfd May 24); additional notes from Scott incoming
- [Anna] Data centres
 - Call for grassroots volunteers. The political insider game has not yielded much success and climatefast would like to pivot towards organizing. They are requesting our collaboration in whichever way possible. For our capacity.
 - Background: There are data centres planned around the GTA and we need grassroots opposition towards them to have more transparency on these plans and stop them from being built.

Action items:

- ☐ Adam to post about deputing at the June 10 committee meeting
- ☐ Khasir to raise the issue of assigning rotating roles at the next planning meeting

26-05-19 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Khasir

Present: Khasir, Uri, Adam

Online: Gurpreet, Aarushi, Nelson, Marv, Shashaank, Suri

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- [Adam] MP Chi Nguyen Update
 - Adam mentioned there's a mismatch btwn grassroots+moderates vs the political narrative
 - She was most interested in the digital sovereignty aspect, and not the labour aspect
 - She pushed back on the AI Consultation results and wanted us to have softer language
 - Adam asked what we can help with downtown
 - Chi was defensive
 - Big business - dont really understand tech
 - Sovereignty as control by Canadians vs just building tech
 - Hard to get inroads with Liberal party - buck stops with Carney
- [Adam] Waymo update
 - Script is complete, looking to record and edit this week and have it ready for our next meeting
 - https://shashaank25.notion.site/Waymo-Script-2c5939a235be80ab8a19e5d38688a5bd?source=copy_link

- What does an ethical AV company look like?
 - Have servers, operators, support staff, data all in Canada, and not linked to a Google account
 - Coming to agreements with Uber drivers, taxi drivers, transit agencies
 - Limiting the amount of vehicles
 - Clarity on data processing policies and privacy
- How strong is the congestion argument? I feel like the most obvious framing (at least in the Toronto context) is that it'll further worsen congestion:
 - <https://techxplore.com/news/2026-04-cars-traffic-snag.html>
- Important to understand the history of Waymo - founded on the idea that humans are fallible and crash cars, asking the question if machines can drive perfectly
- Convention in Montreal this weekend: <https://aicivilsociety.ca/>
- AI Playbook
 - Stalled somewhat
 - If anyone is interested or knows of nonprofits undergoing an AI journey, please reach out to Gurpreet
 - Gurpreet to link Khasir with Alex McIsaac for conversation
- TfD film club
 - Please sign up! <https://luma.com/c3dlrrb8?tk=3IFGEQ>
 - Shasha, Jitka and Khasir are figuring out the specifics of the bar

Action items:



26-05-12 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Khasir in lieu of Jitka

Present:

Online:

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- [Nelson] TfD film Canvassing push

Action items:



26-05-05 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Marv

Present:

Online:

Agenda & notes (please add below):

- Jane's Walk recap
- [Khasir] Waymo updates
- Film club updates?
- [André] ALPRs
 - Tech brief ready for review
 - Requesting guidance for advocacy brief
- [André] Thoughts on creating a TfD template for advocacy briefs and other content
- [Nelson] Social media, canvassing, TWC event volunteers
 - Tech Worries and Woes: <https://luma.com/hapw5yne>
- [Khasir] Thoughts on the [About Us](#) page of our website?
 - "It's great!"
 - Add pictures
 - Add newsletter to signup-form
 - Add more about values, link to manifesto
 - Why we're fighting for our cause (covered by manifesto?)
 - Header:
 - Logo is blurry
 - Word wrapping
 - Tone: Phrase more neutrally
 - "We really like tech" don't scare AI-lovers
 - Have our origin story in the about page
 - Over-technical: Rewrite spurring positive tech change for social good
 - Avoid repetition
 - Maybe have our wins as summary (with pictures) on the page
 - Some image on the Our Values section isn't loading
- Reminder to signup for next volunteer meeting on May 13: <https://luma.com/93fv7ob1>

Action items:

- ☐ Aarushi will work on template for policy briefs and advocacy briefs
- ☐ Khasir will work on template for press release
- ☐ Khasir will update website
- ☒ ~~Jitka and Shasha to continue organizing Film Club~~
- ☒ ~~Update Khasir so he can update the TTW submission~~

26-04-28 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Aarushi

Present:

Online:

Agenda:

- (Please add here)

