



Bridging the digital divide in Canada

How you can get involved

The issue

The digital divide connection gap has created barriers for communities to access essential social, educational and financial services, while also opening gaps in the digital literacy and digital skills required to participate in today's economy. Rural and remote communities, marginalized communities, and visible minority groups are most impacted across Canada.

The digital divide has major social inequality impacts across Canada and requires a collective effort in bringing true digital equity to all communities.

The EY Ripples Digital Divide Program



Program objective:

Reduce the digital, social and opportunity inequalities caused by the digital divide in Canada.

Program goals:

1. Build a consortium of collaborators to create shared value in bridging the digital divide, with the EY organization and EY Ripples acting as an advocate while leveraging the multiplier effect.
2. Help improve device availability and digital mentoring.
3. Expand access to high-quality, reliable internet networks.
4. Help improve physical network infrastructure.

Using the multiplier effect of EY Ripples, the shared value created through Digital Divide initiatives will contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), thus helping bridge the extent of social inequalities seen between communities and track the consortium's collective impact.

4 pillars of the digital divide



Infrastructure

Lack of access to physical network infrastructure (high-quality broadband internet)



Quality of Service

Lack of access to high-quality or consistent internet connections (patchy service)



Equipment

Lack of access to internet-connected devices due to hardware and/or software unaffordability



Mentoring

Lack of digital mentoring to use internet-connected devices and connected digital services

How to get involved as a member of the EY Ripples Digital Divide consortium:



The consortium consists of groups focusing on infrastructure, quality of service and mentoring. By joining the consortium, teams can work nationally with EY professionals to build capabilities in their respective markets that will drive digital change.



The collective impact of the program will be measured against each of the pillars, linking to the set objective and goals that are reported on annually.

If you want to learn more and are interested in joining the EY Ripples Digital Divide consortium, please reach out to EYRipplesCanada@ca.ey.com.