



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2006LCS0001-000124
Feb. 24, 2006

Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

GRANTS BRING BROADBAND TO 25 RURAL B.C. COMMUNITIES

VICTORIA – Twenty-five rural B.C. communities have received funding to help bring broadband Internet to homes and businesses, Labour and Citizens' Services Minister Michael de Jong announced today.

NetworkBC has provided \$400,000 in Community Networking Infrastructure Grants for the purchase of 'last mile' infrastructure necessary to connect local Internet providers with a broadband point of presence in their communities. Grants of up to \$40,000 have been awarded to 18 recipients representing 25 rural communities.

"All British Columbians should have equal opportunity to benefit from the knowledge economy," said de Jong. "If you live in a rural community, high-speed Internet gives you access to the same online education, health information and business opportunities already enjoyed by those living in more major centres."

In 2005, the 151 communities on NetworkBC's Digital Divide list, all of which were without access to high-speed broadband Internet, were invited to apply for Community Networking Infrastructure Grants. To date, NetworkBC has awarded grants totalling \$1 million to help connect 57 of these communities to broadband Internet.

NetworkBC is a dedicated project office within the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, working with British Columbia communities and the private sector to connect all B.C. communities to broadband telecommunications networks.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BACKGROUND

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NetworkBC has provided \$400,000 in Community Networking Infrastructure Grants for the purchase of 'last mile' infrastructure necessary to connect local Internet providers with a broadband point of presence in their communities.

Eighteen recipients representing 25 communities have received grants of up to \$40,000 each. The following is a list of CNIG recipients, the communities served and the grant amounts:

ABC Communications	Bear Lake; Hixon; McLeese Lake; Nazko	\$40,000
BC Wireless Ltd.	70 Mile House; Horsefly; Likely	\$40,000
Community Futures Development Corporation of Mt. Waddington	Coal Harbour; Zeballos	\$20,000
ComTech Broadband Inc.	Port Renfrew	\$20,000
CP Electronics	Anahim Lake; Alexis Creek	\$20,000
District of Port Edward	Port Edward	\$20,000
East Francois Lake Volunteer Fire/Rescue	Francois Lake	\$20,000
Fauquier Communication Centre	Fauquier	\$20,000
Fort Fraser Ambulance Society	Fort Fraser	\$20,000
Kaslo InfoNet Society	Meadow Creek	\$20,000
Lasqueti Internet Access Society	Lasqueti Island	\$20,000
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	Beaverdell	\$20,000
Southside Economic Development Association	Grassy Plains	\$20,000
The Corporation of the Village of Granisle	Granisle	\$20,000
Village of Montrose	Montrose	\$20,000
Village of Sayward	Sayward	\$20,000
Wynndel Internet Society	Wynndel	\$20,000
Yahk Kingsgate Recreation Society	Yahk	\$20,000

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