



Digital Sovereignty for Indigenous Communities

Bridging the Digital Divide through Internet Governance

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Overview of the Digital Divide

01.

Limited broadband infrastructure in remote areas.

02.

Barriers to participation in the global digital economy.

03.

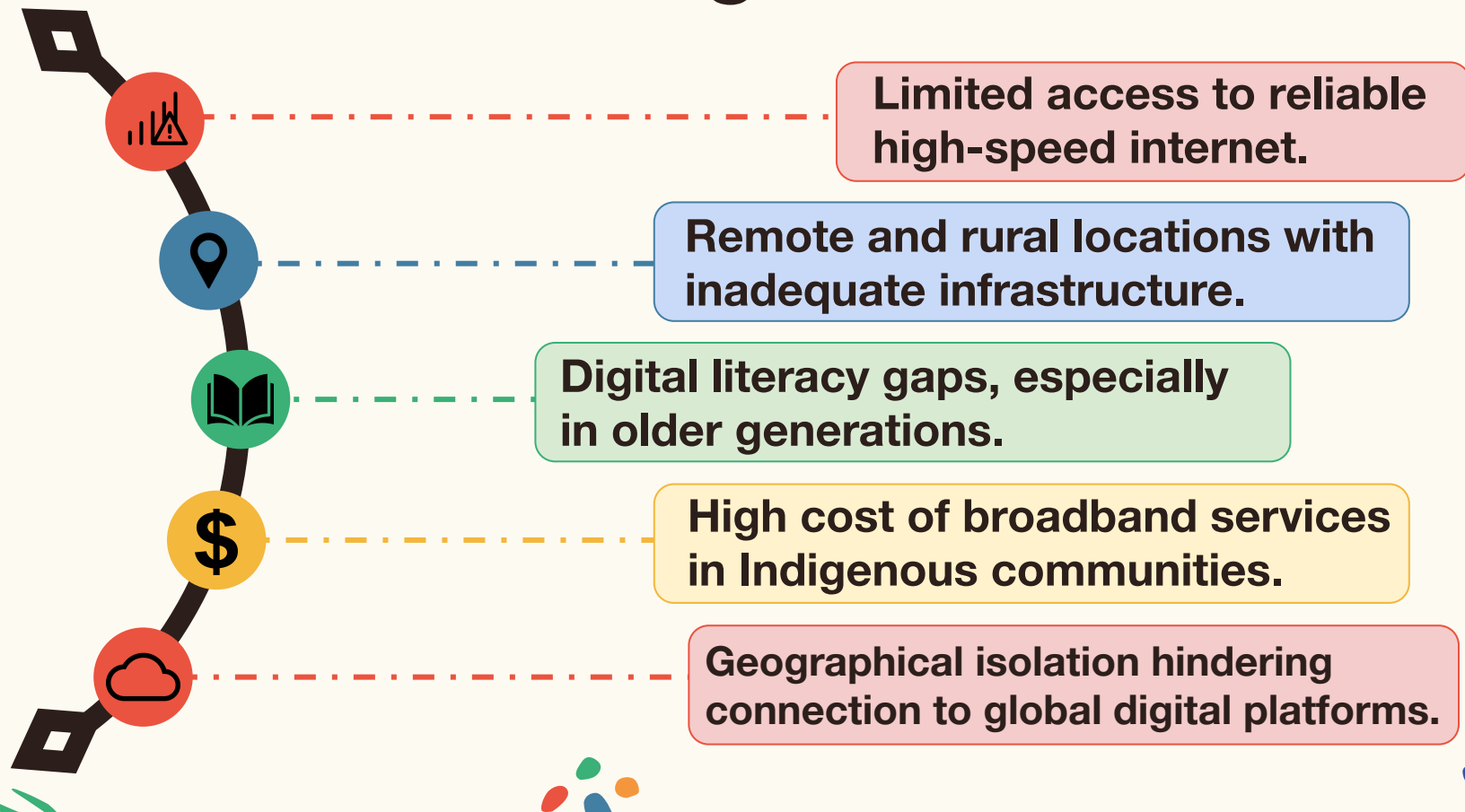
Challenges of digital exclusion for Indigenous communities

In Saskatchewan, the number of on-reserve households with access to the CRTC's standard for high-speed internet is just 1.7%. In Manitoba, the number is 2% (CRTC, 2019).

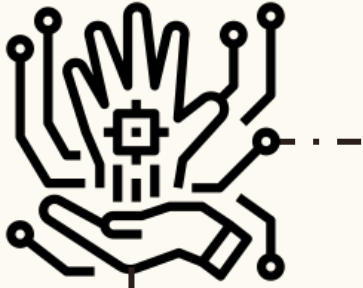


Bridging the digital divide is not just about access; it's about empowering Indigenous communities to engage fully in the global digital economy and to have control over their online identities.

