

PRESS RELEASE



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Cochrane District Broadband Project complete with 22 communities served

Representatives from Industry Canada, NOHFC, NorthernTel and NEOnet as well as members from various communities throughout the northeast gathered yesterday to promote the completion of a four-year project that brought high-speed Internet access to 22 communities.

NEOnet initiated the Cochrane District Broadband Expansion Project to provide these remote communities with high-speed Internet access. This project was successfully implemented because of Industry Canada’s \$1.9M contribution from its Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program (BRAND) and the \$1.06M contribution from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. NorthernTel, the project’s private sector partner, provided approximately \$1M in capital funding. “NorthernTel is pleased to be able to offer high speed internet to these communities” said Dave McGirr, Vice President of Business Sales and Strategic Solutions. “NEOnet’s assistance was essential in making this happen.”

The 22 communities connected through the Cochrane District Broadband Expansion Project include:

Swastika	Hoyle	Holtyre	Jogues
Monteith	Ramore	Anthony	Matachewan
Larder Lake	Hallébourg	Shillington	Clear Lake
Virginiatown	Val Côté	Val Gagné	Gatineau
Connaught	Porquis Junction	Mattice	
Barbers Bay	Elk Lake	Dawson Point	

“NEOnet is proud to have brought together the partners necessary to build the required infrastructure to help businesses and local residents reap the benefits of technology,” stated Christy Marinig –NEOnet Chair. “NEOnet has recently selected a private sector partner and submitted funding proposals to both the provincial and federal governments for phase two of the project which will address high-speed internet access issues faced by communities in the Gogama-Foley area as well as in Timiskaming District,” Marinig continued.

“Through the Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program, Canada’s new government continues to help Canadians in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities benefit from all the economic, business and social opportunities that broadband access can bring,” said the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Industry.

If you are interested in learning more about our Broadband initiatives in Northeastern Ontario you can visit us at www.neonet.on.ca.

More information about the Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program can be accessed at www.broadband.gc.ca.