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MONTREAL - ICANN66 Welcome Ceremony  
Monday, November 4, 2019 - 09:00 to 10:00 EDT  
ICANN66 | Montréal, Canada

BRAD WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the opening ceremony of ICANN66. Please welcome the vice president of global stakeholder engagement for North America, Mr. Chris Mondini.

[ Applause ]

CHRIS MONDINI: Hello, and welcome to the 66th ICANN public meeting here in Montreal. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this most beautiful and charming city.

I would like to thank the representatives of the government of the Quebec Province as well as the representatives of the Federal Government of Canada. I will be able to introduce them formally in a little bit.

We are also delighted to have with us members of the Canadian First Nations communities and representatives of all of the Internet stakeholders, including technical experts, businesses, and civil society.

Before continuing in English, I must acknowledge all the work and excellent collaborative spirit of our Steering Committee, the rendez-vousmontreal66.quebec.

[ Applause ]

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**Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.**

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On behalf of ICANN, I thank you for your administrative, financial, and technological support as well as for the support received by many public and private partners. I would like also to acknowledge and thank OpenFace, provider of the Internet services for this meeting.

I will now continue in English.

If you wish to use the headsets in order to listen to the speeches in your preferred language, you can find them by the main entrance.

Why is Montreal such an excellent choice for an ICANN meeting? Well, for one thing, it's more than 4 million inhabitants include more than 120 nationalities. It is also a city of cultural and economic diversity, with a fascinating history. It is a leader in growing industries that are enabled by the global Internet, from artificial intelligence to video games.

It is also a city that is home to many of the industries already transformed by the Internet. Financial services, tourism, entertainment, to name a few.

But it is not just Canadian business that has been transformed by the Internet. For example, the Cyber Justice Laboratory, part of our host committee, has an innovative product in mobile justice, bringing judicial and administrative services to geographically remote and underserved communities. It is one of the many ways that the power of the Internet here is harnessed to improve and enrich people's lives.

I believe that Montreal's diversity and creativity very much mirrors that of ICANN. ICANN66 is bringing together diverse participants to make policy and to provide advice on the system of unique identifiers, the

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domain names and numeric addresses that make the global expanding and interoperable Internet happen.

We have over 1500 people registered to attend the meeting today. Many more are participating remotely online. They are from over 130 countries, here to participate in 330 work sessions. They represent technical communities, academia, governments, Internet end users, businesses, and civil society. Some of you here today have been with ICANN since its inception. On the other hand, for many of you here, this is your first ICANN meeting. And in my role of stakeholder engagements, I like to make a point of welcoming newcomers. So I would like to ask you now, if you are attending your first ICANN meeting, may I ask you to stand to please be recognized.

[ Cheers and applause ]

Welcome, and thank you. Thank you for being here.

This past week we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Internet, and you may have seen in the news about the pioneers, the engineers, the inventors, and the visionaries who made it happen. And we are honored to have many of them here today. And we will be recognizing a number of community leaders in the session on Wednesday.

Montreal is sometimes called the City of Saints. and thanks to this meeting, I think there are more saints than usual here today. For your countless hours, your hard work volunteering to tackle complex policy topics, for your tremendous empathy, your listening skills, your commitment to the global Internet, and for you, our newcomers, your

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willingness to learn the workings of the Domain Name System and the complexities of the ICANN community, I would like to declare you all honorary saints.

[ Cheers and applause ]

Which brings me to our next speaker. At ICANN61 in Puerto Rico, I had the honor of introducing him in his first appearance at ICANN's Board Chair, and it is now my great pleasure to introduce him to you as his term draws to a close.

Please welcome the illustrious chairman of ICANN's Board of Directors, Mr. Cherine Chalaby.

[ Cheers and applause ]

MR. CHERINE CHALABY: Thank you, Chris. Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests and hosts, hello, everyone, and welcome to Montreal, Canada's crown jewel. I hope that you will have the opportunity to explore this city. It is so exciting, so lively, similarly to the rest of Quebec.

