

Key recommendations included:

Canada could take a lead on creating a global *Charter of Information Rights and Responsibilities*, drawing on relevant sections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and existing privacy legislation.

There is a need for an inclusive debate on privacy issues and instruments for deterring threats to privacy. The government should play a key role in mobilising Canadians and alerting them to the possible privacy threats they face. New technology and the power of networking could be used to get consultations underway.

1. Presentations

1.1. Times and Technologies in Flux: Rethinking Identities, Sovereignty and the Networks of Nations, Liss Jeffrey (McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, University of Toronto)

Liss Jeffrey examined the concepts of privacy and sovereignty in the context of rapidly advancing technology. She said that new technology profoundly alters how we live on structural as well as individual levels. On a structural level, cultural, political, social and economic systems are in flux. New extraterritorial networks of nations, communities and individuals have emerged, challenging the traditional understanding of territorial boundaries, citizenship, jurisdiction and identity. Sovereignty may or may not correspond to our territorial borders, bringing forth questions including: What laws, rules and regulations can the Canadian government enforce and how? How is extraterritorial jurisdiction determined or, in other words, who rules cyberspace?

On an individual level, a shift in the "sense of the self" has occurred as a result of the growth of Internet and networking. The individual can be effectively posited *in relation* to a network, creating a new "geopolitical" dynamic explored in detail by Manuel Castells in *The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture* (1996, 1997 and 1998).

The concept of privacy has been shifting as a result of these broad political, cultural and socio-economic changes. Privacy could be perceived:

- in terms of identity
- as an element of a person's security and by extension also global security
- as a cultural value within a broader context of values, including trust