

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **GEO Nova Scotia Celebrates Nova Scotia as First Province to Proclaim Digital Inclusion Week**

**Halifax, NS – [October 7, 2025]** – GEO Nova Scotia is thrilled that the Province of Nova Scotia is proclaiming **October 6th to 10th, 2025 as Digital Inclusion Week**, recognizing the critical importance of equitable access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital skills for all Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotia will be the first province to make such a designation, representing a significant step forward in ensuring that no one is left behind in our increasingly digital world. For [GEO Nova Scotia](#) and our hundreds of cross-sector partners, the proclamation is a proud achievement and a testament to Nova Scotia's leadership on digital inclusion.

While many essential services are now delivered online—from health care to banking to education—an estimated 20,000 Nova Scotians still lack internet access at home due to cost, with many more unable to afford a suitable device or develop basic digital skills. Digital Inclusion Week underscores the province's commitment to addressing these barriers so all Nova Scotians can thrive.

To mark Digital Inclusion Week, GEO Nova Scotia is hosting [GEO Forum 2025](#) on October 8, 2025 in Halifax. This free, one-day hybrid event brings together leaders from government, business, and community for panels, workshops, and discussions highlighting best practices, innovative programs, and collaborative solutions to advance digital equity.

GEO Nova Scotia is also hosting the 2nd Annual [Nova Scotia Digital Inclusion Awards](#) on October 8, celebrating digital equity champions in the private, public, and community sectors.

Minister for Cyber Security and Digital Solutions, Jill Balser, is expected to make the proclamation during this afternoon's legislative session.

#### **About GEO Nova Scotia**

GEO Nova Scotia is a nonprofit agency leading a province-wide movement dedicated to closing the digital divide and achieving universal digital inclusion. Working alongside government, community organizations, and private partners, GEO Nova Scotia helps ensure all Nova Scotians have access to affordable internet, reliable devices, and the digital skills they need to succeed.

Since 2022, with over 125 partners across the province, GEO has distributed more than 7,000 free Chromebooks, smartphones, and iPads, and provided over 60,000 months of free connectivity through more than 4,500 home internet and mobile plans, directly supporting digital inclusion for over 15,000 Nova Scotians who could not otherwise afford them.

For more information, please visit: [www.geonovascotia.ca](http://www.geonovascotia.ca)

## QUOTES:

*In today's world, the need to be online is undeniable, yet, too many Nova Scotians still face barriers that keep them from fully participating in our digital society. Digital Inclusion Week shines a spotlight on this reality, and on the collaborative work being done across government, community, and the private sector to close that gap.*

- **Bonnie Ste-Croix, CEO, GEO Nova Scotia**

*Digital equity is not just a technology issue—it's about fairness, opportunity, and ensuring every Nova Scotian can thrive. By proclaiming Digital Inclusion Week, we're acknowledging the challenges and celebrating the progress being made. We are proud to work with organizations like GEO Nova Scotia to ensure that all Nova Scotians have the tools and skills they need to succeed in today's digital world.*

- **The Honourable Jill Balser, Minister of Cyber Security and Digital Solutions**

*Nova Scotia punches above its weight in the digital sector, to the benefit of individuals, families, communities, and the entire provincial economy. Digital Inclusion Week is another example of Nova Scotia's leadership, setting an example for others to follow and building on the inspirational partnerships that have developed between our sectors to make digital inclusion a reality for everyone.*

- **Owen Sagnass, CEO, Digital Nova Scotia**

*GEO Nova Scotia exists to do exactly what our name stands for: Getting Everyone Online. This proclamation is a recognition of how far we've come and how far we still need to go. Together, we can ensure that every Nova Scotian has the access, tools, and skills to succeed in a digital world.*

- **Karn Nichols, Board Co-chair, GEO Nova Scotia**

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