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## Northern Ontario Overcoming Digital Divide - Says Recent Survey

TIMMINS, ON. –NEOnet has released the results of a survey conducted by Oraclepoll Research Ltd. that answers questions about where Northern Ontario stands when it comes to computer and Internet use and adoption. The survey was made possible with the generous support of FedNor and College Boreal.

Conducted in the spring of 2005, the survey provides valuable insight on computer and Internet usage among Northerners. Five hundred residents and 125 businesses from the area were interviewed to obtain the results. The report also compares the results gathered within the region to comparable data from the rest of Canada.

“It’s great to see that Northern Ontario is starting to overcome the digital divide,” said Stéphane Gallant, ICT Project Manager for NEOnet. In fact, Northern Ontario appears to have higher (and therefore better) penetration rates than the Canadian average for household computer and basic Internet penetration rates. Even local businesses seem to be connecting to the internet more often, compared to national averages.

“Our higher penetration rates are probably the result of the many partnerships between the private and public sectors in our region,” said NEOnet chair Christy Marinig. “We’re still behind when it comes to high-speed internet penetration rates, but there are a lot of organizations out there right now trying to address that problem and make sure that everyone will have some kind of access to broadband.”

If you would like to learn more about computer usage in Northern Ontario, you can download a copy of the survey report at [www.neonet.on.ca/survey2005.html](http://www.neonet.on.ca/survey2005.html)