

MEDIA RELEASE

November 15, 2005 – For Immediate Release

Satellite Opportunities Just Increased for Remote Northeastern Ontario Businesses

Timmins, Ontario – On November 15, 2005 – NEOnet will be administering a new program targeted at small businesses and non-profit corporations that need broadband service but are unable to secure it at their place of business. The Satellite Internet for Remote Areas program (SIRA) can help these organizations by providing up to 75% of the costs associated with installing ka-band satellite services.

Christy Marinig – Chair of NEOnet’s Board of Directors – is very pleased with the announcement of the SIRA program as it will, help remote Northeastern Ontario businesses and non-profit organizations particularly farms and tourism outfitters realize economic benefits, as well as complement the terrestrial broadband service initiative which NEOnet is currently implementing. Christy Marinig stated, “High-speed internet access can be a valuable tool for the business sector, as it facilitates marketing and communications efforts, and can introduce significant operational efficiencies. The new 2-way broadband satellite connections provide remote organizations with a viable alternative to traditional high-speed offerings –such as cable and DSL– that are not available in many rural and remote areas.”

Remote businesses and non-profit organizations interested in applying should contact NEOnet to determine whether they are eligible for funding. Criteria have been established and the staff at the organization will be pleased to explain the program in detail.

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