

# **NUNAVUT BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As the President of Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, I am very pleased to be able to tell you that our new network, QINIQ, is operational and that we are well on the way to launching new broadband applications developed specifically for Nunavut.

## **Goals**

Let me start by outlining the goals we have been working for:

### **1. Infrastructure**

To meet our first goal, we needed to finance, build and launch what is called Infrastructure – the satellite dishes, antennas, computers and communications equipment that resides in every one of 25 communities. I can now report that this infrastructure is substantially complete with some minor upgrades and changes that will be completed in the next few weeks. In total, this infrastructure cost more than \$10,000,000. Of this total cost, \$4,000,000 was borrowed from land claim and government organizations in Nunavut (and must be repaid from revenue). The remainder, more than \$6,000,000 was donated by many different parties including the

Government of Canada, SSI Micro Limited, the Government of Nunavut, land claim organizations and Nunavut municipalities.

Remarkably, this \$10,000,000 project with significant work in all 25 communities was completed in a single construction season. This is an incredible achievement and I am very pleased to report that our contractor, SSI Micro Limited, completed this work on time and for the original agreed fixed price.

## **2. Support Local Economies**

Our second goal was to support local economies in every one of the 25 Nunavut communities. Too often in the past, support and service jobs were centralized outside the territory or in the larger Nunavut communities. We undertook to do as much service and support work as possible in our customer's community. To achieve this goal I am very pleased to report that we now have a trained Community Service Provider in every Nunavut community. This is not just a plan – we knew it was possible and we did it in parallel with building the infrastructure. You can see the contact information (and even a picture) of all 25 community service providers on our web site at [www.QINIQ.com](http://www.QINIQ.com).

### **3. Develop Nunavut Applications**

Our third goal is to develop applications for our broadband infrastructure that are specifically designed to meet the needs of Nunavut.

I am pleased to report to the members that we have begun this important effort with projects completed and underway in the following sectors:

- In partnership with Nunavut Education we are working on a project to develop and launch an application related to skills and jobs. This will assist people in Nunavut to promote their skills, locate jobs and will encourage employers to document their job openings and to hire Nunavut residents.
- We are very excited about a project related to “the land” or in academic terms “geoscience”. This project will bring views of the land to QINIQ subscribers for the purposes of land management, wildlife, environmental management, recording of Inuit culture and history and of course economic interests related to mining, tourism and the sale of arts and crafts. You have to see this to believe it – I can’t explain it without

showing you. We expect to launch this service for every QINIQ subscriber in the next few months.

- The use of the QINIQ service is not tied to a phone line. You can use your broadband modem anywhere in Nunavut that has power to plug it in. To widen that use, we have developed a portable modem container that allows a QINIQ modem to operate without plugging it into “street” power. The range is up to 25 kilometers from the community depending on the geography and the duration of the use will be dependent on the temperature. But given these restrictions, now you can use your computer (and even your VoIP phone) outside the community.
- Over the next few weeks and months we will be launching several applications that will assist in governance for NGO, land claim organizations and governments. These new tools will involve the use of audio and video conferencing, the management of shared documents and interpretation.

#### **4. Nunavut-wide Training Strategy**

Our fourth goal is related to training, specifically for broadband technical skills but even more important for the skills needed to use broadband and the related technology. We have completed a draft strategy document to ensure broadband training needs are met across all sectors over a 5 year time period. We will be working with Nunavut training institutions, Inuit organizations, NGOs and the Government of Nunavut to ensure everyone in Nunavut will be able to both create and use broadband tools to meet their training goals.

### **Financial and Organizational Overview**

I would like to report to the members on several issues related to finance and administration.

First I would like to tell you about the QINIQ brand. The name of our new network is QINIQ. I am told that this is the root word for “to search” in Inuktitut. We have developed a very effective logo associated with the QINIQ name and have begun the process of registering this name and logo as a trademark owned by NBDC. I am pleased to note that all the design work related to the QINIQ brand, the logo and the very effective subscriber and marketing material was developed in Nunavut.

Our network operator, our 25 CSPs and other organizations associated with QINIQ will be allowed to use the QINIQ brand and will be allowed to identify themselves as “a QINIQ partner”. We expect the QINIQ brand will grow and will identify to everybody on the Internet the high quality products and services developed and delivered from Nunavut.

Second in the finance and administration area I would like to report that our corporate structure has evolved since our last AGM. Our parent company is Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, a not-for-profit company and this meeting is the AGM of that corporation. This not-for-profit parent corporation has a wholly owned subsidiary named NBDC Inc. which is a share capital corporation, is qualified as an Inuit corporation on the NTI list and is able to carry on business, own assets, file for income tax and recover GST payments. This subsidiary, NBDC Inc., is completely controlled by the parent corporation of which you are a member and exists only to ensure that we can be eligible for all available contributions and loans and can make sure that we are eligible for all the tax benefits available to business.

On another administrative issue, members will note that we are having an annual general meeting in May and we are presenting audited financial statements from the year ended March 31, 2004. We would much prefer to schedule the AGM to present financial statements for the year just

ended but we felt that it is important to have the AGM near the time of the network launch. As summer is not a good time for an AGM and we did not want to wait for the fall of 2005 when the audit of the financial statements will be complete, we scheduled this meeting for May. We will make recommendations to the Board that relate to the schedule of the AGM and expect that now that the launch is complete, and over time the AGM will shift to the fall of each year.

Finally, I would like to thank a large number of people that made our success in the last year possible. There are probably more than a hundred people that have had an active and significant role in the introduction of the QINIQ network. I cannot thank everybody by name but specifically I would like to mention the efforts of our volunteer Chair, Patrick Tagoona and our volunteer Board. I must mention the President of SSI Micro Limited, Jeff Phillipp who met our very difficult deadline within budget. And most important, I would like to mention Lorraine Thomas, Secretary-Treasurer of NBDC - this network would not have been possible without her dedication.

In summary, since our last AGM we have been very successful in meeting our objectives. Building on this initial success, I am confident that the QINIQ network will have a significant and positive impact on the social and economic development of Nunavut.

I have been pleased and honored to be associated with this effort. Thank you.

David E. Smith  
President  
Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation  
May 24, 2005