

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Fast Forward: The Future of High-Speed Networks Imagine Downloading 72 full length movies in 2 Seconds Flat . . .**

*For release March 18, 2008*

Vancouver, BC (March 18, 2008) On March 17, 2008 BCNET together with the Province of BC and CANARIE announced that British Columbia now has access to one of the world's most advanced optical light path "Internet" networks at a launch in downtown Vancouver. The network upgrade provides universities and researchers in BC with access to 10 gigabits per second bandwidth over 72 optical wavelengths. The mega-speed network, when fully harnessed, would enable one to download 72 feature length films in 2 seconds flat or transfer one full hard drive of 60 gigabits from Vancouver to Seattle in 48 seconds to potentially 72 people at once.

Researchers and dignitaries from BC and Ottawa were in attendance to celebrate the upgraded Optical Regional Advanced Network, managed by BCNET and CANARIE, which makes possible unprecedented network bandwidth for higher education and research in the province. BCNET's recently upgraded Optical Regional Advanced Network (ORAN) makes possible unprecedented network bandwidth for higher education and research in the province, encouraging investment and growth in the province into the future.

"High-Performance computing and networking is vital to innovation and discovery," said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell. "By helping to bring people in distant locations together, to share ideas and information, it encourages investment and growth in the province."

This light speed capability of the network posits the province to take the lead in even more world-class research projects – attracting greater research funding, national and international researchers and students, as well as widespread recognition to the province by improving our innovative capability.

#### **About BCNET**

BCNET builds high-performance networks for British Columbia's 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](http://www.bc.net).

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