It is an honor and a pleasure to welcome you to ICANN66. We have ahead of you an important and intense week. Thanks to our combined efforts, I trust that we will make significant progress on a number of questions that go to the heart of our activities.

Here in Montreal we're gathering as a community for the first time since two of our beloved colleagues, Tarek Kamel and Don Blumenthal, sadly

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passed away. Göran will pay tribute to Don when he speaks to you shortly, and I will talk about Tarek.

Let me first extend the community's heart-felt sympathy to Tarek's wife, Iman, and his son and daughter, Omar and Heba. Iman and Omar are here with us this morning sitting in the front row, and we welcome them. They'll be with us on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for a special event to celebrate Tarek's life. I invite you all to join us for this event.

Tarek died just over a month ago at the young age of 57. He was my good friend. Really one of a kind. He always made time for me, always encouraged me, and always advised me with great sincerity. I can't adequately do justice to how remarkable Tarek was. Perhaps the best way is to recount the very few of the hundreds of eulogies that have been written about him. Many eulogies touch upon his generosity of spirit. Here are some.

Tarek had the unique ability to bring people together and forget our differences. I think the reason for that was his big heart.

During tough times, he was in some ways like a real doctor, always ready to listen to someone's issues and always ready to suggest a treatment for a problem.

I wish we all listen more and try to help, just like Tarek did.

Tarek touched the lives of many people, with his amazing humbleness and selfless friendship.

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Perhaps the most poignant eulogies tell us about the private man. Tarek was a quiet giant, much like the pyramids of his birthplace.

He showed incredible bravery in fighting against his illness, and even while in the worst of it, he was devoted to ICANN until the very end. And most importantly, Tarek lived for his family.

A dedicated husband and father who fought so hard for so long to stay with them. We were truly fortunate to have had Tarek as a member of our community for almost two decades. Sadly, he left us too early. A great man. A great loss.

Farewell, my good friend. Or as they say in the land of the Nile (non-English word or phrase).

Ladies and gentlemen, may I respectfully ask you to stand for a moment of silence in memory of Tarek and Don.

(Moment of silence)

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

I'm sure you all know this is my final public meeting as ICANN chair, and I'm honored and delighted to speak to you today, albeit for the last time.

I will retire at the end of this week and will fly home with many wonderful memories and a great sense of achievement.

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At the beginning of my tenure as chair, in November of 2017, the Board and I set our sights on ICANN's future. In particular, we worked with our community and ICANN org on the development of three critical plans to define the future. Since then, at every ICANN meeting I have reported to you our collective progress on these plans. Hence, before I hand over to my successor, I would like to share with you our latest successes.

Firstly, I am pleased to report that the new ICANN strategic plan for fiscal years 2021 to 2025 has been formally adopted by the Board.

Secondly, the new operating and financial plan for the same fiscal years has been developed and will be published for public comment in December 2019 as agreed. It will show that our strategic plan is realistic and affordable.

Lastly, the work plan to improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model is also scheduled to be published in December 2019 for public comment. It will list the issues identified by our community and suggested approaches for addressing them over the five-year period of the strategic plan.

At this stage, I wish to emphasize we are not looking for solutions but, rather, approaches that will eventually lead to solutions.

These three plans are comprehensive and far-reaching, and there are no barriers to their successful implementation. A remarkable achievement by all of us. ICANN's future is, therefore, in our hands.

Mahatma Gandhi once said the future depends on what we do in the present. So let's take a moment to assess how ICANN is doing at

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present, three years after the IANA stewardship transition. In particular, is ICANN fulfilling the transition promise, and is it functioning as a mature corporation capable of tackling its external and internal challenges?

Starting with the transition promise, there is no doubt that ICANN today is upholding and maintaining the four principles upon which the transition was agreed. We are supporting our multistakeholder model and are working on improving it. We are maintaining the security, stability, and resilience of the Internet Domain Name System. We are meeting the needs and expectations of the global customers and partners of the IANA services, and we have adopted a new strategic vision of being a champion of the single open and globally interoperable Internet and the trusted steward of its unique identifier because we believe that the Internet must belong to everyone and must remain an engine for innovation and continued growth, economic growth.