- Who wants to take notes?
- Jane's Walk
- [Adam] Waymo: Calls for social media & finishing up open letter
- Flock updates

Notes:

- Privacy-themed Jane's walk happening on Sunday
 - <https://luma.com/ja6l848g>
 - 1pm at Front and York, in front of Union
 - Looking for a voice amplifier or speaker with aux in
 - #proj-tfd-janes
 - We'll be using Jitka's privacy checklist, which was work inspired by the CDM campaign
- Waymo
 - Goal: Prevent Waymo from entering Ontario
 - Khasir edited the open letter
 - Maanas is working on a petition
 - Toronto is ally, Ontario not so much but wary of optics
 - Shashaank is working on a social media script, aiming to have a v1 of long and short form video for next week
 - What is the most important issue? Digital sovereignty. Followed by congestion then job loss
 - Another concern: remote driver is not in the country, not familiar with Ontario laws. Regulatory grey zone as driver may be required to be in Ontario
 - Let's say 2 weeks to launch
 - Rideshare protest on May 4, in front of City Hall, 12pm
 - Idea: reach out to media, and Canadian online tech influencers, editorials
 - We didn't have a sustained push with CDM. Trying something different this time
- Flock
 - Axon has partnerships with police in Canada, mobile surveillance mounted to vehicles
 - Flock does not come with facial recognition technology pre-installed
 - We have much better privacy laws than US
 - Eg data only allowed to be retained by police for 7 days if not related to a case
 - Toronto police already has detailed policies on ALPR
 - Andre is working on a tech brief
 - Homeowners associations in US are very different than here
 - Here, might have to sell individually
 - Not sure if data has to be in Canada
 - Is it under PIPEDA or MFIPPA? Sold to individuals but police will be able to access...

Action items:

- Nelson will bring camera to Jane's walk
- Everyone please review Waymo policy brief: [Policy Analysis](#)
- If available, attend Rideshare protest on Mon, May 4 at 12pm in front of City Hall
- Join #proj-tfd-surveillance if interested in Flock
 - Add Andre and Uri to meeting with Cynthia

26-04-21 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Khasir

Present:

Online:

Agenda:

- (Please add here)
- Democracy Xchange
- [Adam] Waymo open letter, IPC comments, petition on website
- [Aarushi] Waymo policy brief, Jane's Walk
 - Related: Jane's Walk launch event
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/janes-walk-toronto-launch-event-tickets-1985784410628?aff=oddttdtcreator&keep_tld=true
- [Jitka] Tfd Film Club - short update on the first screening of the movie The End of The Internet during the Toronto Tech Week (not necessary to pitch at the moment, I guess)
-

Notes:

- Democracy XChange debrief: Cory Doctorow keynote speech on Thursday. Very politically diverse event, but also very Liberal Party of Canada oriented. Too AI focused, but overall good opinions. TWC hosted an event as well with Kickstarter union, NY Times Tech Union, and CWA organizers. Daron Acemoglu spoke on the fall of liberal democracies, putting blame on income inequality. Bruce Shneier spoke on Democracy and AI with him selling his book on this topic. Overall, there were lots of people who spoke who are not technically literate, it is therefore important for groups like Tfd to exist! Blogpost will be necessary. Feedback is important.
-

Action items:

- Quick blogpost about Democracy XChange

26-04-14 | Civic Tech Toronto

Pitcher: Adam

Present:

Online:

Agenda:

- [Shasha] Building an EPK****td unless we go through it during our media training sesh
- [Shasha] TfD Film Club updates
- [Adam] Waymo open letter + petition, quick updates
- [Khasir] Flock updates, asking for help

Notes:

- EPK: Refer to doc (to be linked by Shasha) and Khasir/Adam will fill out EPK
- Waymo: Please comment on open letter for next Tues: [Block Waymo - Working Doc](#)
- Film club: Coming along, save the date! May 29
- Flock: Nelson can help with graphics, Aarushi will help next week

Action items:



26-04-07 | Civic Tech Toronto

In-person:

Online:

Agenda:

- (please add here)
- [Adam] Waymo updates: Meetings and TODOs
- [Khasir, time permitting/can do this last] CDM retrospective
 - Appreciations, what went well, what could have been improved

Notes:

