



News release

Broadband Task Force to study high-speed Internet service in Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 31, 2001) – Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk announces the establishment of the Nunavut Broadband Task Force.

The Task Force, which will include representatives from government, Inuit organizations and the private sector, will report to the Minister on access to high-speed Internet services in Nunavut, and provide advice on how to ensure these services can be used by all citizens.

“We know that the private sector faces significant barriers, which have caused delays in providing high-speed Internet services to our communities,” Minister Akesuk said. “We need to work together to establish a clear role for government in helping the private sector overcome these barriers. My announcement today is intended to be a major step towards ensuring Nunavummiut will benefit fully from the new information and communications technologies, in areas like tele-health, distance education and community economic development.”

The Nunavut Broadband Task Force report will be used in consultations with the recently announced National Broadband Task Force. The national body will prepare a strategy and advise the Government of Canada on how to make high-speed broadband Internet services available to businesses and residents in all Canadian communities by the year 2004.

“I was very pleased to see Adamee Itorcheak, President of Nunanet Worldwide Communications, named as one of only 35 members of the National Broadband Task Force,” Minister Akesuk said. “His leadership in the development of Internet technologies in Nunavut is widely-recognized, and he will be an excellent representative for Nunavummiut and all northerners.”

Members of the Nunavut Broadband Task Force will be announced shortly. The Task Force will be expected to meet immediately in order to provide a Nunavut submission to the National Task Force in February.

For information on the National Broadband Task Force: <http://broadband.gc.ca>

-30-

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