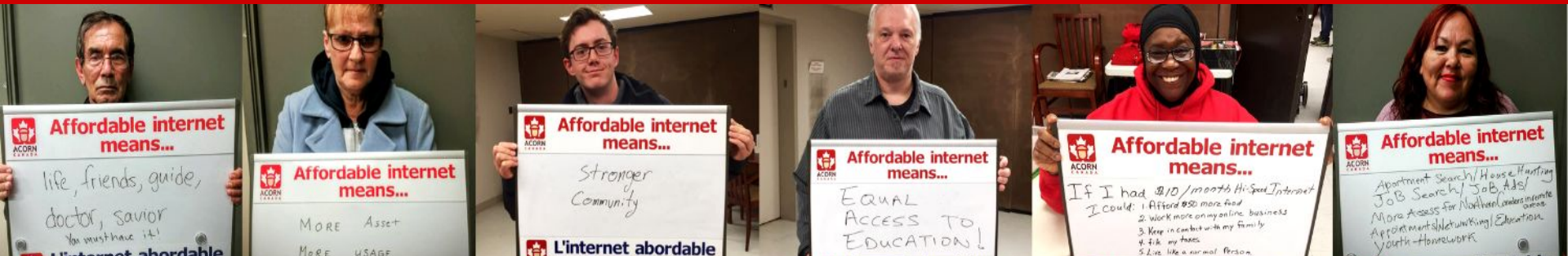


Internet For All



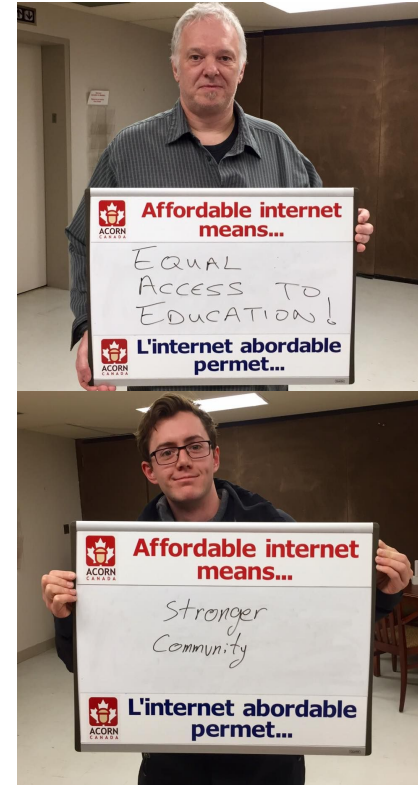
Issues with Internet Access

- Urgent need for affordable access to the internet
- Bell, Rogers, and Telus charge some of the highest prices for internet in the world
- Many of us cannot afford the internet or are forced to choose between paying for groceries, transit, rent or the internet



History of the Internet for All Campaign

- National campaign started in 2013 at the Toronto Convention
- Focus was targeting the big telecom companies like Bell and Rogers
- Won \$10/month internet program through Rogers in social housing apartments across Ontario
- ACORN members presented at the CRTC back in 2016/2017
- Won a decision that **declared internet a basic service**
- In 2018 we met with the Minister, Navdeep Bains, and he **declared internet was a right**



Connecting Families Program

- In 2018, ACORN won the Connecting Families program which offers \$10/month internet to 220,000 families
- This should equal \$80 million back into the hands of low income families
- But **only 5%** of those eligible for the program have actually been able to take advantage of it!



Connecting Families Program

- Problems with the program:
 - **Excludes singles, people with disabilities, students**
 - An second phase of the program called Connecting Families 2.0 expanded the program to low-income seniors receiving the maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement
 - Ironically while it's meant for families the speed is too slow for multiple people to be online at the same time
- This is why ACORN is demanding the program:
 - Be **universal** to all low income people
 - Be **mandatory** for all telecom providers
 - **Double the speed** to match the CRTC's own recommendations

ACORN's 2019 Internet4All Survey

- **Low income people** with household incomes of \$30,000 or lower were **less likely to have home internet access** than those with incomes over \$60,000
- **Almost 50% of people paid over \$70/month** for internet services. This number was the same for respondents with household incomes below \$30,000
- Of the respondents without home internet, **72% identified cost as the main reason**
- **A quarter of respondents told us they have sacrificed food in order to pay for internet services** and almost one third have made multiple sacrifices



Ottawa Municipal Campaign Demands

- **A municipal broadband program that is public OR community controlled AND that offers \$10/month home internet to ALL low and moderate income people at the minimum speed recommended by the CRTC (50/10 Mbps)**
- **FREE public WIFI** in all public spaces including bus shelters, LRT, parks, community centres and more
- **Expansion of programs that offer free or subsidized devices** for low income people

Questions?

(3 min)

