### **Online Advocacy**

# Online Campaign Tactics



These training materials have been prepared by Aspiration.





# Who is Aspiration?

- Aspiration helps nonprofits and foundations use software tools more effectively and sustainably.
- We serve as ally, coach, strategist, mentor and facilitator to those trying to make more impactful use of information technology in their social change efforts.
- www.aspirationtech.org/services



### Goals

Discuss the limitations of online organizing

- Brief review of steps to develop an online campaign
- Go over "moves" made by online activists
- Most importantly, answer your questions



# First Things

- This training is envisioned as a dialog
  - We want your input as much as possible
- Please ask questions early and often
  - Especially if and when we use technical jargon, terminology and concepts you don't know
- It will only be as valuable for you as you make it!



# **Caveats of Online Tools**

Can take a lot of time

- Time = Money
- Big corporations who want your data
  - You are the product
- There are billion of tools
  - Which ones do we need?



- Tools change EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.
  - How can we keep up?



## **Caveats of Online Tools**

- Keep your data footprint small
  - Simplicity is Power
- Big corporations who want your data
  - OK to use "Boundary Tactics" if they fail nice
  - Done well, new tactics CAN earn media
- Beware of data integration issues
  - Plan early for tech divorce



# Limitations of Online Organizing

### Digital divides

- Never forget who is left out by "e" strategies
- Trust relationships are best built in person
  - Online organizing is most effective when it leverages established social networks and communities
- Each community and campaign is different

Your mileage will vary



# Online Campaign Development

### Goals & Audience Assessment

- Do you really know who you're talking to?
- Publishing Matrix
  - Do you have a model for when to use what tool?

### Message Calendaring

Is all online messaging on a unified calendar?

### Tracking & Listening

Which techniques are working?

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### Four Processes





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# **Developing Campaign Goals**

- Influence Decision Makers
- Mobilize for an Event
- Build Community
- Educating an Audience
- Raising Money
- Building your Base/Supporter Database
- Increasing volunteer engagement



## What are your goals?

### Measurable

### What does success look like?

### Tool-Agnostic

Make sure your communications plan stays in tact when the tool you are using fails you





### **Tool Agnostic?**



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# **Core Tool Checklist**

- Content Management System
  - Manage your web site (Wordpress, Drupal)
- Constituent Relationship Manager (Supporter Database)
- Email Delivery Tool
- Online Action Platform
- Donation Processing
- Social Media



## Developing Tactics for Your Goals

- Online campaigning is about actually engaging your supporters in what you are doing
  - Online and offline need to be synchronized
- Online tools are a means to build relationships with your base and make a difference in your on the ground work
  - e.g. Get email address, message on FB, sign a petition



## Developing Tactics for Your Goals

- A tactic is a plan, procedure, or move you can take to help achieve your goal
- Your tactics depend on who you are trying to reach
- You don't have to be an "online activist" to have an online strategy
- Let's take a look at some online "moves"...



### Meet people where they are at

#### Create messages for different platforms



#### **Congregations Building Community**





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### Get Creative

#### Pathways to Education Canada 11 de febrero

We need your help! For each person that clicks through, National Bank will donate \$4 to Pathways to Education. The answer this week is 24! Link: https://www.facebook.com /nationalbanknetworks/app\_125124097644937



We've been seeing a lot of late night Facebook updates and Tweets from students about midterm season! This one's for you. Hang in there! You can do it!

## ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY

SLEEP DURING MIDTERMS WEEK

Me gusta · Comentar · Compartir



Pathways to Education Canada Who was your favourite teacher and how did they make a difference in your life?

Me gusta · Comentar · Compartir · 23 de mayo

6

- 🖒 A 20 personas les gusta esto.
- 🗊 11 compartidos

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#### 'The best teachers are those who show you here to look, but don't tell you what to see"

#### - Alexandra K. Trenfor



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### Mobilize established networks





### Use technology



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## **Bottom Line**



Online tools aren't a magic bullet

#### You need:

- An measurable goal
- A compelling message
- Effective tactics to realize your goal
- A plan for engaging supporters and well-defined ways for them to plug in
- eAdvocacy is more about organizing and organizational challenges than tech challenges

### Thank You!



### Questions?

### Comments?

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