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Nova Scotia **IT's** going places

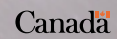


SHAPING OUR FUTURE TODAY

Nova Scotia is connected. We're connected to each other, to the world, and to a future of economic advantage through one of the largest public investments in Information Technology (IT) infrastructure in the province's history. Since 1998, the *Information Economy Initiative* has leveraged an investment of more than \$90 million in computers, software, Internet connections, technical support and professional development in schools, universities and communities across Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia • **IT's** going places

COOPERATION
Economic Diversification Agreement
Entente Diversification Économique



A lot done

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

\$14.7 million invested in hundreds of communities province wide. The *Information Economy Initiative* gives Nova Scotians greater access to computers, the Internet and the economic and social benefits that Information Technology (IT) offers. The federal/provincial *Initiative* builds upon the successful Industry Canada Community Access Program (C@P). At more than 240 C@P sites, mostly in rural Nova Scotia, volunteers teach people how to use communications technology, local businesses train employees and communities use the equipment to form regional networks that market their strengths.

The *Initiative* gives people the tools they need to do business better, expand the economy and build stronger communities. Whether Nova Scotians are using the Internet to export art or software, negotiate a contract, start a business, develop IT skills, do research or deliver government services, we are developing the resources to get the job done.

CONNECTING SCHOOLS

\$43.4 million invested in 181 public schools across the province. The *Information Economy Initiative* is an investment in our young people. The more than 6,200 computers provided by the *Initiative* doubled the number of workstations in secondary schools, in keeping with Nova Scotia's commitment to integrate technology with education. By giving students broad access to computer technology, and by training teachers and investing in software, the *Initiative* contributes to a technology-rich education and a bright future for Nova Scotia's youth.



PRODUCING R&D

\$33.2 million invested at Nova Scotia universities. The *Information Economy Initiative* assists Nova Scotia's researchers, universities and colleges by investing in programs that focus on Information Technology. For example, through an investment in physical infrastructure, the *Initiative* supports Dalhousie University's graduate program in electronic commerce, which was the first degree of its kind offered in Canada. And through a hub at Dalhousie, a high-speed research network now links St. Francis Xavier, Acadia and University College of Cape Breton (UCCB).

At the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), the *Initiative* gives researchers new access to advanced IT capabilities through a high-speed, fibre-optic link between the NSCC's Centre of Geographic Sciences and its training centre in Lawrencetown.

The *Initiative* also has funded centres of excellence in IT at UCCB, Acadia and Dalhousie. The Acadia Institute for Teaching and Technology aims to become a national centre of excellence for the application of IT at all educational levels. The Global Information Networking Institute (GINI) at Dalhousie focuses on research in e-commerce, software engineering, telemedicine and bioinformatics.

A lot to look forward to



LAUNCHING R&D

Wealth creation from R&D happens when you take it from the lab to the market. To produce clusters of technologically advanced industries, the *Initiative* supports efforts to commercialize research in fields where we are developing a comparative advantage – fields like medicine, distance learning, new media, web tools and customer care.

MAKING MORE CONNECTIONS

The *Information Economy Initiative* is introducing the next generation of high-speed Internet connections to every school, library and community college in the province. In partnership with the private sector, the *Initiative* provides high-speed broadband links at more than 600 sites. For surrounding communities and businesses, this means earlier access to faster connections and their benefits: educational and business growth in the knowledge-based economy, and time-saving e-services from government.

SECURING AN IT SKILLED WORKFORCE

To build our knowledge sectors, we need to develop clusters of industry using new-economy skills. To develop clusters, we need a workforce trained in IT and an infrastructure to prepare the required human resources. The *Information Economy Initiative* looks for ways to do that. For instance, it builds on the recognized ability of the Nova Scotia Community College to train technology professionals. The *Initiative* is also leveraging further investment by the college in Virtual Campus programming to take advantage of the new high-speed links.

GETTING SMARTER

Nova Scotia's businesses and communities are getting smarter. Countless volunteers already have succeeded in the Government of Canada's "Smart Communities" competition that has the support of the *Information Economy Initiative*. In dozens of other towns and villages, well over a thousand volunteers are opening doors to Information Technology and its everyday benefits for themselves and their neighbours.

The *Information Economy Initiative* is helping them do it.

To learn more about the *Initiative*, please visit infoeconomy.gov.ns.ca. And come along with Nova Scotia • IT's going places.

