



# K-NET CASE STUDIES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This case study collection concerns the work of K-Net, a program of Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) tribal council. K-Net is providing information and communication technologies (ICTs) to First Nations in remote regions of northwestern Ontario, Canada. The network supports the development of online applications

The five case studies capture the rapid development of K-Net's technical infrastructure and services, and its impact on local health, education, and economic development. While the technologies offer new opportunities immediately, the full extent of their impact in these sectors will take some years to become known. The case studies were prepared using first-hand accounts from people in the KO communities, online resources, and a Sustainable Livelihoods conceptual framework. Please see <http://www.knet.ca> for the full multi-media version of this study, complete with video footage.



This series is entitled *Harnessing ICTs: a Canadian First Nations Experience*. Information and communication technologies are powerful, new vehicles that can be controlled and directed by indigenous communities to help them arrive at their own goals. K-Net's case studies offer stories of how people embrace change with modern tools while balancing the traditions and ways taught by their elders.

This series is directed at both Canadian and international audiences, and in particular, readers from indigenous communities in Latin America and the Caribbean who may wish to learn from this effort. The K-Net experience offers "lessons that can travel"; most importantly, that community needs and demands drive technology and network infrastructure development. Any other group around the world wishing to create a similar network will have to respond to its own unique geographic, political, financial and social situation.

that combine video, voice and data services requiring broadband and high-speed connectivity solutions. This case study collection includes an Introduction and four specialized case studies covering Network Development, Education, Health, and Economic Development.

The KO communities are part of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), located in northern Ontario, across an area roughly the size of France. NAN includes a total population of approximately 25,000 people. The majority of this population is aboriginal and lives in remote communities with 300-900 inhabitants. For many communities, the only year-round access into or out of their area is by small airplane.

What K-Net has achieved in less than a decade in terms of network and technical infrastructure development is impressive: several communities have gone from having one phone for 400 people four years ago, to accessing broadband services from individual homes today. There are few rural communities in Canada – and particularly few remote ones – that have experienced such a dramatic transformation in such a short period of time.



Art work contained in these publications is copyrighted.  
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### ***Artists:***

The six First Nation artists kindly agreed to support the use of their copyrighted art work to be included in this publication. They include Kevin Belmore, Derek Harper, Abe Kakepetum, Tim Tait, Alice Williams and Saul Williams. Their contact information is included at the end of each section of the document.

## **Credits and Acknowledgements**

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### ***The Smart Communities Initiative project funding partners include:***

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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Partnership Initiatives, [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)  
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