Furthermore, the implementation of the bylaw changes stipulated by the transition has ensured that ICANN remains truly independent and not open to capture. And the nine powers given to our community have enhanced ICANN's accountability, checks and balances.

We also made important changes over the past three years that have strengthened ICANN's capability and its financial sustainability. Most notably, ICANN's technology is more robust and improving following investments in infrastructure and new applications. ICANN Org, under Göran's leadership, is more streamlined, better organized, and much



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more service oriented. Operating expenses are firmly under control as a result of strong fiscal disciplines applied by management and the Board. ICANN funds under management are protected by a sound and strict investment policy. And the reserve fund has increased considerably to 85% of its target thanks to one-time significant contribution from the auction proceeds and higher than plans annual contributions from operational savings.

Additionally, the Board implemented significant improvements to its operational effectiveness, transparency, and succession planning. And the transfer of responsibilities from myself to Maarten Botterman has happened in a smooth and assured way just as it did two years ago when I succeeded Steve Crocker. All of these are hallmarks of a mature, privately-led ICANN with the necessary safeguards for its continued success and independence.

This level of maturity that ICANN has attained gives us the fortitude to face the uncertainties of the future and the resolve to address our internal challenges.

With regard to the uncertainties of the future, we acknowledge that in the next five years, ICANN will face more external challenges than ever before, such as the exponential growth in security threats and the increasing risks of Internet fragmentation. But we have developed a bold and decisive strategic plan that responds to these challenges so that we can take ICANN where we want it to be.

As for the internal challenges, we acknowledge that to continue to evolve, we must resolve our complex and often conflicting issues, such

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as prioritizing our work to enable us to make optimal use of ICANN's limited resources. Enhancing and streamline the large number of ICANN reviews that are conducted each year. Addressing abuse to the Domain Name System. Developing a new governance structure for the DNS Root Server System. Addressing human rights and anti-harassment issues. And evolving our multistakeholder model as mentioned earlier.

These tough issues have been put on the back burner for several years. If we continue to leave them unattended, they could tear into the fabric of our community. To resolve them, we need to be open to new ways, ideas, and thoughts. Mistakes will undoubtedly happen, but mistakes are a proof that we are trying. And without trying, progress may never be made.

We're all in it together. What makes us strong is that we keep faith in each other and trust our own compass.

Another sign of our strengths is that we acknowledge that our public role and public records are quite rightly subject to public scrutiny. We understand the importance of the scrutiny, accept it and learn from it. The future, therefore, bodes well for ICANN, because it has a stable and solid platform from which to carry out its new vision and strategic plan.

And when looking to the future, we must never forget that ICANN's legitimacy and its grant of authority come from our global multistakeholder community and from the commitment of this community to come together to develop and be bound by consensus policies within ICANN's mission.

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Our multistakeholder model is special. I wholeheartedly believe in it as a model of governance, collaboration, and consensus building; a model that empowers our stakeholders from all over the world because it has no borders, no centralized power, and no kill switch. It served us well for the past 21 years and will continue to do so in years to come.

Our community is also special. A diverse community comprised of people who are motivated by their commitment to do the public good and by their duty to do what they believe is right for the billions of Internet users and future generations. I consider myself a very lucky person to have had the opportunity to be part of this community and serve the global public interest.

It is that belief and that opportunity to serve that drove me throughout my time on the Board. Working with ICANN allowed me to give something back. It reinforced my belief and my conviction that giving is far more important than taking.

In his book entitled the "Prophet," the world renowned Lebanese poet Gibran Khalil Gibran wrote, "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

In that spirit, I hope simply to leave you with a few thoughts to think about as you look to the future.

To my colleagues on the Board, you are ready for what lies ahead. Remain strategic and forward thinking. Continue to build a transparent relationship with our community and be its trusted and reliable partner. And always remember that it is the character we have, the values we

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uphold, and the ways we support each other that makes us a united and collegial board.

