

Indigenous Cyberactivism: The case of KO-Knet and MyKnet.org in Canada

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objective

- not case against ...
social media or specific services
- but case for ...
media / technology diversity that is **cultural diversity**
- through activist projects & practices



- UNESCO Interactive
Atlas of the World's
Languages in Danger

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/languages-atlas/en/atlasmap.html>

cyber / digital / online activism

- no single definition / no clear boundaries
- different activist practices, strategies, forms of, ...
- **social / political change** central
- a possible typology for cyberactivist practices (Vegh 2003):
 - (1) awareness / advocacy -> organizing & carrying out actions
 - (2) organization / mobilization -> call for actions
 - (3) action / reaction -> "hacktivism"
- need for **more research** -> historically informed, contextualized, ethnographic
- Vegh, Sandor (2003): Classifying forms of online activism: the case of cyberprotests against the World Bank. In: McCaughey, M., Ayers, M. D. (eds.) Cyberactivism: Online activism in theory and practice. New York & London: Routledge.

indigenous cyberactivism

- indigenous people / movements / groups early ICT adopters -> **improve political / sociocultural / economic situation**
- outreach / inreach initiatives (Landzelius 2006)
- outreach:
Zapatistas / EZLN in Mexico (1994) -> transnational networks of support & solidarisation use ICT -> electronic solidarity scapes -> counter publics -> political negotiations
- inreach:
KO-Knet in Canada (1994) -> ICT infrastructure -> ICT services
-> community owned & controlled
- Landzelius, Kyra (2006): Introduction: Native on the net. In: Landzelius, K. (ed.) Native on the net: Indigenous and diasporic peoples in the virtual age. New York & London: Routledge.

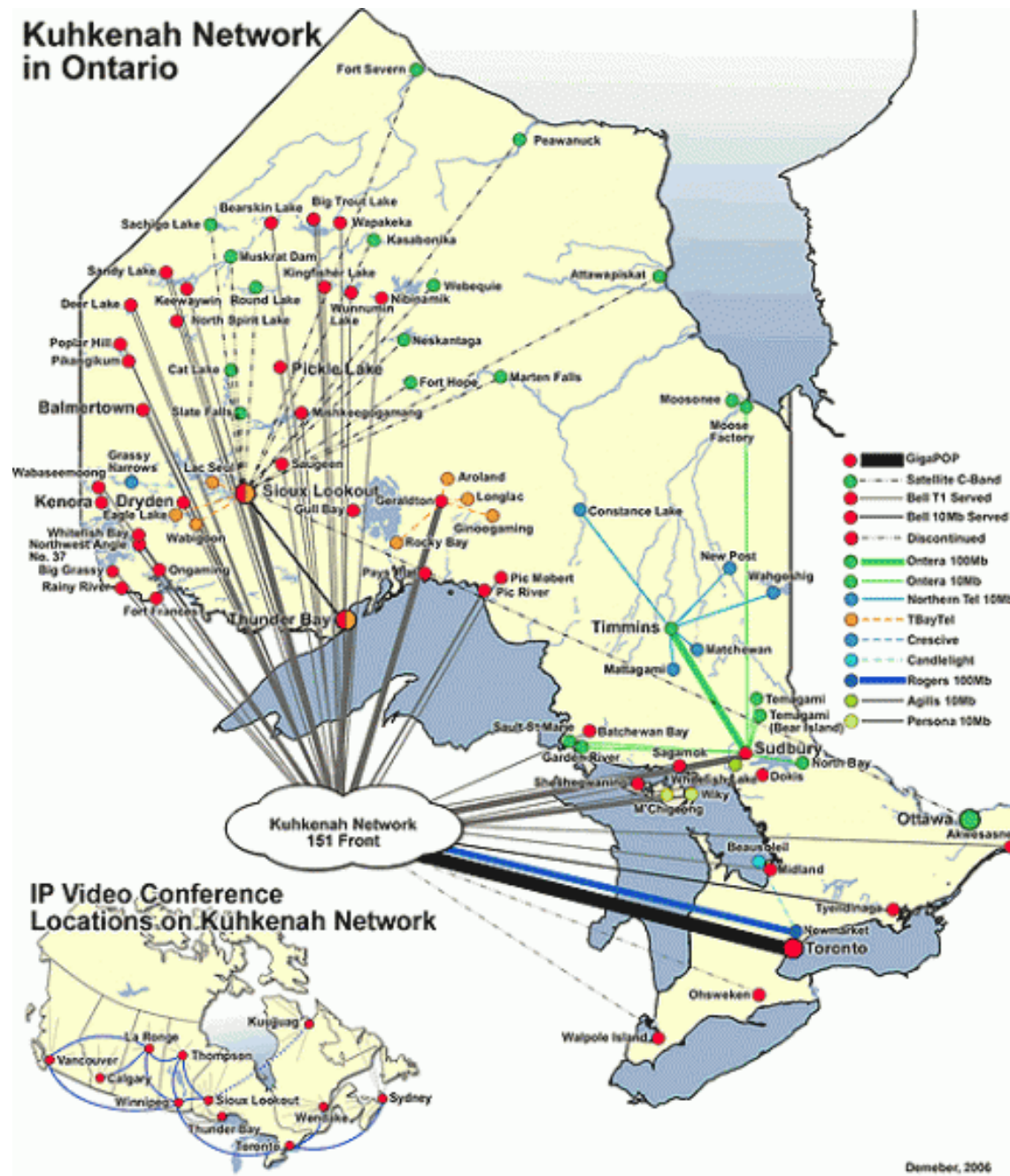
Keewaytinook Okimakanak's Kuhkenah Network (KO-Knet – www.knet.ca)

