

Northern BC Connects to the World at Light Speed
BCNET, the Province of BC and Shaw deliver Super High Speed to Prince George

Media Inquiries:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tamara Klein
Manager of
Communications

Suite 7300-SFU
Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 5K3

Ph: 604-822-1348
(ext.1)

Email: info@bc.net

Vancouver, BC (July 29, 2008) - This week BCNET announces the installation and delivery of its upgrade to its super broadband network connecting the Prince George and Vancouver Transit Exchange locations. As of July 20, 2008, the network operation teams on two ends of the province have been successfully running the new services. This next generation research network link provisioned by Shaw Business Solutions connects northern British Columbia to the world. BCNET now maintains an impressive 10 gigabits per second (gbps) super broadband network that serves higher education and research in Prince George, far surpassing the 2 gbps transfer rate BCNET previously provided. This improved link facilitates data transfer rates that allows users to download 250 high-quality songs in one second or a full-length motion picture in approximately 2 seconds.

BCNET provides the network connectivity to the Prince George hub, one of five Transit Exchanges in British Columbia, which currently serves UNBC, the Prince George Public Library and Northern Health. "Health care is increasingly reliant on the secure and efficient flow of patient information," said Joseph Mendez, Northern Health's associate vice president responsible for information services. "This network enhancement will further support our existing infrastructure in providing further redundancy and capacity to ensure that the clinical information needs of health providers are available securely and efficiently."

Additionally, the Prince George hub links Telus and Bell as commercial Internet providers. The world-class network now in place in northern British Columbia affords the potential for expanded opportunities in telemedicine, and for connections to data banks maintained by other health authorities in the province — all provided in a matter of seconds.

Beyond academic programming and research, the upgraded link allows for greater collaboration between public institutions. In conjunction with Prince George's geographic stability, the new high speed link positions UNBC as a desirable data storage facility for Lower Mainland institutions as part of their emergency preparedness in the case of an earthquake.

The expanded infrastructure demonstrates BCNET's continued efforts and commitment to connect member communities across the province of BC with world-class networking technologies as part of the BCNET 2010 Project, funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education. "High-Performance computing and networking is vital to innovation and discovery with a number of major research projects underway in the province relying on BCNET's advanced network," said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell. "And now the advanced network provides the bandwidth to facilitate high-definition videoconferencing as an alternative to traveling to meetings thereby reducing our carbon footprint in conducting business."

About BCNET

BCNET builds high-performance networks for British Columbia's (BC) research and higher education institutes - enabling connections, collaborations, and innovation by facilitating technological advancement. Collectively funded by BC's universities and the federal and provincial governments, BCNET is a not-for-profit society that manages the development of the province's high-speed dedicated Optical Regional Advanced Network (ORAN). The ORAN links researchers and educators in BC across the country and globally; it enables world class projects in the areas of science, health, physics, and education. For more information, please visit our website at www.bc.net.