To ICANN org, without you our strategies and our dreams with never become a reality. Your role is to serve the community, support the Board, and above all, ensure ICANN meets all its legal, financial, and fiduciary responsibilities. Continue to do so with integrity, objectivity and a commitment to quality.

And to our community, progress is not possible without change. Do not hesitate to evolve our multistakeholder model working closely with the Board and ICANN org. Break down the silos, treat each other and staff with respect and professionalism, and ensure you work well together in protecting ICANN's future.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for supporting me throughout the past nine years. My first thank you goes to the Nominating Committee for electing me to the Board three times in a row.

[ Applause ]

You gave me a chance of a lifetime.

Thank you to the community for welcoming me in my early years. I joined the ICANN Board as an outsider, but you embraced me, encouraged me, and willed me on to succeed every step of the way. I look forward to thanking many of you in person during this week.

Thank you to ICANN org executives and staff for your unwavering loyalty and commitment. The work you and your team have done is

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above and beyond what my expectations were coming into the chair position.

Thank you to my colleagues on the Board, past and present, for your support and for giving me the opportunity to be chair. Your openness to make reforms, to how we structure our work, and how we engage with each other and our community made us a more trusted, transparent, and effective Board.

Thank you to Steve Crocker, my predecessor, for believing in me and for being such a wonderful mentor and friend.

Finally, and most importantly to me, I want to thank my wife Geraldine and my son James who are here with me in Montreal, and my four other children, Natalie, Rod, Odette and Cora who are listening remotely, so I'm told.

[ Laughter ]

I did not envisage the commitment I made nine years ago to be as extensive as it has been. I appreciate the sacrifices my family made. Without your love and support, I could not, I could not have done this job that I have so much enjoyed.

The past nine years have been the greatest privilege and honor of my professional life. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all profusely. I bid you farewell and look forward to seeing what's next for ICANN. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

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Thank you.

[ Standing ovation ]

I enjoyed this last bit quite a lot.

[ Laughter ]

And now I have the pleasure -- yeah, you can keep going, if you want.

[ Laughter ]

And now I have the pleasure of introducing Göran Marby, President and CEO of ICANN org. Göran.

[ Applause ]

MR. GORAN MARBY:

Thank you.

Good morning.

As Cherine said, we have lost two important members of our community. One of them was a beloved community member, Don Blumenthal. I understand that many of you had the pleasure of working with him. He worked tirelessly over many years over many different roles to make the Internet a safer place for all of us. He worked in industry, government, and volunteered as a leader.

Don was a valued member of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, SSAC, as well as various ICANN policy development working groups. His expertise, hard work and grace and humor will be

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sorely missed by us. And to remember him, and by request, every ICANN meeting, I have the honor to have a meeting and a dinner with the tech community. That dinner will from now on will be called the Don Blumenthal Dinner.

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

The other person I would like to remember as well is my colleague, my friend, Tarek Kamel. It's hard for me to stand up here because his life meant so much for so many of us. His family, his friends, everybody here will remember a man that was larger than life. And, therefore, I would like to introduce that we will never forget him in ICANN. I announce that Tarek will be remembered in the community for the annual Tarek Kamel Award that will recognize individuals significantly contributing to capacity-building and creating diversity within our community. We haven't worked out the details yet, so I will have to come back to you.

[ Applause ]

So welcome to ICANN66, our annual general meeting and the three-year anniversary of the IANA stewardship transition. As with every AGM, we have a packed agenda, including the third At-Large Summit, which is taking place from Monday to Thursday.

ATLAS is a major part of what At-Large does, and it's a training opportunity for new people to come in and take important roles within At-Large and ICANN. And I would like to especially thank the leadership

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of At-Large for all the hard work they've done over the last year to be able to set this up. Give them a round of applause, please.

[ Applause ]

I came in three years ago, and one of the things that amazes me is how ICANN continues to evolve and adopts new challenges to work on.

Not all things happen fast. For instance, we are still having the opening ceremony in the morning. I'm still working on it!

