



7468 Mission Road
Cranbrook, British Columbia
V1C 7E5
Fax 489-2438

For Immediate Release
March 12, 2007

Rural Broadband is Here!

East Kootenay - The Ktunaxa Nation Council owned Nation Network is officially set to launch on March 22 in a ceremony at the Lower Kootenay Band Complex near Creston, BC. The Nation Network is the first open network of its kind in Canada, and was first envisioned in 2001 as a tool for Nation Members to preserve the critically endangered Ktunaxa language through the use of high-speed video conferencing and online training.

The open concept of the Nation Network will also provide many opportunities beyond language training, as there are economic, educational, and healthcare options that either never existed, or were much more difficult to access before. These benefits will also extend to many of the neighbouring non-first nation communities who will be able to access the Nation Network and have download speeds up to one-hundred times faster than dial-up. Subscribers could eventually receive services such as voice over IP phone service, movie downloads, and online gaming.

The \$7.7 million network consists of 13 towers and provides wireless service and fibre to the user (FTTU) in an area of 17,871 square kilometres in the East Kootenay. Communities which can be served are:

St. Mary's Indian Band	Lakeview Meadows	Golden Rural
Lower Kootenay Indian Band	Westside Road	Nicolson
Akisknuk First Nation	Dry Gulch	Donald
Shuswap Indian Band	Edgewater	Invermere Rural
Tobacco Plains Indian Band	Wilmer	Windermere
Cokato	Timber Ridge	Fairmont Rural
Fernie Rural	Panorama	Wasa
Althamer	Rushmere	Skookumchuk
Columbia Lake	Brownsville	Kimberley Rural
Dutch Creek Rural	Columere Park Rural	Marysville
Columbia Ridge	Luxor/Spur Valley	Cranbrook Rural
Juniper Heights	Brisco	
Toby Benches	Spillimacheen	

For more information you can visit the Nation Network web site:
www.ktunaxa.org/network

~~-30-~~

For Further Information Contact:

Garry Slonowski
Communications Manager
Ktunaxa Nation
(250) 417-4022 ext. 226
gslonowski@ktunaxa.org
www.ktunaxa.org