Digital Equity & the Digital Divide

➢ There is a digital divide in Ontario – some have access to Internet connected devices and services and some do not. This digital divide is affected by many things, including where you live, your income level, and your comfort level in using technology.

➢ Millions in rural and remote areas in Canada have less access to high quality Internet services, and often pay more for lower quality services. [1]

➢ Canadian Internet Registration Authority data has shown that median Internet upload speeds for rural users are consistently **10 times slower** that urban speeds, on average. [2]

➢ Being unable to access Internet connected devices and services leaves many without access to digitally delivered health and well-being related programs, services and information. [3, 4, 5] It also impacts access to education and employment, two powerful and interconnected determinants of health; for example, not having quality Internet services means no online health services, it reduces options for social connection, and it prevents accessing online learning and employment opportunities. [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

Key Actions

Support strategies that fast-track the advancement of digital equity and keep everyone connected through quality, affordable Internet and digital technology and services.

For more information on how you can close the digital divide, go to:

https://www.timiskaminghu.com/90490/community-supports#DigitalDivide

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