- Retro on CDM:
- Appreciations
 - Adam appreciates that we took on such a small issue and were fine with looking like cranks
 - Thanks Ilya for media interview training
 - Khasir appreciates Adam and Jitka's ability to dive headlong into this without knowing what would happen
 - Appreciating the whole experience and learning
 - Appreciating trying out talking to random strangers
 - Appreciate being disciplined with what we say
- What worked well
 - How we could respond quickly to interview requests
 - Good media coverage
 - Able to quickly find levers that we have as an org

- Jumping on it quickly
 - Was very motivating
 - Attracted people to the group
- What could have gone better
 - Have a media apparatus
 - i.e. better social media presence
 - The privacy toolkit will help respond faster next time
 - And also Shasha will help with the EPK to help respond faster
 - Felt uncertain about speaking to media and responding promptly
 - Would like a guide on how to talk to media
 - Shasha went to journalism school and can do some training for us!
 - Translating talking points to be more mainstream
- Other notes
 - Weirdness around Jeevan
 - For next Waymo campaign, find a way to talk to Waymo drivers

Action items:



26-03-31 | Civic Tech Toronto

Present: Adib, Nelson, Jim, Marv, Jitka, Sunny, Khasir, Adam, Poe

Online: Gurpreet, Aarushi

Agenda:

- [Khasir+Nelson] Outreach & events
- ~~[Khasir] CBC interview recap~~
- ~~[Khasir, time permitting/can do this last] CDM retrospective~~
 - ~~Appreciations, what went well, what could have been improved~~
- [Adam] Waymo campaign progress: [Lobbying updates](#), outreach updates, next steps, what I learned.
- ~~[Adam] Autonomous driving brief final draft done~~
- [Poe] debrief of call with Massculture

Notes:

- Action: Create promotions channel for more discussion
 - Ties into film club
- Transport Canada automated driving safety guidelines page
 - Could be a strong policy fulcrum
- Someone asked for the link to TfD slack channel to be added here:

<https://civictecho.slack.com/archives/C0913G0SHS6>

26-03-24 | Civic Tech Toronto

Present: Khasir, Michiel, Jim, Aarushi, Eve, Nikita, Marv

Agenda:

- (add items here!)

Notes:

- Adam: Out to reach out to political figures and organizers (NDP University-Rosedale by-election campaign launch), gonna proselytize about the AI consultation.

26-03-17 | Civic Tech Toronto

Present:

-

Agenda:

- Seeking feedback on outline:  Technologists for Democracy - Civic Tech Brampton
 - Also asking what people think is next
 - Our presentation is March 26 (next week Thurs)
- [wait for Adam to be back] CDM retrospective
 - ~~Appreciations, what went well, what could have been improved~~
- AI playbook update
- Making a roster of pitchers?
- [FOI Panel](#): Not sure on the best date.
- Report on C-4 campaign (C-4 passed)
- Improving radar discussion
- Migration to alternative platforms to big tech?
 - <https://worktree.ca/taffer/canadian-alternatives>

Notes:

- What's next
 - Delivering AI Playbook
 - Continue research, investigations, ad hoc responses
 - Planning to migrate platforms
- AI Playbook has started a draft doc, meeting with Poe regularly
 - Plan to put it in the channel for feedback
- Khasir to post sign up for pitching
- FOI is important, we will do something about this
- Bill C-4 has passed
- Improving radar detection:
 - Idea is to partner with a non-technical group that reads the Hansard texts, and provide technical feedback in exchange for alerts from them

- We need to continue building our network
 - Democracy XChange is coming up - great networking opportunity!
- Proton as an alternative to GDocs
 - Proton was hit by a subpoena which made them give away billing data
 - Set up our own server?
 - Art of building architectures - sometimes difficult as you still have to connect with people
 - Transition cost - influence and connectivity

26-01-27 | Civic Tech Toronto

Present:

- Khasir
- Ushnish
- Jitka

Notes

- [Worker inquiries](#) and citizens audits ([example](#)) as a parallel to PIAs
- City of Toronto staff ran a Janes Walk on [sensors and tech in public](#)
- Research on terms of service etc - not sure which one was being referenced specifically
 - Tolga Dizdärer: [Control and Regulation on Online Service Platforms](#)
 - Brenda Taylor: [Terms of Service Agreement Contracts: An Overview of Personal Risk Management and Recommendations for Enhancing User Awareness](#)
- Privacy Visualizer
 - [Website](#)
 - [Youtube channel](#)

