The internet has been around for two decades, in that time it’s become a necessity, but it’s also expensive.

The U.N has declared it a human right, comparable to freedom of speech because you need it to participate in many facets of our modern life that are absolutely necessary.

You look for a job, it’s posted online, you want to submit a resume, you have to submit it online, you fill out an application it’s online. So if you look at it this way, forty-two percent of the lower income isn’t having it and they like being left out of today’s society.

I’m living in Toronto housing and I’m fifty-two years old, I’m living by myself. My rent is geared income and because I’ve got the internet I cannot have proper food, like fruits and vegetables. The proper healthy foods that I’m supposed to have since I’ve got epilepsy.

Governments are waking up to the fact that being able to access the internet is just as important as having access to food and housing.

When you need government forms, documents that are required of you then they often refer you to a website. If you are disabled then you don’t have the same opportunities to get the things that you need. So, then, that is more then just a convenience but it’s a necessity when it comes to education and job hunting.

More and more, teachers are sending homework home via the internet. The teacher actually grades it online and it’s active and it’s great and it’s fun and the kids love it! My children do very well with this type of program. Now imagine not having any internet at all and your child needs to participate in school projects and maybe the parents are working, maybe it’s hard for them to take the child- a grade three child cannot go to the library by itself.

A lot of the textbooks and like the science textbooks, when they tell you about helping your children a lot of the help that the parents can access, it’s on the- it’s via the internet. So if we cannot have internet, high speed internet at a low rate, lower income people would never get it.

ACORN Canada has launched a new campaign to help make the internet accessible to the millions who cannot afford it.

I’m paying fifty-six dollars a month for internet and because I’m paying that money, I’m giving up other things like food and entertainment and it’s hard to keep her fed also [pet cat on screen].

In order to bring fees down, the big telecommunication companies have to jump on board.
We approached Bell and it wasn’t very good, they literally told us straight up, we’re a billion-dollar corporation and it’s not out problem.

In Canada, three major corporations sell us access to the net, in 2011 their net income added up to over five billion dollars. Only Rogers agreed to work out a plan to make the internet accessible to low-income people.

What they agreed to was ten dollars a month flat rate for people who are living in TCHC and that’s really great but it’s just a start, we have to take that further. There were some problems so now Rogers needs to be a little more active to get back into our really good books. They started to bill people when they went over a certain amount, it has to be a flat rate, you can’t pull these surprises on people, they can’t afford it. It will really spin their life into more hardship than it already is.

ACORN believes that unless the CRTC steps in to regulate prices, nothing will change, but it’s up to the low-income people to band together.

I know we little, but we disserve this and this should be a right, in today’s society it should be a right, with everything being on the internet we need to have access to that internet.

[On screen] 
Join the fight with ACORN Canada

If you wanna join the fight, join ACORN