So I told myself coming into this, what would Tarek say? What would his message be to all of us this morning? I mean, he's been around for two decades of this, and even longer. I met Tarek for the first time in 2009 when he was in Sharm El Sheikh. And I think that he often spoke about the fact that we're not done. We are working to get the next billion users online. That is our goal. Because we believe by connecting people on this thing, we call the Internet, something magical happens. ICANN as an institution, it doesn't matter about financial systems or, in that sense, economic growth. But we do believe in the fact that if you connect people on this thing, we call the Internet, something magical actually happens. It's about sharing information with each other.

And why the multistakeholder model? Think about it for a second. In this room now, in this meeting now, we have 2 1/2 thousand people from 130 countries. Can you tell me any other occasions where so many individuals around the world actually comes together to talk about a common goal? I can't think about it. Maybe the Olympics.



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The fact of the matter is that you are unique and ICANN as its substance is unique. What makes it unique is you, the diversity, the differences, the difference of opinions that you all bring together. That is really what ICANN is all about.

And we do that in most of the times with respect for each other. We do that by sometimes arguing, sometimes even shouting. But we reach the consensus in the end. And I don't think -- and I've called ICANN before a large peace project. And I still believe it is. And it's thanks to you. And I know Tarek is looking down on us and saying, "You're doing okay," as such.

We are also losing Cherine. He's actually quite old, even if he doesn't look so.

[ Laughter ]

I want to say this joke was written by his speech writer.

[ Laughter ]

Or as they say, "He's still alive."

I want to take this opportunity to honor Cherine. He was heavily involved in hiring me. Don't say that as a negative. I actually liked it.

He's been with us for nine years. He's been a clear leader. And the remarkable thing is that he didn't come from the Internet ecosystem. He was thrown in by the NomCom. And he immediately, I understand, adapted to this greater thing that ICANN represents. And you welcomed him and trained him. And his passion, wisdom, sometimes business

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acumen, has served us well. I think that Cherine's leadership, together with many of yours, was very important during the transition. And, actually, thanks to his hard work, we're a more mature, more transparent organization, united much more in a common vision of achieving our strategic plan.

A great leader possesses many qualities. They inspire us. They make us come together. They guide us, even in a road that's a little bit unclear. They show us and make sure that we remember to do the right thing. They show us compassion and understanding, no matter how difficult things get.

Cherine has many of those qualities. You know when he speaks -- which I'm trying to learn from -- he thinks about every word he says.

And I know that what you said is honestly, is that now with Maarten stepping on board, you helped him. You helped him to understand what it means to be the chair of ICANN.

Cherine, I think you're the best chairman we ever had.

Maarten, you will be even better.

[ Laughter ]

So thank you very much for everything you've done for us. And I look forward to seeing you. Maybe at NomCom?

So just coming up here, Geraldine said to me, "You don't even mention me." And you know how well I take orders, do you?

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My staff just looked at me.

So thank you, Geraldine, and to your family, for patiently waiting for nine years to get your husband back. He's been a very important part of our community. You will get him back now.

But as a small token of respect, we would like to present you with this.

Coming up on stage.

[ Applause ]

Yes.

[ Laughter ]

Every year the ICANN executive team --

[ Laughter ]

Security?

[ Laughter ]

Every year the ICANN Leadership Award is presented to an outstanding individual in our community who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to ICANN. The winner, chosen by the ICANN org executive team, is someone who remains true to the community's true values.

This year's winner has demonstrated a level of commitment and passion that is unrivaled and is someone I'm honored to consider both a friend and a colleague. So please join me on stage for the well-

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deserved winner of this year's ICANN Leadership Award, Cherine Chalaby.

[ Applause ]

So I have only one more thing to say. I checked my notes, and I now can say this is going to be the best ICANN meeting ever. Welcome!

[ Applause ]

CHRIS MONDINI:

Wow. Thanks, Göran.

Congratulations, Cherine.

And now our guest. It is now my great pleasure to introduce Mr. Martin Aube, General Manager of Industrial Development at the Ministry of Economy and Innovation.

Mr. Aube is in charge of economic development, innovation, trade, and research to promote employment; to promote innovation, trade and research; to promote scientific progress in Quebec.

Mr. Aube, thank you so much for being with us today.