26-01-21 | Jonathan Bloomfield

Meeting to gauge interest in AI Playbook project by Gurpreet

Present:

- Jonathan Bloomfield
- Khasir
- Gurpreet

Agenda:

- Intros
- Khasir talks about TfD
- Gurpreet talks about AI Governance Playbook
- Open floor to questions

Notes

- Jon runs an ed-tech company
- He worked as a teacher for a bit
- Realized that software for teachers is horrible
- So he learned and wrote his own software
- He started a consultancy to teach business and nonprofit leaders how to leverage AI
 - has worked with school boards, small and large nonprofits
- Aimed towards non-technical folks
- Even Fortune 500s are not using AI effectively, so how can we expect nonprofits to
- Baseline training on what AI is, what it can do
- Beyond the hype, actual examples
 - You spend X hours a week doing a repetitive task - can you automate it with AI?
- The basics, not coding agents
- Once you understand the basics, then you can talk about governance
 - Also easier for smaller orgs than large ones
- EDs need help understanding what's possible
- Level of awareness is low - marketing is mystical
- Approach is not to be too prescriptive
 - don't be heavy handed
- The approach for now (tech changes fast) is show people what's possible
- AI to Jonathon is much more interesting than the teacher software he was working on
- The current procurement situation in education is quite difficult to navigate
 - politicized, budget slashes
- but selling training on AI is much easier
 - Running workshops with teachers, parents, students
- approach to convincing education to adopt software
 - they were not welcoming of vendors
 - very relationship-based
- doing workshops, doing community events builds lots of trust
- find a way to get your foot in the door, a way to show value to build trust
- relationships take time to nurture
- We'll likely have to customize any playbook to specific needs per org
- Even if you give them a handbook, their successfulness in implementing it is likely low
- Many organizations need guidance on how to do it, rather than just a solution
- Do we need a product or a service?
 - Jonathon: Never make a product unless people are banging down your door
 - Do the opposite

- [Business model canvas](#)
 - It doesn't have to be perfect
 - You just need a list of assumptions that you need to test or validate
 - Find a way to get a first client before thinking too hard about how to package everything
- Last year, Jon made a 4-week curriculum
 - feedback: people liked it but people were afraid of how things keep changing
 - he realized that people need continued guidance
- Talk to people in your network
 - This is what we're doing, this is a need we've identified, how real is this need?
 - We're thinking of doing X, structure your convos around that
- [Mom Test](#)
 - Never lead with your solution
 - Your mom is too nice - avoid biased feedback from friends and family
- Your first version doesn't have to be your final version
- Possibly search online for organizations that have recently announced AI adoption

25-12-17 | Jake Hurfurt, Big Brother Watch

- Jake Hurfurt
 - Used to be a tabloid journalist for the Daily Mail
 - Now works on research and investigations for Big Brother Watch
- Camera billboards
 - Jake wrote a report in 2022 he'll share with me
 - The large companies in the UK are Clearchannel & Ocean Outdoor
 - They were mostly gimmicks in the UK in the late 2000s, not very useful
 - There is a difference in passing them on the street vs interacting with a billboard
- Bigger concerns for Big Brother Watch
 - Phone data is much more granular
 - Bluetooth beacons & wifi sniffers
 - Connecting to nearby phones to pick up MAC IDs and other identifiers
 - Could theoretically find them by reading company privacy policies & marketing info, or building a device to detect them
 - Facial recognition
 - Digital ID is being pushed in the UK
 - They keep changing the plans for it
 - Automated decision making
 - Free speech
- How Big Brother Watch operates
 - Research and investigation

- Engaging with parliamentarians
 - Writing to companies
 - Engaging with the public
 - Engaging with regulators
 - Political lobbying
- Open to helping out, tho Big Brother Watch focuses on the UK

25-12-07 | PitaBreadFace, New Save Collective

Idea guy behind New Save Collective (NSC)

