



News Release

NUNAVUT SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED INTERNET ACCESS

Iqaluit, Nunavut, February 14, 2012 – Public schools across Nunavut now have access to improved Internet enhancing students’ ability to include online learning in educational curricula from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

This new broadband service, providing dedicated bandwidth and satellite capacity, is made possible thanks to a partnership between the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation (NBDC), and SSi Micro Ltd, the operator of the QINIQ network.

“The Government of Canada has consistently supported improved broadband service in communities all across Canada and nowhere is connectivity more important than across the North,” said the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. “I am delighted that this important service will provide Nunavut students and their teachers with greater access to online educational tools.”

The classroom connect project includes an investment by the Government of Canada of up to \$2.1 million. The Government of Nunavut has committed \$1.8 million to support NBDC’s core operations since its inception in 2003 and will allocate 12.5 megabits per second (Mbps) of satellite bandwidth to classroom connectivity as well.

“The Government of Nunavut is committed to improving tools that support the education of our youth,” said Premier Eva Aariak, Minister of Education. “Improved internet speed means better access to information, more opportunity to share ideas and a greater chance of success.”

“The launch of this very important broadband service is a direct response to the needs expressed by the Nunavut public and represents a significant milestone in Nunavut’s ability to educate its children,” said Darrell Ohokannoak, President of NBDC. “Teachers can now use the Internet to embellish their classroom methods, and students can reach out beyond books and videos to the rest of the world.”

“SSi Micro is excited to be the company whose innovative technology is making all of this possible,” said President Jeff Phillip. “Our network in Nunavut has grown considerably over the past six years, and we are extremely proud to deliver this much needed Internet access to the schools.”

Today’s announcement is part of a \$21.6 million commitment made by the Government of Canada in August 2008 to improve broadband service in Nunavut. Federal funding for this project comes from the National Satellite Initiative under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, and is provided through a contribution agreement with the NBDC. The Government of Nunavut’s Department of Economic

Development and Transportation has committed \$375,000 in matching funds for project management and communications over three years.

NBDC is a federally registered not-for-profit corporation whose members represent community, private sector and citizen interests to ensure that reliable affordable access to broadband services is delivered by the private sector to every Nunavut community.

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For further information on the Government of Canada's infrastructure investments, visit infrastructure.gc.ca.

For further information on the QINIQ network: www.qiniq.com

For further information on NBDC: www.nunavut-broadband.ca

For further information on SSi Micro: www.ssimicro.com

For further information on Department of Education: <http://gov.nu.ca>

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