

SMART COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVITÉS INGÉNIEUSES

Report Card 2002



Objectives/Proposed Services

To promote local investment in schools, economic development and improve communications for the project communities and surrounding region. Smart Services will include: Keewaytinook Internet High School, Community-based Telehealth Services, Community Information Technology Centres, Data Warehousing, Community portals linked to the K-Net portal, an open source caching router, a community-based hybrid (satellite, microwave, fibre) broadband network (K-Net) and IP telephony and video conferencing services.



Progress Against Objectives

All aspects of the project are proceeding as scheduled, with some deliverables being achieved ahead of schedule.

The goal of the Kuh-ke-nah Smart First Nations project is to demonstrate how First Nation communities can collaboratively use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to re-determine their relationship with Canada and the world. Smart services include:

- **Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS):** is supporting the development of on-line access to highschool programming for youth in the Keewaytinook Okimakanak communities and across the region.
- **Community Information Technology Centres (e-Centres):** E-Centres are now established in each of the Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nations providing a hub for SMART service access and training.
- **Kuh-ke-nah Portal:** The K-Net Portal (<http://knet.ca>) is a community of communities - a high-speed WAN based gateway that reflects local character and priorities.
- **Data Warehouse:** facilitating the development of community and regional database projects including K-Net News, K-Net Network utilization and K-Net photo gallery.
- **Keewaytinook Okimakanak Telehealth:** The Kuh-ke-nah network supports the development of an integrated IP environment for dynamic (data / voice / video) health services delivery in partnership with the NORTH Network providing a secure VPN connecting each First Nation Health Centre to all the hospitals across Northern Ontario.
- **IP Telephony and Video Conferencing Services:** K-Net staff are now working in partnership with the Education Network of Ontario to deploy and support IP telephony services as a revenue generating stream for the Kuh-ke-nah Network.
- **Broadband Network Deployment:** The IP broadband network is now operational in each of the Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nations including the "last mile" cable solution. Other First Nation communities and their organizations across the province are now joining the network.
- **Smart Management and Organization:** Keewaytinook Okimakanak is integrating ICT and broadband applications throughout all its programs and services to better meet the needs of the member First Nations.



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Success Stories

- **January 2002:** Keewaytinook Okimakanak becomes the Helpdesk for First Nation schools across Ontario.
- **January 2002:** Keewaytinook Okimakanak becomes Industry Canada's agent to support the utilization of the public benefit C-Band transponder space provided by Telesat Canada.
- **February 2002:** Construction of the local cable infrastructure in each Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nation is now complete, providing high speed connections to every building in each KO community.
- **February 2002:** Keewaytinook Okimakanak in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation hosts the First Nations Connect Conference in Thunder Bay showcasing the ICT developments in the Keewaytinook Okimakanak communities.
- **February 2002:** FedNor funds several broadband connectivity projects with First Nations and their organizations working in partnership with K-Net to get onto the Kuh-ke-nah Network.
- **February 2002:** FedNor funds Keewaytinook Okimakanak to construct a fibre optic loop in Sioux Lookout connecting First Nation organizations to K-Net to expand services for the remote First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.
- **February 2002:** With the support of a Trillium Foundation grant, Keewaytinook Okimakanak is further developing the Turning Point web site.
- **March 2002:** Keewaytinook Okimakanak's Telehealth Initiative is officially launched in partnership with NORTH Network.
- **March 2002:** Computers-for-school project delivers 400 computers for distribution to Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nation schools and homes.
- **April 2002:** Keewaytinook Okimakanak hosts a national gathering in Winnipeg of organizations interested in utilizing Industry Canada's Public Benefit C-Band Transponder.
- **May 2002:** Representatives from KO First Nation e-Centres participate in the Ontario Library Services North (OLSN) First Nations Public Library conference in Sudbury to identify strategies for establishing and operating local public libraries.
- **June 2002:** KO's Telehealth team coordinates the development of a regional migration strategy that includes a presentation / demonstration at a regional Chiefs' Meeting in Thunder Bay along with the production of a comprehensive business case for a regional telehealth service.



- June 2002: K-Net hosts a National First Nations SchoolNet Helpdesk gathering in Sioux Lookout that includes demonstrations, community visits and presentations with other helpdesk representatives from across Canada. Visitors included Telesat Canada VP (Paul Bush) and Industry Canada ADM (David Fransen).

- June 2002: Keewaytinook Internet High School celebrates its second year of operation with local graduation special events and on-line awards.

- July 2002: Science and Technology Camps are hosted in each KO First Nation in partnership with local Smart team introducing and supporting on-line research and activities for local youth.

- July 2002: New open source e-learning software tool (nicknamed Zed) piloted with on-line workshop for new teaching staff hired to teach in each of the thirteen KiHS partner First Nation classrooms.

- August 2002: Other First Nations and First Nation organizations begin to establish their local broadband connections that provide video conferencing services and high speed Internet connections. This development includes a local loop involving a number of First Nation agencies in Thunder Bay that decide to establish a broadband wireless solution connecting all the different groups to the Kuh-ke-nah Network.

- August 2002: The Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS) hosts two workshops in Balmertown for new staff members. The first week provided training for First Nation Classroom Assistants who returned to their communities to set up the KiHS classrooms. The second week long workshop was for all the KiHS teaching staff that included a intensive training and planning session for the delivery of the on-line high school courses using the new web-based Zed e-learning tool.

- August 2002: Keewaytinook Okimakanak celebrates its tenth year of operations with all its partners and member First Nations participating both in person and virtually.

- September 2002: The Broadband Network Technician employment and training project funded in partnership with Sioux Lookout Aboriginal Area Management Board starts with participants from sixteen remote First Nations using the new Keewaytinook Okimakanak On-line Training Centre.

- September 2002: Six additional satellite served First Nations begin constructing and establishing C-Band earth stations that will utilize the C-Band Public Benefit transponder to access broadband connectivity and application

