
For Immediate Release

Ministry of Management Services

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES BROADBAND ACCESS VIA
SATELLITE FOR 30 REMOTE COMMUNITIES**

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, May 17, 2004 — The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment and Senior Minister for British Columbia, on behalf of the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, today announced that the Government of British Columbia has been selected to receive satellite capacity to deploy broadband, or high-capacity Internet, to an estimated 30 remote communities in British Columbia. Twenty-two of these communities are Aboriginal communities.

“Satellite capacity will push remote communities into the fast lane of the Information Highway,” said Minister Robillard. “It will pave the way for improved health care and education. It offers benefits that can transform these communities and improve their quality of life.”

“Broadband access via satellite is another step toward unleashing the potential of British Columbia’s remote communities,” said Minister Anderson. “Access to high-capacity Internet will put the world at the fingertips of these communities and allow them to show the world what they have to offer.”

Satellite capacity valued at \$7.4 million is being made available to the provincial government. This capacity has been allocated to Industry Canada under a licensing agreement with Telesat Canada. The total value of capacity being provided under this first round of the National Satellite Initiative is approximately \$20 million. The Province of British Columbia will invest \$2.5 million to provide on-the-ground technology — earth stations and a large-capacity hub in Vancouver — that will enable communities to use the capacity made available by Industry Canada.

The Government of British Columbia was one of four applicants from across Canada selected to further advance the deployment of broadband to remote communities.

“By providing high-speed Internet access to everyone, including First Nations communities, we are bridging the digital divide, levelling the playing field for all British Columbians, and opening up a world of opportunity to those in small or isolated communities,” said Joyce Murray, Minister of Management Services for British Columbia. “It enables people to stay in their communities and look after their families, while still maintaining their jobs. It also creates educational possibilities and expands access to health services.”

Broadband is defined as a high-capacity Internet connection, capable of supporting full-motion, real-time audio and video applications. It is a pipeline for delivering innovative applications, thereby making health, education and business services easily accessible to all Canadians.

The \$155-million National Satellite Initiative was announced in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, on October 5, 2003. It is a joint project among Infrastructure Canada, Industry Canada and the Canadian Space Agency.

Broadband access will ultimately provide communities in remote regions with more opportunities to move forward socially and economically. The National Satellite Initiative will significantly reduce the cost of providing the service to these communities through affordable access to satellite capacity. This initiative is another step toward achieving the Government of Canada's goal of providing high-capacity Internet access to all Canadian communities.

For more information, please visit www.broadband.gc.ca.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Daniel Grenier
Director of Communications
Office of the Honourable Lucienne Robillard
Minister of Industry and Minister responsible
for the Economic Development Agency of
Canada for the Regions of Quebec
(613) 995-9001

Media Relations
Industry Canada
(613) 943-2502

Anna Wong
Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable David Anderson
Minister of the Environment
(604) 666-4500

Liz Bicknell
Communications Director
Ministry of Management Services
(250) 356-9869
(250) 213-3072

Release xxxx-e