- Sejal
- Origins
 - Community organizer
 - Started NSC 3 years ago - didnt know it'd be on discord
 - Began as a refugee organizer around 2016
 - Learned digital organizing through a fellowship
 - Began fundraising for politicians which wasn't fulfilling
 - An artist, cook, gamer
 - Lots of passions online
- Was playing in a comedy roleplay group
 - "git play podcast"?
 - People in the writers strike were in the discord he was in in 2023
 - Organizing virtual pickets, 350 people in different fortnite lobbies
 - Happened organically, lots of apolitical people who just didn't like AI taking over writing
- Some similar orgs
 - Gamers for peace (US army veterans) who mostly organize in Helldivers 2: <https://gamersforpeace.org/>
 - Roblox kids earlier this year, protesting for Palestine
 - NSC is one of 3 gamer organizing projects
 - Working families party: <https://workingfamilies.org/>
 - Players alliance: <https://www.playersalliance.org/>
- People are isolated and scared
 - Military and corporations are driving toxicity
- Gamers are stereotyped and scapegoated
- His co-organizers are longtime friends
 - Sharif is great at darksouls
 - BusyMrGribble
- Started the discrod in october with ghost of yotai,, cause main actor was being harassed
- Main goal is reaching people, making good connections
- Waiting for opportunity to make positive difference
 - Things always pop up

- Originally was thinking that there are so many cool communities - should he start one? he did anyways
- Similar orgs to TfD:
 - Our Walmart - made an app for workers to share grievances:
 - <https://united4respect.org/campaigns/walmart/>
 - <https://workercenters.com/union-front-groups/our-walmart/>
 - No Tech for Apartheid: <https://bdsmovement.net/no-tech-apartheid>
 - Was slow to start
- He sees a lot of value in creating a community for grievances
- Musicians union: United Musicians and Audio Workers
 - Not really a union but closer to TWC (a place to share grievances and support workers)
- What's next for NSC
 - Worst case: dead server
 - Focused on creating a positive experience
 - Do another Fortnite event to recruit
 - Not just forming an echo chamber
 - It's powerful just to encourage each other, it's easy to get scared
 - Try to disarm gamergate culture / wokeness haters
 - Idea: Launch a petition tool (just handles, designed for gamers)
 - Tried subreddits, mostly works
 - A few devs in the server
 - Collab opportunity with TfD???
 - Making a text-based RPG
 - About being a gamer and the moral quandaries about it
 - Very excited for it
- He's based in Durham, NC
- Very empowering and fun for participants: "we got to actually overpower the ICE agents"
- We're shaping culture, and not just changing policy outcomes

25-11-26 | Michelle Kushnir, Lawyer

- This is not legal advice - this is legal education, high level consult
- Interesting that the Bus Terminal is gov owned
- Michelle will send us helpful doc
- Possible Ally: Movement Defence Committee
 - Just need to fill out form
 - They provide education, "know your rights", legal observers
- Possible ally: CCLA
 - May have been involved in 2018 CF camera investigation
- Is there a possibility of being charged with inciting nuisance?
 - Not sure on inciting vs doing
 - Like the Freedom convoy?
 - could be mischief charge

- Maybe also civil risk (metrolinx going after us)
- Seek criminal lawyer, Michelle will refer
- Do ad standards exist? (could be separate campaign)
- Criminal charges are for individuals - can't hide behind org to protect from mischief charges
- Directors can be sued for civil charges
- On contacting SVP - us not hiding means approaching in good faith
 - Do you want them to make us go away quietly? Strategic question
 - Orgs always want you to just go away

25-11-12 | Data Centres

 25.10.30 Data Centres Chat (tab 2)

25-11-07 | Evan Light

- <https://ischool.utoronto.ca/faculty-profile/light-evan/>
- 2018 incident
 - CF facial rec in malls
- Prof at u of t, focuses on privacy
 - Mostly police accountability and state surveillance
 - Documenting what tools are being used
 - What laws exist
- OPC complaint
 - We can file together!
- Cineplex Digital Media is being sold to Creative realities, a US company
 - Panels are being acquired
 - Even in 2018, cameras blended in with panel
- Do you have a general idea of how these analytics systems work?
 - Not at all
 - Made his own facial rec project that determines age, gender, feeling
 - Always has some bias
 - How quickly it can identify face -> very quick
 - Can run on a Raspi or browser, doesnt need GPU
 - Most likely are doing some sort of facial rec (even if they say no)
 - Are they saving the data too? Collecting and processing, and destroyed asap? Or is it kept?
- Privacy law needs to be updated!
- Often conflict of interest - state doesnt want to regulate itself
 - Regulating corporations means also regulating itself (or a double standard)
 - Pbly why havent yet given judicial power to OPC, to enforce fines
- Do privacy commissioners have standard behaviours across govt? Or more independent, depending on locale?

