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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS OPENS INTERNET SITES IN MANITOBA

SEPTEMBER, 2002 – WINNIPEG, MB – Community Connections is in the third year of a three year initiative that has established 550 new public Internet access sites throughout Manitoba.

Together with the legacy Industry Canada CAP sites, over 650 Manitoba organizations are now providing public access.

These additional 550 sites have moved Manitoba's access sites per capita position from last place amongst the provinces to third place, behind PEI and Saskatchewan.

Of the 550 new sites 200 have been established in Winnipeg, 53 in Northern Manitoba and 297 in rural Manitoba. Sites are established in a variety of community organizations. The capacity of all public libraries has been significantly increased. Also of note is that 24 rural Canada Post Offices have been included in this initiative with the specific objective of making their EPOST services available throughout Manitoba.

Access site providers also participate in the development and sponsorship of community homepages utilizing web-page technology developed through a

Community Connections partnership – CIMNET (Community Information Management Network). Twelve community homepages are operating and another 12 are under development. Other community groups are beginning to use CIMNET applications and strategies to publish community information and content.

Access site providers and community content providers are supported through two help desks (English and French) that have been established to provide both technical and CIMNET application assistance.

Access sites and community resource networks also have access to youth employees. 150 youth were employed full or part time in the program last year.

Three small IT companies have started as a result of the community and youth inclusion approach that Community Connections has deployed ('Function Four Inc'.- software research and development; 'Grantstown Inc'-server design, web hosting and application service provider ; and '83 North' – a technical and application helpdesk).

Community Connections
www.communityconnections.mb.ca
Industry, Trade and Mines
www.gov.mb.ca/itm

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www.gov.mb.ca/itm/rit/ihm

Manitoba Education Training & Youth

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