[ Applause ]

MARTIN AUBE:

Ladies and gentlemen, hello and welcome to Montreal. I'm glad to be here with you today in order to represent the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Quebec at this 66th ICANN meeting.

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I thank Rendez-Vous Montreal 66 for organizing this major event. This event highlights the Quebec information and communication technology industry as well as the province of Quebec.

As general manager of industrial development, I am well-positioned to notice the dynamism of ICTs at the worldwide level, but particularly here in Quebec. This industry is at the heart of the economic development of Quebec. It represents nearly \$36 billions of annual revenues, nearly \$900 million for investments in R&D every year, and more than 150,000 well-paid jobs in nearly 8,000 businesses spread out in all regions of Quebec. This industry is an engine for change in our society. It has a direct influence on business processes and deeply transforms the way we interact, and we talk to one another.

ICANN distinguishes itself on the global scene by advocating for a multistakeholder model which gives a voice to every constituency, be it companies, governments, civil society, and communities of the Internet universe, while trying to develop similar synergies in Quebec through several initiatives.

To illustrate my point, let me mention certain areas in which the minister or ministry supported collaborative initiatives during the last few years.

In the artificial intelligence and digital areas, Quebec is recognized for research and development, technology transfer, and creation of value-added products. We can rely on the expertise of several research centers, the Institute of Data Evaluation, IVADO, which regroups the University of Montreal and Polytechnique Montreal, the Center for

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Intelligent Machines of McGill University, the Big Data Research Center of Laval University in Concordia, and the Computer Research Center of Montreal.

Such players enable Montreal to become a first-rate scientific poll not only regarding technical aspects but also about responsible development of artificial intelligence. Several large companies are interested in our ecosystem with our Declaration of Montreal from the University of Montreal. Several large companies are interested in our ecosystem. They develop or participate in collaborative innovation projects such as the logistical supercluster in logistics, the TELUS aerospace company as well, and the financial technology IA Factory@National Bank.

Such initiatives contribute in stimulating investments in artificial intelligence in order for it to become an innovate strategic tool accessible to most people.

Young talents, supported by incubators and by boosters and accelerators, do create startups based on emerging technologies.

Another example, smart cities, a new reality pretty soon. When digital technologies are ever-present in our society and do spread quickly, they represent an integral part of our environments. The question is not to know if the use of data and digital technologies is a good or bad solution; it is, rather, to choose which values and principles we want to retain in order to choose our technologies and digital data management.

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To answer to the democratic features of the smart cities, the Quebec authorities do favor open data and the creation of an open government. An action plan for accessibility and open data sharing between public entities is developed by the treasury secretariat in order to implement continuous activities and projects.

At stake with such initiatives are ethical issues. It's touching upon data protection, promotion of the common good, equality, and privacy. No doubt that the work of ICANN related to data security is closely followed by our governmental authorities.

They are here present with us.

It is no surprise that 5G technology represents a strong economic development potential. It will enable to improve employee expertise and develop state-of-the-art products and services. That is where the government of Quebec is a partner of the Cloud Services Evolution Project in the Quebec Ontario corridor for research and development, commonly called ENCQOR. This project consists of a partnership emphasizing research and development pertaining to 5G technologies. It regroups five large technological companies, small- and medium-sized businesses, the public sector, innovation centers, and universities working on adoption techniques and systems usage.

The five-year strategy consists of making 5G technologies accessible to SMEs, researchers in academia, realizing the full 5G technology potential, and promote economic growth as well in innovation ecosystems in the Province of Quebec and in the country of Canada.

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The five ENCQOR 5G hubs are today fully functional and Quebec companies can already benefit from it. The goal is to speed up innovation by encouraging companies to rely more on digital opportunities. It is by collaborating between different industry players that we can improve our knowledge, giving us the key to increase our productivity and collective wealth.

The last example I'd like to mention in order to conclude, the government of authority-supported .QUEBEC in order to purchase and manage its own top-level domain. Quebec now possesses its own .QUEBEC extension, which is a first in candidate. This extension enabled Quebec to develop its expertise in digital extensions management which could make it one of the first regions in the French-speaking world to have an acute accent on the E which would be present in the .QUEBEC extension. This will be made possible by an ICANN endeavor to value languages and cultures from the entire world.

