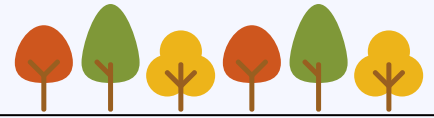# Ontario Digital Literacy and Access Network

Seasonal Newsletter

By: Helen Martin (Media Officer)

Fall Update

Welcome to the 8th edition of the ODLAN newsletter. We are excited to share our most recent updates and new initiatives with you. Thank you for being a part of the ODLAN community.

Before we get into ODLAN's updates, we would like to take a moment to address this past summer's weather conditions. Multiple days were labelled as the hottest in history and many of us were affected by the smoke from the wildfires raging across Canada. We know climate change is a product of colonial practices. We must look to Indigenous knowledges and leadership in our responses to climate change. Over the next few months, ODLAN will be reflecting on what further decolonizing practices we can implement so that we can better stand in solidarity with local Indigenous communities.

We also want to bring awareness to the digital divide that exists not only in queer spaces, but also in remote locations, and especially on Indigenous reserves.

Less than 43% of households on Indigenous reserves have access to high-speed internet.

We know online spaces of Indigenous resistance are often silenced or made invisible by harmful AI algorithms. ODLAN's core mission is to end the digital divide. We will not forget Indigenous folks in this work.

We encourage everyone to reflect on how they can better support Indigenous groups and communities where they live.

Our Latest Project

DIGITAL SAFETY STRATEGIES: MITIGATING AND PREVENTING QUEERPHOBIC ONLINE HATE

We are excited to announce that ODLAN has received funding from the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund for the project "Digital Safety Strategies: Mitigating and Preventing Queerphobic Online Hate." For this project, we will be building on our previous research on anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate to develop six publicly available modules that will support 2SLGBTQIA+ non-profit leaders in understanding anti-2SLGBTQIA+ online hate from an intersectional perspective. The modules will also support service providers with developing and implementing digital safety plans.
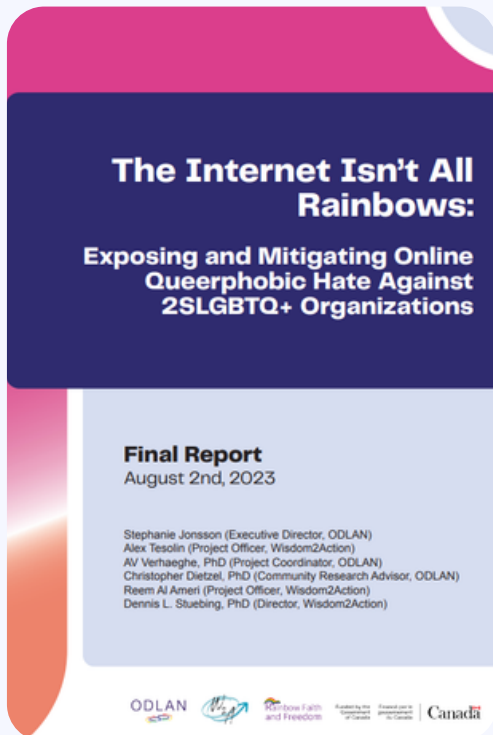

📣 New Team Member Alert!

Christopher Dietzel, Ph.D. (he/him) is a researcher who works on projects at McGill University, Concordia University, Dalhousie University, and Western University. Chris' research explores the intersections of gender, sexuality, health, safety, and with ODLAN, he facilitates workshops and provides support on community-based research projects. Chris is an avid traveler and a social butterfly; he likes biking, spending time outdoors, playing board games, and dancing like nobody is watching.

ODLAN appreciates all of our volunteer and team contributions. It is their knowledge and expertise that help grow the ODLAN initiative.

Research Report Launch

The Internet Isn't All Rainbows:

Exposing and Mitigating Online Queerphobic Hate Against 2SLGBTQ+ Organizations

Final Report
August 2nd, 2023

Stephanie Jonsson (Executive Director, ODLAN)
Alex Tesolin (Project Officer, Wisdom2Action)
AV Verhaeghe, PhD (Project Coordinator, ODLAN)
Christopher Dietzel, PhD (Community Research Advisor, ODLAN)
Reem Al Ameri (Project Officer, Wisdom2Action)
Dennis L. Stuebing, PhD (Director, Wisdom2Action)

ODLAN

Thank you to everyone who came out to our research report launch for our project, "Possible Practices for Protecting Organizations from Queerphobic Online Hate." We had a wonderful time meeting all of you and discussing the importance of queer digital safety.

Thank you to our speakers, Dr. Christopher Dietzel, leZlie lee kam, Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, Alex Tesolin, and Dr. Dennis Stuebing for sharing their knowledge and insights with us. Thank you to Buddies in Bad Times Theatre for hosting the event.

An extra big thank you goes out to our volunteers without whom this event would not have been possible.

To those who were not able to make it to the event, our report is available here and through our our website.

Webinars

We are pleased to announce that starting this fall, ODLAN will be hosting a regular series of webinars on various topics related to digital safety and inclusion.

See below for dates and details on upcoming webinars.

ODLAN Meet & Greet
September 22, 2023 - 12PM (EDT)

Invisibility of Rainbow Seniors: Reflections on Long-term Care Inequities
September 26, 2023 - 12PM (EDT)

☑ Digital Accessibility Tools: Alt Text + Image Description
October 3, 2023 - 12PM (EDT)

☑ Cybersafe & Proud: Online Safety Tips for Rainbow Communities
October 20, 2023 - 12PM (EDT)

DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR ALL!

University of Waterloo Stabbing

On June 28th, multiple students and an instructor were stabbed in a gender studies class at the University of Waterloo. This incident is only one example of a broader rise in anti-2SLGBTQIA+ and anti-feminist attitudes in Canada. Both in-person and online, conversations surrounding queerness are becoming more heavily monitored, censored, and dangerous.

As an organization that is made up largely of gender studies students, we are incredibly disturbed by this news. Queer digital safety has never been more important. We hope you will continue to stand with ODLAN, other 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, and gender studies students everywhere as we continue to tackle these hard conversations.

Connect with us today

We are always looking to grow our network and find new people to collaborate with. If you think your organization might be a good fit, reach out to us!

Additionally, if you are looking to volunteer with ODLAN please email vounteer.coordinator@odlan.ca

LET'S CHAT!

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