Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation

Update June 2010

Launch of New Services in September 2010

Time Shift, Meet Online - NBDC is pleased to announce that the new broadband services being developed by SSi Micro under the Infrastructure II project will be unveiled to the public at the Nunavut Trade Show in Iqaluit this coming September 21-23. We had optimistically anticipated the rollout of these file sharing and video conferencing products a bit earlier, but we decided to go the extra mile to ensure the most thorough design and review process possible. Over the summer, final testing will be conducted.

Local Connect - Since the original RFP for Local Connect was issued and awarded, the needs for this service have changed. NBDC has given the vendor, SSI Micro, the opportunity to amend their original proposal to provide a service that is timelier and that takes into account current market conditions and needs.

Classroom Connect – With the full cooperation of the GN Department of Education, a pilot project involving six schools was started in early January for the purpose of testing the upgraded QINIQ network and establishing a typical classroom Internet usage profile. Two communities from each region have been participating, those being Arctic Bay and Sanikiluaq in the Qikiqtani, Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet in the Kivalliq, and Taloyoak and Kugluktuk in the Kitikmeot. Each school received a QINIQ modem with a custom service plan and wireless networking equipment, and provided a minimum of 5 computers for the project. Classroom traffic patterns have been tracked during the pilot to assess "real life" student Internet usage and thus determine future classroom bandwidth requirements.

The feedback from participating schools has been overwhelmingly positive and many have requested that the pilot continue. As a result, NBDC extended the pilot until the end of the school year (up to June 30, 2010). Comments from participating schools include:

"Almost every student in the school logs on to the computer network at least once a week and accesses the Internet."

"I can't speak for other teachers, but for myself it has made a big difference for my classroom teaching, for science and media classes. For example I just did a unit on the circulatory system in Science and it was great to be able to take advantage of excellent videos on the internet that demonstrated what I was trying to get across. A tremendous difference maker for the students and me."

Initially it was anticipated that the pilot would transition to full rollout in all 42 schools. However, due to a lack of available matching funds for Classroom Connect within the GN Department of Education for the 2010-2011 school year, the project is anticipated to commence at a later date. Because connectivity for students in Nunavut's schools remains a high priority for NBDC and an important component of the Infrastructure II Project, we will continue to work towards making it a reality.