

streetsmart-spiritwise.ca
E-brief #7: Ontario's proposed Digital ID

Briefing Note #3: Ontario's proposed 'Digital ID'

Updated: February 12, 2023 (in revision)

* * * * *

Ontario:

Ontario first announced its plan for a 'Digital ID' October 2020 as part of [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#). It was initially described as a 'digital wallet' on a smartphone or computer containing information like that found on provincial health cards, driver's licence, and birth certificate.

Promised for late 2021, the 'Digital ID' has yet to be launched but was [expected to be launched by Fall 2022](#). The Digital ID is a big part of Ontario's goal of '[Building a Digital Ontario](#)'.

Ontario claims the 'Digital ID' will be [convenient, secure, privacy-preserving, in your control, and voluntary](#). It could be used for many purposes requiring reliable personal identification – like opening a bank account, making age-sensitive purchases, and accessing and using vaccination records.

[As of December 20, 2020](#), the Ontario government had provided no updates (since November 2021) on its digital ID program.

Expected late 2021, unexpectedly delayed to Fall of 2022, with no updates on any future plans discovered [as of February 12, 2023](#).

- [Ontario's Digital ID: Technology and Standards](#). Ontario Digital Service.
- [Ontario prepares to launch digital ID program and here's how it works](#). Sean Davidson. CTV News. September 9, 2021.
- [Digital ID in Ontario](#). Ontario Digital Service.

E-brief #7: Ontario's proposed Digital ID

- [Ontario Digital ID – Update](#). Privacy & Access Council of Canada. March 15, 2021.
- [Ontario's Digital ID: Where it could be used](#).
- [Ontario still plans to roll out Digital ID, even after scrapping vaccine passports](#).
Jack Bingham. LIFESITE News. February 25, 2022.
- [Digital IDs coming to Ontario this fall](#). Melanie Risdon. Western Standard. March 3, 2022.
- [Ontario government won't comment on progress of digital ID program](#). Sean Davidson. CTV News/Toronto. April 7, 2022.
- [Newfoundland plans digital ID pilot program; Ontario mum on digital ID status](#). IAPP / International Association of Privacy Professionals. January 6, 2023.

* * * * *

Canada:

Mirroring Ontario's initiative, on March 3, 2020, the federal government announced its own '[Canada Digital Adoption Program](#)' designed to assist businesses grow their online presence and help them adopt digital technologies. Information on current Canadian developments is available from the [Digital ID & Authentication Council of Canada](#) (DIACC).

* * * * *

General information: While there are obvious benefits of a reliable system of personal identification, it is all-too-easy to see how an initially privacy-preserving and voluntary technology could morph quickly into a mandatory system enabling 24/7 surveillance and control. Digital IDs could easily be exploited to erode fundamental rights and freedoms.

E-brief #7: Ontario's proposed Digital ID

Digital IDs are [a crucial component of the WEF's 'Fourth Industrial Revolution'](#). Another global initiative worth watching that involves the WEF is titled "[Known Traveler Digital Identity](#)" (KTDI), self-described as 'unlocking the potential of digital identity for secure and seamless travel'. See this [short promotional video](#) on the KTDI.

Background information –

- [We need to get digital ID right](#). ID2020 / Digital Identity Alliance.
- [Digital IDs Are More Dangerous Than You Think](#). Brett Solomon. WIRED. September 28, 2018.
- [The looming disaster of immunity passports and digital identify](#). Privacy International. July 21, 2020.
- [What is Digital ID?](#) Thales Group. June 17, 2021.
- [Technocracy Ahead: Digital ID Is Set To Control Your Life](#). Dr Joseph Mercola. Technocracy News & Trends. November 19, 2021.
- ID4D Report: [2022 to see significant progress towards 'paradigm shift' in digital ID](#). Frank Hersey. Biometric Update. February 1, 2022.
- [Digital ID in Canada: Is it safe to use?](#) Charles Whitmore. NordVPN. February 19, 2022.
- [The Global Digital ID Surveillance Plan Accelerates – Urgent Resistance Needed](#). Jesse Smith. Global Research. March 8, 2022.
- [Plan to introduce digital identification system in Sask. put on hold](#). Wayne Mantyka. CTV News/Regina. Updated April 4, 2022.
- Report: ["90% of nations planning Central Bank Digital Currency"](#). Kit Knightly. OffGuardian. May 6, 2022.