



September 27, 2007

Nova Scotia's largest community-owned infrastructure will soon be reality

Greater technological speed, capacity, security and savings will soon be reality for the Annapolis Valley.

With more than 75% of the strand in place and over a third of the optical cable strung, the vision of the Valley Community Fibre Network, also known as the VCFN, to create a 186 kilometer broadband network will soon be realized.

The fibre optic network will extend from Halifax to Middleton, providing access to customer managed dark fibre and cost effective solutions for modern day challenges.

The network offers opportunity to improve academic achievement, as well as better prepare communities for opportunities in the global knowledge-based economy.

It will empower businesses and enhance the delivery of services to residents, such as those of the health sector. Hospitals throughout the Valley will be able to utilize the VCFN to transfer highly sophisticated data between facilities in a matter of seconds.

Businesses and residents alike will benefit from the improved availability of cost effective high speed connectivity services and attractively priced dark fibre services.

Envisioned by the founding members comprised of six municipal units, Acadia University and the Nova Scotia Community College, the network will stimulate innovation and facilitate business, economic and social growth in our region.

"The VCFN Board of Directors and Steering Committee has worked tirelessly to see their vision a reality. While it was our hope to be completed earlier this year, given the magnitude of the project, it is not surprising we endured a few challenges along the way however the end is in sight," remarked Erin Beaudin Executive Director of Kings CED Agency and VCFN Project Leader.

Beaudin noted that the VCFN already has a number of long-term lease customers signed up and looking forward to a service delivery date of mid-December. Many valley businesses have expressed interest and enquires have been received from at least two out-of-province Internet Service Providers.

"We were most pleased to have the network included as an asset in the provincial tender for Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia," stated Beaudin. "The VCFN is a partner in providing high speed connectivity and community capacity and the provincial initiative complimented and supported our vision."

The VCFN has been designed to meet the growing capacity of the Valley Region and will be interconnected with Dalhousie University CA*Net 4 Point of Presence at the eastern end and the FUNDYweb Broadband co-located at the Annapolis Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College in Middleton. Customers acquire and manage all electro-optical equipment used to connect to the fibre giving them control of speed, bandwidth and other features.

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For more information on the VCFN, please contact Erin Beaudin at 678-2298 or visit on-line at www.valleycommunityfibrenetwork.com