I wish you a good meeting. And please do not miss tonight the Flip Fabrique circus performance, a company coming from the City of Quebec which is really worth discovering.

Thank you so much for your attention. Have a good meeting. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

CHRIS MONDINI:

Thank you, Mr. Aube.



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I now would like to introduce my fellow economist, Lisa Setlakwe. Ms. Setlakwe is the senior assistant deputy minister of the Strategy and Innovation Policy Sector at the Department of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development for the government of Canada.

Ms. Setlakwe's responsibilities include innovation, trade, telecommunications, Internet policy, marketplace frameworks, and many, many more.

May I please welcome Lisa Setlakwe.

[ Applause ]

LISA SETLAKWE:

Thank you. Good morning, distinguished members of the ICANN community, the ICANN Board of Directors, and the ICANN organization. It is really truly an honor to welcome you on behalf of the government of Canada.

It is a privilege for me to address the ICANN community here in Montreal, a dynamic and innovating city endowed with a rich history and culture.

-- and meeting in Montreal in 2003, in Vancouver in 2005 and most recently in Toronto in 2012.

The government of Canada is grateful to the official host of Rendez-Vous Montreal 66 and to all of the sponsors who have organized this face-to-face meeting, which will facilitate the exchange of viewpoints

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on key topics and the realization of significant progress on pressing challenges for this community.

-- of ICANN in 1998, we are proud of many Canadian stakeholders actively helping to shape the organization. Canada is home to one of the first country code top-level domain operators, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority, CIRA.

I got my hat yesterday -- thank you for those that gave me the toque for the colder weather -- and the world's second-largest registrar, Tucows.

The government of Canada was one of the founding members of the Government Advisory Committee, or GAC, when it was created in 1999. And Canada acted as both chair and vice chair within the GAC. By collaborating with all of you, the Canadians contributed to ICANN becoming an accountable worldwide organization.

The government of Canada has contributed to ICANN's unique multistakeholder model where governments work alongside business, civil society, academic, and technical experts. ICANN policies have been and will continue to be crucial to the development of the Internet.

-- about the principles of diversity, inclusion, and consensus-based decision-making which really are at the heart of ICANN's multistakeholder model.

They enable us to move beyond individual interests and respond collectively, especially when challenging and complex issues arise.

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Canada considers that these face-to-face meetings at ICANN are essential in order to get to a common understanding of the technical challenges ICANN is faced with and of the difference public policy viewpoints that are at stake.

-- meaningful exchanges and by building a common understanding that we can ensure we are working together to keep the Internet open, secure, and interoperable.

At the time when the new wave of Internet users are coming online, it is crucial to take advantage of the multistakeholder model in order to increase geographic representation and the effective engagement of all countries in the ICANN ecosystem.

During the meeting in Montreal, I know the community will make progress on some key issues. For example, phase 2 of ICANN's compliance with the European General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR, and reviewing the 2012 round of new generic top-level domains.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the hard work and the commitment of all in these areas. We are aware that those are complex tasks and that all points of view need to be taken into account.

In the future, let us not lose sight of our commitment within the ICANN community, our commitment to work with the Board and ICANN org in order to establish the five-year strategic plan for ICANN for the 2021 to 2025 time frame.

-- the security of domain name system, DNS, and the DNS root service system, enhancing ICANN's multistakeholder governance model,

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evolving the unique identifier systems to continue to serve the needs of Internet users, addressing geopolitical issues, and ensuring ICANN's long-term financial sustainability. We believe that these objectives reflect the top priorities that we have defined together and that they establish a transparent foundation for our work.

To conclude, I am delighted that you are all back here in Montreal. I would encourage you to continue the excellent work that you have been doing over the course of the next meetings.

-- to advancing our quality of life and our collective prosperity. And ICANN has an important part to play.

Thank you for your time and your attention. Thank you for attending the ICANN66 meeting in Montreal.

