



Backgrounder – Alberta SuperNet and Health

Alberta SuperNet will connect all of the province's health care facilities. As a result, some of the greatest benefits of Alberta SuperNet will be experienced in the health care sector, particularly in rural areas currently without high-speed access.

Benefits:

- Regional health authorities will enjoy improved and immediate access to information, and will be able to share information quickly and efficiently with other regions.
- Health care practitioners will benefit from working with new or enhanced e-health applications, including electronic health records, diagnostic imaging, and online consultations with clinical specialists.
- Doctors and nurses in communities previously without high-speed access will benefit from e-learning applications, as they are able to attend and participate in online learning sessions without having to travel to urban centers for the same educational benefits.
- For all health facilities and regions, SuperNet will result in faster, more economical high-speed transmission of data.

About Alberta SuperNet:

Alberta SuperNet is a Government of Alberta initiative to link 4,700 libraries, schools, hospitals and provincial government offices in 422 communities province-wide with a high-capacity network by mid-2004. In addition, commercial service providers in areas which currently do not have high-speed connectivity options will be able to access Alberta SuperNet at current market rates, bringing competitive broadband services to most Alberta businesses and residences, whether they are in rural or urban areas.

The Government of Alberta will invest a maximum of \$193 million over three years to build the sustainable and scaleable network. As prime contractor for the build, Bell will invest \$102 million to build the Base Area, the portion of the network linking 27 large communities. Bell is also building the network's Extended Area, which connects 395 smaller communities. Axia SuperNet Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Axia NetMedia Corp. (TSE:AXX), has a 10-year renewable contract from the Government of Alberta to operate and manage the entire network. For more information about the Alberta SuperNet see www.albertasupernet.ca or www.supernetportal.com.

Alberta SuperNet is just one of thousands of initiatives supported through the Alberta Lottery Fund. The Alberta Lottery Fund is made up of the government's share of net revenues from VLTs, slot machines, and ticket lotteries. These revenues total more than \$1 billion each year, and are used to support volunteer, public and community-based initiatives across the province.

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For more information about Alberta SuperNet:

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