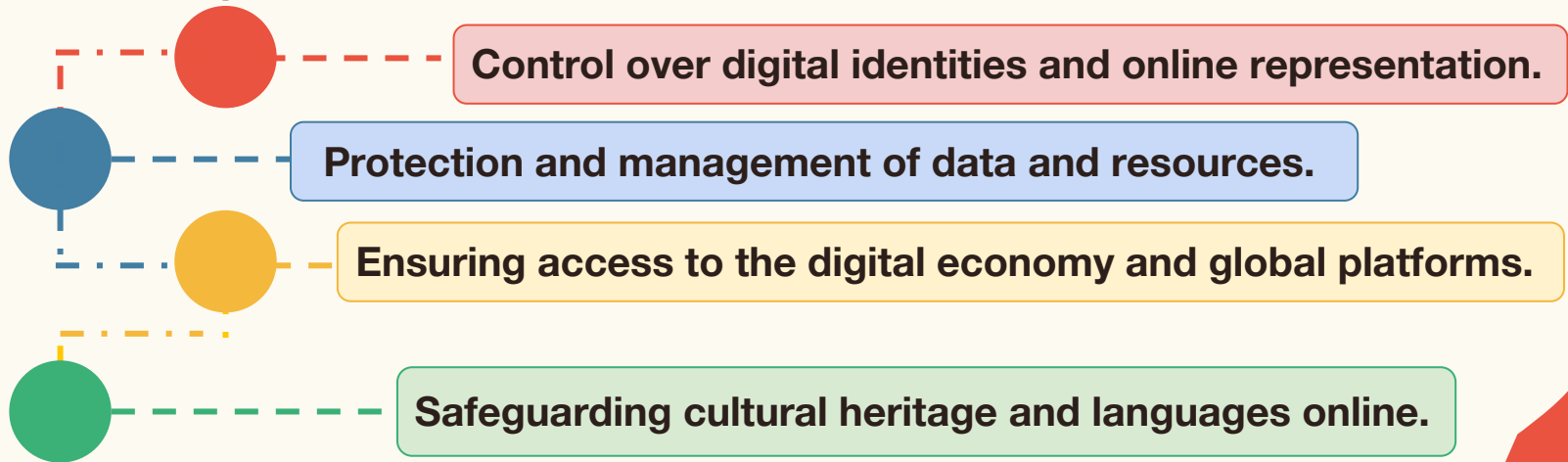
Barriers to Digital Access



What is Digital Sovereignty?



Digital sovereignty refers to the right of Indigenous peoples to govern their digital identities, resources, and data. It encompasses the ability to manage how their communities interact with the digital world and protect their cultural heritage online.



Connecting Digital Sovereignty to ICANN's Work

ICANN's role in global internet governance can empower Indigenous communities by ensuring their digital rights are respected and that they have a voice in policy decisions regarding domain names, data management, and digital infrastructure.



- Including Indigenous perspectives in ICANN's policy discussions.
- Advocating for equitable access to global digital platforms.
- Supporting Indigenous-led initiatives for digital infrastructure.
- Ensuring cultural heritage is safeguarded online.

The Impact of Internet Governance on Indigenous Communities



Limited access to digital resources and platforms.

Inability to control or manage digital identities.

Exclusion from shaping policies that affect their digital presence.

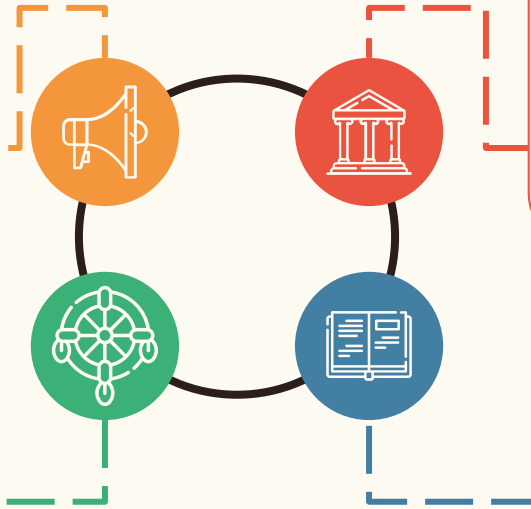
Risk of cultural misrepresentation or erasure online.

Internet governance affects every aspect of Indigenous communities' ability to participate in the global digital economy, express cultural identities, access essential services, and safeguard their knowledge and resources online. Policies that limit access or fail to include Indigenous voices perpetuate digital inequity and cultural erasure.

Practical Recommendations for Increasing Indigenous Engagement

**Develop
Indigenous-led
digital infrastructure
and community
technology hubs.**

**Implement
initiatives to
protect Indigenous
cultural heritage
and data online.**



**Create collaborative
platforms between
Indigenous leaders
and Internet
governance bodies**

**Establish targeted
capacity-building
programs to increase
digital literacy.**

Actionable Steps for ICANN



Provide funding for Indigenous-led digital infrastructure projects.



Support capacity-building initiatives focused on digital literacy and internet governance.



Facilitate Indigenous representation in ICANN's policy-making processes.



Collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop online platforms for cultural preservation.



Ensure Indigenous digital rights are prioritized in global Internet governance discussions.

Conclusion: The Role of Internet Governance in Shaping a Digital Future for Indigenous Peoples

Inclusive internet governance that respects Indigenous digital sovereignty is crucial for empowering communities, safeguarding cultural heritage, and ensuring equitable access to the global digital economy. By working together, we can create a digital future where Indigenous peoples have control over their data, identities, and participation in digital spaces.



MAARSII!

Let's continue the conversation—feel free to reach out after the presentation!

Connect with me at [Justinrlangan.com](https://justinrlangan.com)
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