[ Applause ]

CHRIS MONDINI:

Thank you very much, Lisa. To close out our program, allow me to introduce our final speaker. He is an award-winning journalist and communication specialist, Bruno Guglielminetti.

In addition to having a beautiful Italian surname, Bruno is an independent consultant in digital communication strategy. He lectures, trains, and provides analysis on digital media. More than 80,000 subscribers trust him on Twitter every day and his weekly podcast, "My Carnet," is an essential review of the digital news.

Please join me in welcoming Bruno Guglielminetti.

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[ Applause ]

BRUNO GUGLIELMINETTI: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. If I may, I would like to start welcoming you in Montreal on my own behalf but also on behalf of CEFRIO, an organization of which I am the spokesperson and that has been supporting Quebecers in adoption of digital technologies for more than 30 years.

-- ICANN to come back in Montreal. But this morning, I'm really happy and also honored to see you again in my hometown.

I have covered technology for 25 years, and I still remember the day I announced the creation of ICANN. I was working at the CBC. And everybody was wondering what the heck ICANN would do. But I would say that now we know what you're doing.

I saw -- through all those years, I saw firsthand the importance that you have in the life of billions of Internet users, making sure that everyone has a simple and safe journey on the cyber world. And at the same time, I see you working on all those new challenges that appear now in front of us, all those decisions that you must make some technical but also some other data-political impact.

For all that work you are doing on behalf of the users, the companies, and the government who believe in the future of the Internet and the safe Internet, thank you.

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You know, I can't imagine an Internet without you. The fact that the Internet is being used so widely throughout the world is in great part due to the addressing system that you have managed and protected which evolves constantly in a world where change is the norm. Your ability to understand the challenges and to innovate at the right time confirms, once again, how important you are. And I would like in passing to thank you, personally also in the name of all the Quebecers for having given us the .QUEBEC back in 2013.

-- get a chance to meet with Montreal's finest, and I'm not talking about food. No, I'm talking about leaders from the ICT and AI community who are shaping the world from Montreal and who are acclaimed worldwide. Let me give you two examples.

Fluent.ai offer a patented (indiscernible) recognition solution which works with most language and accent allowing for natural language interaction with voice-operated system and machine.

My second example, Imagia, who use deep learning to analyze medical imaging that allow to predict cancer patient outcome with increasing accuracy. And that's the good news. So far, I have talked about great things that you can see in Montreal, but I don't want to forget Quebec City.

It was mentioned earlier, in Quebec, the Big Data Research Center de Universite de Laval is ready to receive billions of data generated by research from a company or government. And, by the way, if you are ever looking for a new location to store data, a secure place with WiFi and cost effective are available in Quebec.

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You should think about the province of Quebec where you will find great opportunity because of our abundance of electricity and also cold weather, but it's throughout the year. The rest is working (indiscernible) and based on electricity. It's like if Quebec was created to our best data center.

This week you have a lot of work in front of you. To name a few, I'm thinking about obviously unified access model, DNS abuse, and the new round of application for the new TLD.

These tasks of the different constituencies, of the advisory committees and supporting organizations within ICANN, are vital to fashion the Internet of tomorrow.

I hope you find the time to network with a member of the Quebec delegation and discover the great resources and partnership that the province of Quebec has to offer you while you're here and when you go back to your country.

Have a great conference in Montreal. Thank you for your attention. Au revoir.

[ Applause ]

CHRIS MONDINI:

Thank you, Bruno, for those remarks. Before we bring the session to a close, allow me to share an important logistical note. Tonight's ICANN66 celebration, Quebec Night, as Martin Aube mentioned, is an amazing performance by noted Quebec artists Flip Fabrique brought to

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you by our amazing host committee. It is an understatement to say that you will not want to miss this performance.

[ Music ]

[ Applause ]

This takes place downstairs in room 210C. The doors open at 6:30. Please be there promptly to enjoy the performance. And with that, I thank you all and wish you a very productive meeting. Thanks.

[ Applause ]

[ END OF TRANSCRIPT ]