- **connecting** First Nation people & communities in northwestern Ontario -> remote region / isolated communities
- from bulletin board to broadband / satellite internet infrastructure & services
- telemedicine, internet high school, video conferencing, IP cell phone network, IT training, personal e-mail & web presence, ...
- The Journal of Community Informatics Special Issue (2009): CI & Indigenous Communities in Canada – The K-Net (Keewaytinook Okimakanak's Kuhkenah) Experience, <http://ci-journal.net/index.php/ciej/issue/view/27>



Budka - Indigenous Cyb

Kuhkenah Network in Ontario



MyKnet.org – "the native facebook"?

- (ad)free webspace -> personal homepages
- about 30.000 active accounts (total pop. 50.000)
- set-up for the youth (~50% < 24)
- users are also active producers
 - > creating **representations** of local daily life,
 - > learning to write, code, design, discuss
- MyKnet.org & Facebook (2011):
communicating / connecting via FB vs
designing / creating & gathering local info via MyKnet.org
- Budka, P., Bell, B., & Fiser, A. (2009): MyKnet.org: How Northern Ontario's First Nation communities made themselves at home on the World Wide Web. The Journal of Community Informatics, 5(2), <http://ci-journal.net/index.php/ciej/article/view/568/450>

“safe and healthy on-line space
for young people”

MyKnet.org - Homepages

http://www.myknet.org/

» Home » Homepages » Tutorials » Keewaytinook Okimakanak
» News » First Nations » Language » About K.O. » K-Net Services
» Email » Organizations » Arts & Crafts » Health » Contact
» Chat » Businesses » Youth » Highschool

MYKNET.ORG

HOME LOGIN SIGN UP USER'S LIST HELP

NOTICE!
K-Net was originally set up to provide a safe and healthy on-line space for young people. This same basis principle and requirement still exists today for everyone using the on-line services available on K-Net. Anyone creating a myKnet.org homepage is also required to follow this simple guideline. Therefore if any homepage contains material that another K-Net user finds offensive or inappropriate, the page will be suspended until this material is removed.

We do require everyone viewing these pages to write to homepages@knet.ca if they find any inappropriate material providing us with the name of the page and a description of the offensive material. Thank you for your support in helping make this on-line resource a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

If you are having problems or have a complaint against a site you can reach us and get help at [K-Net HELP Forums](#).

