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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Citizens' Services

### **\$1.5M TO CONNECT MORE B.C. RESIDENTS TO BROADBAND**

VICTORIA – Network BC is now accepting applications for funding to expand broadband access for citizens in rural and remote British Columbia.

This year the Connecting Citizens Grant program will provide up to \$1.5 million for expanding broadband service in unconnected locales. Up to \$50,000 per project will be available to help pay for local infrastructure required to connect homes and businesses to the Internet.

Over the past decade, the Province has made significant progress in helping expand Internet service to B.C.'s rural and remote communities. Today 93 per cent of British Columbians have access to high-speed Internet making B.C. one of the most connected jurisdictions in the world.

In the first two years of the Connecting Citizens Grant Program, the Province funded almost 100 connectivity projects to bring high-speed Internet services to almost 150 new locales.

Bridging the digital divide increases access to health information, education, economic opportunities and government services.

Network BC works with local community groups, all levels of government and the private sector to encourage and facilitate high-speed Internet connectivity.

For more information on the Connecting Citizens Grant Program or to download the application package, visit [www.network.gov.bc.ca](http://www.network.gov.bc.ca).

To find out more about the benefits of broadband, read the story “Wells, B.C. Sparks a Modern Day Gold Rush” at: [www.bcjobsandconomy.gov.bc.ca/2010/09/wells-b-c-sparks-a-modern-day-gold-rush](http://www.bcjobsandconomy.gov.bc.ca/2010/09/wells-b-c-sparks-a-modern-day-gold-rush).

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