

MEDIA RELEASE

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Northern Ontario Businesses Continue to Benefit From Satellite Internet Program (SIRA)

Timmins, Ontario – On September 19, 2006 – NEOnet continues to assist remote small businesses and non-profit corporations in Northern Ontario obtain high-speed internet access via satellite. The Satellite Internet for Remote Areas program (SIRA), administered by NEOnet, has helped over 300 organizations this year alone, 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 that the program continues to help develop economic opportunities for remote Northern Ontario businesses and non-profit organizations, particularly farms and tourism outfitters. SIRA complements the terrestrial broadband service initiative which NEOnet is currently implementing in Northeastern Ontario.

“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” said Marinig. “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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For more information contact:

Chris McLaughlin
ICT Project Manager
NEOnet
(705) 360 – 1353 ext 1
cmclaughlin@neonet.on.ca