- Supposed to be independent from politics
 - Various provinces has different levels of power
- Federal commissioner has no sanctioning power
 - Some provincial ones do
- Are there countries with leading model in terms of privacy governance?
 - No one really does
 - Diff states in the US have diff models
 - Illinois has a biometrics model since 2008
 - In August, presented a biometrics project in NY, spoke to EFF who said be careful bc you're collecting people's biometrics, illegal in some states (!)
 - No provinces have laws on biometrics
- How AVA systems are implemented at scale - sensor (camera) captures feed, on chip (or cloud)
 - It could conceivably be done on server/cloud... unknown if so

25-10-30 | Data Centres Chat

 25.10.30 Data Centres Chat (tab 1)

25-08-29 | Kristen Thomasen

- Professor of Law at University of Guelph, specializing in robotics and surveillance
 - <https://www.uwindsor.ca/law/3441/kristen-thomasen-associate-professor>
 - PhD in privacy and public data
- When a commercial entity collects info in the province of Ontario, it typically falls under PIPEDA
 - But the IPC might be interested to know what happens regardless
- PIPEDA also applies to public information
 - This is how Clearview was taken to court
 - But there are lots of exceptions
 - Eg. the privacy commissioner has said that CCTVs are acceptable as long as they're kept only to the extent necessary
 - PIPEDA is good but not fantastic
 - Surveillance may not break PIPEDA policy
- Magna doesn't sound like they're doing facial analysis?
 - Grey area of using faces to predict walking direction
 - But there is an argument that people shouldn't have their info stored, due to the possibility of misuse
- Legal protections of privacy are not great in public spaces, but it does feel morally wrong
- From a policy perspective, there is room to push back against Magna
- It'd be great to get specifics on how the data is stored, analyzed, used, etc

- Red flag: Magna is not touting how great its privacy policy is, instead it hasn't answered our questions and wants us to sign an NDA before finding out
- For us, it's a laudable achievement to even get the word out about this
 - It places pressure on the government to do better
- The pilot raises great questions about privacy and policy:
 - Why are we always finding out about these issues through investigative journalism
 - Why did Ontario approve this pilot without Toronto's input?
 - Why do these companies not talk about their privacy policies?
- Idea: Write an op-ed about this
 - We reached out to Magna with privacy concerns. Instead of answering, they want us to sign an NDA. Why is it so difficult to find out? Why don't we have a process to approve these policies before they take effect?



Meeting Roles

Guide to Meeting Roles

Moved here: [TfD Volunteer Runbook](#)



Templates

Templates

- [Meeting Template](#)
- [Proposal Template](#)

Meeting Template

YY-MM-DD | Name of Meeting

Note taker:

Timekeeper:

Facilitator:

Agenda			
Section	Topic	Time	Presenter
Intro ▾	Intros (name, pronouns, icebreaker question)	10m	[meeting host]
Intro ▾	Agenda overview, assignment of meeting roles	5m	[meeting host]
New ▾	[add items here!]		[your name here]
Outro ▾	Getting volunteers for the CTTO pitch roster for next month: 📄 TfD - Civic Tech Pitch/Host Roster - Runbook here: 📖 TfD Volunteer Runbook	5m	[meeting host/Khasir]
Outro ▾	Wrap-up: Who wants to be next month's meeting host? Runbook here: 📖 TfD Volunteer Runbook	2m	[meeting host]

Attendees:

-

Notes:

-

Action items:

☐

Proposal Template

Name of Agenda Item Proposal

Proposer:	[name of person]
Proposal type:	New Campaign ▾
Date written:	Jan 1, 2025

What problem / issue does this proposal address?

What solution do you propose?

Who or what teams might this proposal involve?
Do you want to run it by them before bringing this to the whole group?

Is there any research that could help flesh out this proposal before people consider it?

Any other comments or further questions related to this proposal?