

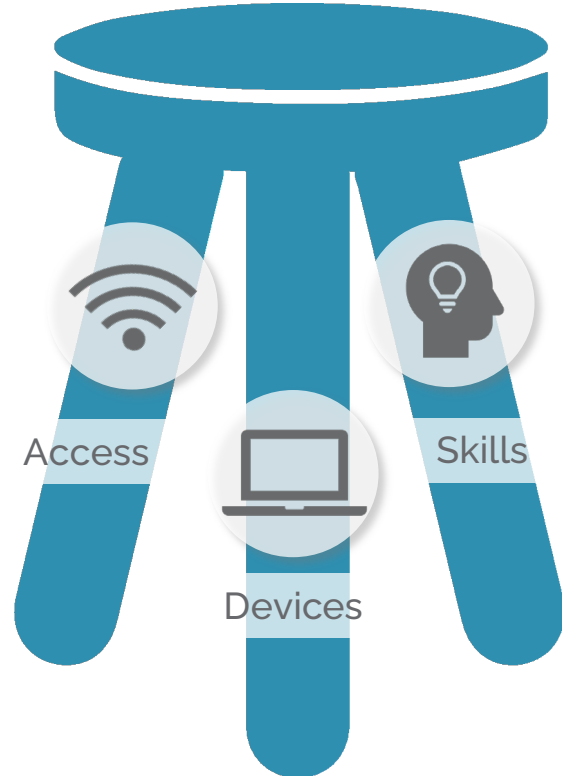
Partners for Digital Inclusion

Presentation to HRM Women and Gender Equity Advisory
Committee

April 3, 2025

geonovascotia.ca





Digital Inclusion means
access to the internet,
the right **devices** for your
needs, and the **skills** to
use them confidently
and safely.

GEO Nova Scotia's History

2020: "GEO Project" in Dartmouth North (~\$25,000)

Community funded, via Between the Bridges

2021: Four regional "GEO Nova Scotia" pilots (~\$700,000)

Funded by DCS, LAE, and EECD via Inspiring Communities

2022-2025: Province-wide organization (~\$8,500,000 total)

~95% funded by DCS (now OSD)

2025-2026: More growth and partnership (~\$5,100,000 budget)

GEO Nova Scotia Outputs (March 2022 - Feb 2025)



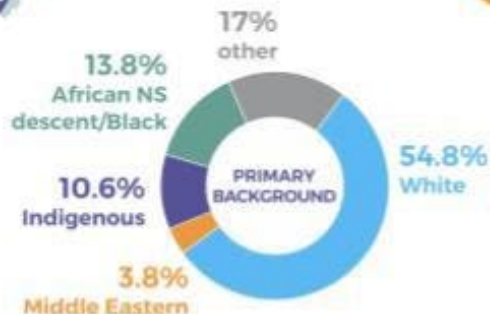
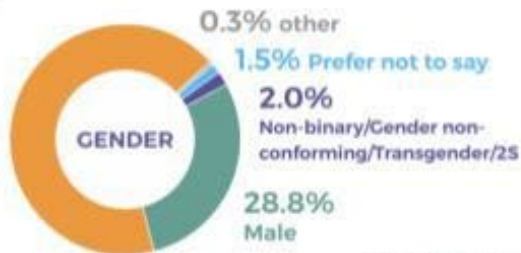
[*List of Registered Referral Partners](#)

GEO Nova Scotia Participants

23-24
Participants



67.5%
Female



LIVED EXPERIENCE

43.3%
Living with
a Disability



31.9%
Single Parent



31.7%
Homelessness/
Housing Insecurity



15%
Newcomer
to Canada



10.4%
2SLGBTQIA+



Developing Solutions Together



- Chromebooks, laptops, headsets
- iPads and applications
- Broadband home Internet



- Like-new Smartphones
 - Choice of Apple or Android
- Phone plans with data



- Ongoing support for participants
- Training for partners
- Online resources and tools

“mifi” wireless option for internet access



- Portable wifi hotspots
- Managed access can limit potentially harmful content/ activities
- Made-in-Nova Scotia solution in partnership with DataGuide Technologies
- Field testing begins March 2025 (in progress)

GEO for Nonprofits

- Social Enterprise targeting the nonprofit sector
- Discounted digital hardware (computers, accessories, phones)
- Comprehensive Digital Review/Consultations
- Discounted IT services
- Soft-launch May 2025



Supporting the Sector with
Digital Inclusion

GEO Forum, October 8 2025

- Hybrid one-day conference
- Engages government, private sector, and community
- Opportunity to gain insights, share progress, and find partners



Transforming Nova Scotia
through Digital Inclusion

Women and Gender Equity Ideas and Plans for the Future

- Expanding Crisis Mobile program
- Assistive Technology (AT) Support for people living with disability
 - Exploration with Status of Women in 2025
- GEO Digital Champions training re: smartphone safety and coercive control
- Online filtering technology to create safe internet access at home and **in the community** (Available for testing in 2025)
- **GEO Booths to create a “private space in a public place”**
- **GEO Gazebos to create outdoor charging stations and public wifi locations**



Thank you!

Questions?
Discussion?

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