Tamaani Wireless Internet
From Dream to Reality
Nunavik Geo-Political Situation

Geographical Location

- Nunavik, Northern Canada Region
- 200,000 sq. miles (25% larger than California)
- Remote arctic territory, severe climate conditions
Nunavik Geo-Political Situation

Population

- 11,000 permanent residents
- 14 villages varying in size from 180 to 2,500 inhabitants
- 60% of the population is under the age of 25
- 90% of the population speaks Inuktitut as mother tongue

The Kativik Regional Government

- Created in 1978 following signing of JBNQA agreement
- Supra-municipal body governing public services
Transportation

- No roads or railways
- Transportation done by airplane or sealift
- High cost of transportation

Communications

- Communications done via satellite (data, voice, video)
- Regular phone service available since 1974
- Only possible way to connect to Internet was at slow speed (9,600 bps) at a cost of $0.20 per minute
- Telco broadband services not available in the region
Tamaani Wireless Internet Project

Historical Background

• 2000 – Kativik Regional Government takes leadership in bringing broadband to Nunavik
• 2002 – Financial agreements signed
• 2003 – Deployment of satellite earth stations in 14 communities
• 2004 – Deployment of wireless distribution system and launch of Tamaani Wireless Internet

The Last Mile

• No bidirectional cable available, no DSL, no ISDN
• Public wireless technologies (802.11 or other) not reliable or efficient, limited market penetration (external antennas, LOS needed, prone to interference)
• MMDS solution most adequate
  – Easy to install and support
  – True Non Line-of-sight
  – Full coverage in 14 communities
  – Allows roaming with other canadian Nunavik communities
Conclusion

The Benefits

- Accessibility of services
- Significant opportunity for improved bi-directional communications
- Socio-economic development
- Education, TeleHealth, TeleJustice, Videoconference
- Tourism

Our Partners

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After the satellite dish, life got complicated.