Attention Homepage users! Due to increased demand for bandwidth from each of the communities, MyKnet.org homepages are now going to be subject to a DAILY QUOTA that can be downloaded from any one individual homepage.

Click the link below for more information and to see the webpage that will be generated when a site has reached its quota.
<http://myknet.org/overquota.html>

MYKNET.ORG

http://www.myknet.org/toplist.php

» Home » Homepages » Tutorials » Keewaytinook Okimakanak
» News » First Nations » Language » About K.O. » K-Net Services
» Email » Organizations » Arts & Crafts » Health » Contact
» Chat » Businesses » Youth » Highschool

MYKNET.ORG

HOME LOGIN SIGN UP USER'S LIST HELP

Top 100 Homepages Ranked by Hits

This list is based on the myknet.org counter statistics that are on these persons homepage. You need to have the hit counter enabled in order to get list those counters that were broken in the past.

<http://clintmeekis.myknet.org> Hits: 3480674
<http://oliverdixon.myknet.org> Hits: 3294869
<http://lukewaboosie.myknet.org> Hits: 2909110
<http://ralphstrang.myknet.org> Hits: 2601354
<http://richardogima.myknet.org> Hits: 2039514
<http://kassierae.myknet.org> Hits: 2033455
<http://tylemanokeesic.myknet.org> Hits: 1878231
<http://warrencmeekis.myknet.org> Hits: 1734127
<http://aliciasayers.myknet.org> Hits: 1521231
<http://codydharper.myknet.org> Hits: 1378470
<http://leroyfiddler.myknet.org> Hits: 1166189
<http://sylviaharper.myknet.org> Hits: 1030885
<http://robertsemple.myknet.org> Hits: 946340
<http://claytonawalker.myknet.org> Hits: 868181
<http://barryroundhead.myknet.org> Hits: 832272
<http://lectait.myknet.org> Hits: 831920
<http://rayannjrae.myknet.org> Hits: 823179
<http://fjacob.myknet.org> Hits: 724687
<http://emilykeewaykapow.myknet.org> Hits: 703975
<http://codymekanak.myknet.org> Hits: 564778
<http://tarabrown.myknet.org> Hits: 522491
<http://ashleighmeekis.myknet.org> Hits: 522193
<http://annrkakegamic.myknet.org> Hits: 520874
<http://elainemamakwa.myknet.org> Hits: 499899
<http://samanthawanakamik.myknet.org> Hits: 445347
<http://katielesofea.myknet.org> Hits: 441662
<http://peterbrown.myknet.org> Hits: 409731
<http://bigtroutlake.myknet.org> Hits: 391469
<http://mariahrwabasse.myknet.org> Hits: 391463
<http://vickiaflett.myknet.org> Hits: 377348

WWW.MYKNET.ORG

K-Net Home - Mail - Media - MyKnet - Meeting

Home User List Login Sign Up Help

LOGIN

Username

Password

Login

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Homepage User Interface has been changed around a little or alot. We've done this to be able to add more features in the future and to make it easier to create your pages and content. There may still be some bugs and kinks in the system so please be patient and you can report any problems to [K-Net Help Forum](#).

QUICK LINKS

- » [Last Updated Homepages](#)
- » [Login](#)
- » [Sign Up](#)
- » [Users List](#)

HOW TO GET A MYKNET.ORG HOMEPAGE

Step 1: [Get a K-Net Email Here](#)

Step 2: [Activate your Homepage Here](#)

Step 3: Wait for someone to approve your Homepage. You

Step 4: [Login to Myknet.org](#) with your K-Net Email username

"... knowing native people have
a place to visit on the WWW"

"... to have a native web page
for the whole world to see ..."



(indigenous) cyberactivism = cultural activism

- **diversity** of cultures
- but dominance of few = marginalization of many
- need to support local languages, cultural heritage & practices
- through
 - (1) control & ownership
 - (2) cooperation, networking & sharing
- considering limitations ...

