

Briefing Note: Digital Verification Project for Southlake and Newmarket

Context:

- Workplaces, entertainment, retail, trade, travel and public venues will all be re-opening as the government looks to economic recovery.
- Organizations and employers to protect employees and entrants into their physical spaces – recently the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission released [guidelines](#) citing that companies can mandate COVID-19 vaccination status in workplaces.
- Travel and trade, a major source of economic development and growth will also begin to ramp up
- [Pressure from business organizations](#) is mounting to enable safe movement of goods and services
- Consumer demand will grow for a convenient and trusted product to enable for business, travel and entertainment.
- Without policy direction from Federal or Provincial governments, [universities](#), businesses and other organizations will be forced to make their own decisions on access.

Background:

- In 2019 the Ontario government announced [the digital first for health strategy](#) with the goals of improving the patient experience and health outcomes; improving provider experience and coordination as well as fostering innovation and economic development.
- In 2020, the Ontario government released its [Ontario Onwards Action Plan](#) in response to the COVID19 pandemic, which contains a mandate to improve service delivery for people of Ontario leveraging technology capabilities. Among other things, digital identity, verified digital information about you, is its top priority
- Two Canadian companies, [SecureKey](#) and [IDENTOS](#) recently [launched](#) a project with four Ontario hospitals, the Ministry of Health, and Ontario Digital Service to enable a more modern, convenient way for patients to access health information and services. This ability is provided through a secure patient digital identity, authentication, and authorization service (PDIAA) called the [Ontario trusted account](#).
- The technology has already been enabled to support patient identity verification for access to personal health care information. The team is now focused on adding additional integrated digital services that deliver value to patients and citizens in the respective regions. This includes patient portals, virtual care services, lab results viewers, and vaccine management.



Project Concept Proposal:

- Leverage existing PDIAA infrastructure, partnerships, and capabilities in place at Southlake Regional Health Centre to trial and evaluate the feasibility, applicability, and uptake, of a proof of vaccine and/or recent COVID19 negative test for entry to partnering businesses and organizations.
- This is being proposed as an opportunity to test a set of hypotheses (i.e., study objectives or evaluation goals) in a local setting (think sandbox environment). Given the role Southlake plays in the PDIAA project, Newmarket is the clear recommendation to support accelerating the reopening of the economy, safely (think concerts, sports, entertainment etc.).
- This would be a community-driven approach that could put Newmarket and Southlake on the map in Canada as one of the first test beds for technology of this kind, to learn and adapt from its findings for broader usage and deployment.
- This would also leverage the expertise and knowledge of [CANImmunize](#) and [ThinkON](#) two other Ontario based technology firms who have capability to support recovery through data platforms.

What we need to make this reality:

1. **Willing community partners** to participate in time-bound study, which includes use of technology to fulfill business objectives and participation in the evaluation.
2. Federated access to **COVID19 immunization and COVID19 lab results data** from a central, provincial repository.
3. Support from **public and private sector partners** to sponsor and deliver on goals of project.
4. Endorsement from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Ontario Digital Service to participate and collect feedback on the proposed study.

Participating Organizations:



SecureKey's system enables citizens/consumers to privately assert identity information with explicit consent using trusted providers, such as banks, telcos and governments; thereby, removing friction online, improving security, and unlocking the digital economy through increased surety and trust.



IDENTOS allows organizations to turn tightly bound identity and data infrastructures into nimble ecosystems that efficiently scale authorized access. With identity and access control software that puts people first in the digital journey, this gives way to simplified digital experiences, trusted data sharing, safe API integrations, and more. Most recently, IDENTOS is powering the Ontario trusted account: a seamless way for hospitals, patients and care teams to safely connect, cross-jurisdictionally -- providing a doorway to a connected health system.



ThinkOn is Protected B clearance certified hosting infrastructure that delivers critical data management and information asset protection solutions that help organizations optimize IT infrastructure that is also a reference architecture for accelerated Authority to Operate (Provincial and Federal).



CANImmunize is an Ottawa-based technology company specializing in immunization software. It developed the [CANImmunize app](#), a pan-Canadian digital immunization tracking system that helps Canadians keep track of their vaccinations with a mobile app and web portal. The team offers digital solutions such as ClinicFlow to businesses, health care organizations and governments for vaccinations and tracking for the [COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#) and other immunization needs.



Southlake is building healthy communities through outstanding care, innovative partnerships, and amazing people. Delivering a wide range of healthcare services to the communities of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County. Southlake's advanced regional programs include Cancer Care and Cardiac Care and serve a broader population across the northern GTA and into Simcoe-Muskoka.



The Council of Canadian Innovators (CCI) represents and works with over 130 of Canada's fastest-growing technology companies. Our members are the CEOs, founders, and top senior executives behind some of Canada's most successful 'scale-up' companies. All of our members are experts in their fields of healthtech, cleantech, fintech, cybersecurity and ICT.