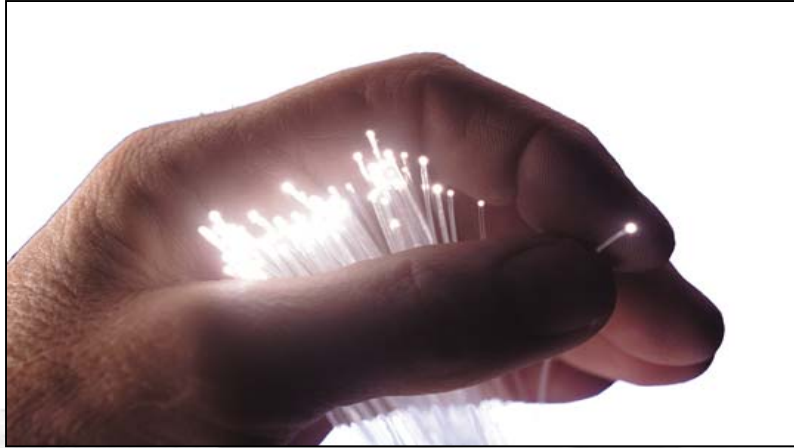


partnerships

Innovation Happens in Manitoba

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT'S BROADBAND PROJECT OFFICE



delivery. This project is presently in the early developmental stages.

Quick Link Communications, a Calgary based, satellite communications company is currently providing the communities of Lac Brochet and Pukatawagan a 512Kbps shared access service. The communities of Red Sucker Lake,

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Since its creation in September 2001 the Broadband Project Office has been active on several fronts in terms of partnership development with the private sector and community based organizations in order to provide high speed internet/Broadband solutions to various regions of the Province where that service does not currently exist.

Some examples include: the Churchill Community Network high-speed connectivity project where both commercial and residential clients will be provided with 2Mgbs service through a satellite /wireless based solution. This community owned ISP model would be the first of its kind in Manitoba.

The NorthWest Community Futures Development Corporation, which encompasses the entire region from Sayisi Dene First Nations southward to Leaf Rapids, is entertaining a cooperative full service telecommunications network, owned and operated by the twelve NorthWest CFDC member communities. Satellite telephony based technology would allow a regionally owned telephone company to be established in either Lynn Lake or Leaf Rapids and provide northern residents with affordable, dependable phone service as well high speed Internet

Wasagamach, Garden Hill and St. Theresa Point have also shown interest in receiving a similar service by the aforementioned retailer however capital access remains the biggest barrier to actual construction and delivery.

The Bayline Communities Round Table is currently gathering information on various IT solutions that would provide high speed Internet connectivity to that particular part of the Province. The Broadband project office has been working with the North Central Community Futures Development Corporation based out of Thompson and providing information on the various carriers and retailers that are interested in providing connectivity solutions to northern and remote communities in Manitoba.

Virden Manitoba is providing a made-in-Manitoba solution to the Schools in that area insofar as high-speed connectivity is concerned. The Fort La Bosse S.D. # 41 has formed an equity partnership with Custom Software Solutions Inc. of Virden utilizing wireless technology and providing the individual schools with data transfer rates speeds of up to 3 Mbps (mega bits per second). Broadband service (2 Mbps) is being provided to a total of ten community schools including the Adult Learning Centre and the Divisional School office located in Virden.

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