



Advisory Council Meeting

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NetWork BC – Advisory Council Agenda

- **Overview of the NetWork BC project and an update on progress to date.**
- **Procurement process to pick a vendor or vendors.**
- **Involving communities in this process and capacity building.**
- **There will be an opportunity to hear from each of you on a sectoral basis.**
- **We will wrap up by discussing your role and next steps for this council.**

Scope of the Digital Divide

Today, 198 BC communities have access (89% population)

168 small communities do not have access

95 un-served communities are First Nations

Average population 400

Legend: Communities without Broadband access

- This is about putting in place an affordable robust network to deliver:
 - e-government services, especially for education and health
 - regional economic development in the Heartlands
 - digital access for First Nations communities

This is about affordable access for all British Columbians

NetWork BC Project Objectives

- **Create Next Generation Public Sector Network** –and open up affordable access to citizens and businesses in all regions of the province
- **Improve First Nations access** – 60% of communities currently without broadband access are First Nations
- **Create common service delivery models**-new net work provides infrastructure for delivering better, faster, cheaper and more integrated services to communities and the public
- **Form new alliances** with federal government and First Nations, and expand current relationships
- **Generate economic development in heartland communities throughout the province** – affordable broadband will link communities to the digital economy, improve ability to promote businesses and trade information, goods, services.
- **Work with private and public sector in innovative ways**, such as JSP process, to meet objectives of NetWork BC project.
- **Create open points of presence** in provincial communities - definition of POPs and locations will emerge through JSP process

Provincial Approach

- **Other Models:**
 - Other provinces – top down, very little community input at any stage and the project is having some difficulty delivering on time in a way that is acceptable to rural communities.
 - Federal Model – Broadband for Rural and Northern Development – completely bottom up. This program has been very hard to combine with provincial initiatives so the potential for Fed/Prov leveraging is difficult to achieve. Also leads to “islands” of connectivity.
- **NetWork BC model – significant community engagement and involvement combined with a new public sector network. Project is integrating all stakeholder needs into a cohesive model.**
 - BC’s model combines PUSH from the Province (a backbone network TO the communities), with PULL from the communities themselves (local entrepreneurs and providers building the “last mile” connectivity infrastructure WITHIN the communities)
 - BC’s model is the only example we know of where bridging the digital divide is being attempted without significant capital investment by the government.

Aggregation Partners

What's In:

- Core government
- Schools, Colleges
- Crown Corporations
- Agencies, Boards and Commissions
- Health Authorities, provincial hospitals and clinics, may also extend as far as physician's offices

What's Out but might be included as we move forward:

- Municipalities
- Federal offices
- Universities
- Community Networks

Tactical plan (Quick Wins)

- **Renegotiating all existing contracts with expiry December 31, 2006:**
 - Over \$19M in savings (2003-2006) have been achieved.
- **Achieving significant benefits for our stakeholders:**
 - high-speed low cost connections to 70 unserved communities
 - upgraded broadband connections at 154 schools from TELUS
- **Upgrading the Network backbone:**
 - typically 10 times current speeds at same or lower cost
 - negotiated same speeds and costs for community network in the Kootenays
- **Increasing Network Availability:**
 - Building route diversity into the Network Backbone
- **Supporting Communities:**
 - Upgrades are being used by Broadband for Rural and Northern Development (BRAND) projects as matching contribution leveraging Federal dollars into the province.

Strategic plan

- **Strategic plan (executed in parallel) – design, procure and transition to next generation provincial network and connect remaining communities:**
 - Close the digital divide with no new money by re-investing savings.
 - Aggregate public sector spend.
 - Leverage partnerships with federal government and First Nations.
 - Engage private sector to deliver infrastructure.
 - Introduce a well-governed independent procurement capacity (smart buyer).
 - Substantively complete (as a project) by the end of 36 months.
- **Innovative procurement (JSRFP) is the heart of the strategic plan:**
 - Term could be up to 10 years.
 - The value could exceed \$1 billion.
 - Will include the Broader Public Sector aggregated spend as much as possible.
- **Province expects that multiple vendors, including regionally based suppliers, will be part of the final solution.**
- **New network begins operations on January 1, 2007.**

Objectives to be Balanced

- **Competition**
- **Lower cost to users**
- **Participation of local suppliers**
- **Effective inclusion of local content**
- **Needs of a diverse set of stakeholder organizations**
- **Investment**
- **High service levels and social objectives of project**
- **Desire of stakeholders for a single enterprise supplier**
- **Cost effective community access to bandwidth through open POPs**
- **Continuous integration of new technologies –solutions must build in ability to evolve over life of project**

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

- In the large majority of unserved communities the business case for provision of last mile” connectivity is difficult.
- Last mile solutions will need to be developed at community level.
- Two NetWork BC staff are working full time with communities to explain program, develop community champions, access current technology and future options.
- We have funded community led organizations to provide series of workshops in all regions of the province that will focus on:
 - Building a sustainable community network
 - Last mile solutions
 - Broadband applications
- Building sufficient capacity in many communities may take 3 years of effort.

Timing

- **70 communities this year.**
- **The remainder in the next two years.**
- **Priorities:**
 - 30 communities being connected through National Satellite Initiative.
 - 70 communities receiving discount T1's through PLNet leverage.
 - Communities with community champion and plan.
- **Good early results:**
 - 154 schools being upgraded to high speed.
 - 5 communities have implemented broadband since Throne Speech announcement in February.

Next Steps

- Questions
- Discussion