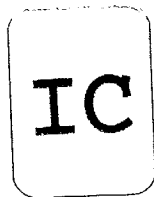
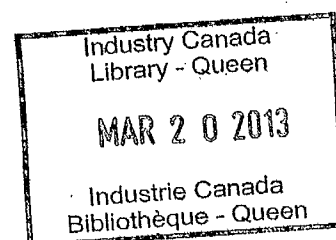


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A PROFILE OF CANADIAN ELECTRONIC COMMUNITY NETWORKS

GARTH GRAHAM
aa127@freenet.carleton.ca
January 26, 1995



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A PROFILE OF CANADIAN ELECTRONIC COMMUNITY NETWORKS

GARTH GRAHAM (aa127@freenet.carleton.ca)
January 26, 1995

Acknowledgements:

This profile was written on behalf of Telecommunities Canada and the Communications Development Directorate, Industry Canada, but the analysis, conclusions, and recommended actions expressed in it are purely the responsibility of the author. Many people freely contributed information to the listings compiled in the related CANADIAN COMMUNITY NETWORKS DIRECTORY. For their conscientious efforts in response to my requests, my thanks, and my apologies for any errors I may have introduced. I would also like to thank the several people who commented on an earlier draft of the profile and in particular, Jay Weston. I've happily appropriated his expressions and incorporated much of his ideas into the final section, THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS, but of course the context in which I've reworded them is entirely of my own contriving.

OVERVIEW

The analysis in this profile is based on data from the updated CANADIAN COMMUNITY NETWORKS DIRECTORY, January 25, 1995, supplemented by my experience in community network consulting. This profile provides an analytical overview, organizing around the headings that describe association listings in the Directory. Together, the Directory and profile summarize the current status of community networking in Canada, including; what has evolved, what needs to be done, implications for infrastructure and policies, similarities and differences among networks, and unique and significant pilot projects.

The Directory identifies electronic community networks operating or organizing in Canada. After a brief and preliminary listing of national agencies, it is organized by province and territory, reading geographically from West to East. Within each province or territory the list is arranged alphabetically, beginning with a preface note on provincial focal points for community network development in the provinces where they exist. The Directory should be considered an appendix to this report. For now, the Directory resides in the August 1994 Community Networks Conference submenu on National Capital FreeNet. When, as planned, Telecommunities Canada acquires a www site and address, the home of the Directory will migrate to that site.

What picture does analysis of the data reveal? What methods will introduce community networks into communities that don't yet have them? There is one clear lesson from the use of these technologies to date. Almost anyone can take hold of interactive computer mediated and networked communications and use it to participate significantly in community life and social development.

The rapid adoption of new communications technologies by autonomous community associations represents a spontaneous grassroots "movement." Although some provincial and federal agencies express interest in and have provided start-up support for community networking, governments are largely absent from this movement. On their own, people with experience of the Internet are finding ways to transfer that experience into their daily living.

To remain "connected" themselves, they know they must help everyone connect. By their actions, they are transforming the concept of neighbour and of civic responsibility. They see "community" as both an antidote to corporate globalization and a key to individual competitiveness in a political economy of knowledge. They are enjoying the experience of creative occupation of electronic public space in large and increasing numbers.

DEFINING COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Representatives of community network associations, meeting in Ottawa in August 1994, agreed to implement a national organization, Telecommunities Canada, to address broad issues of community network development in a coordinated manner. Electronic community networks are new in Canada. Action to define their nature, purpose and the issues that affect all of them, is also new. A major purpose of compiling and updating the Directory is to provide data to assist in that definition. The Directory is not a membership list for Telecommunities Canada, although all associations in it are potential candidates for such membership. For reference, here is the membership definition adopted by the Telecommunities Canada Board:

Ordinary membership in Telecommunities Canada, with full privileges, is limited to Canadian electronic community network organizations that:

- * operate on a not-for-profit basis;
- * have their legal membership open to every citizen of their community;
- * provide equitable access to all citizens in their community;
- * encourage exchange, publication and access to the broadest possible range of information of interest to the community;
- * endeavour to create connections with other computer based networks and to allow the free and interactive flow of information between different communities; and
- * whose membership application has been approved from time to time by the board of directors.

The role of Telecommunities Canada in creating a national strategy for the development of community networking is based on the following perceptions and principles:

- * Community networks are primary vehicles for Canadians, as private individuals, to learn about and gain access to networked services. Community networks are enormously efficient in dealing with public issues of Canada's transformation into a Knowledge Society.
- * The essential element for community network development in Canada is grassroots community control. Community networks are not "infrastructure." Community networks are caretakers of electronic public space created BY the community, not providers of something FOR the community.

* The responsibility to articulate a long term strategy for Canadian community network development is inherent in Telecommunities Canada's mandate. Sustaining the essential autonomy of community networks requires the means of coordinated collective action among community networks over issues of national concern

* While Telecommunities Canada provides the "national voice", it's the community networks themselves that actually address those needs. To date, the needs identified by Canadian community networks that a national voice should address include:

- Self definition of community nets
- Mentoring (experience sharing)
- Advocacy related to national issues of Community Network development
- International Relations
- Research and Development (Socio- economic and political impact, organizational governance, and technology platforms)
- Communications Strategy (Internal and external)
- Francophone Services
- Federal / Provincial / Municipal issues

The Morino Institute of Great Falls, Virginia, is currently designing a North American Directory of Public Access Networks (draft, December 1994). They have developed a definition of Community and Civic Networks through moderated online discussion with over thirty community network activists. Their definition emphasizes citizenship and interactive communication to a greater degree than the Telecommunities Canada membership definition. On the other hand, their emphasis on a "city" metaphor may be at odds with the "remote and rural" access questions dominating Canadian Information Highway policy debate. I applied the Morino Institute definition in this profile analysis and in updating the directory:

Community/Civic Networks are known by many names, including Free-Nets, CivicNets, Community Information Systems, and several others. But they share a broad-based focus on serving the information and communications needs of a local community, often through the metaphor of an "electronic city," whereby non-technical users can visit the electronic equivalent of a schoolhouse, hospital, town hall, post office, etc. They emphasize the role of the user as citizen of that electronic city - and encourage dialogue and interaction among those citizens by offering them equal access to a common and convenient medium of communication.

The key differentiation between community/civic networks and the other types of public access networks lies in the breadth of

focus - and the communication and interaction that takes place around that focus. To continue the "electronic city" metaphor, the special focus networks could be seen as the individual buildings or organizations - while the C/Cnets encompass the city as a whole, and particularly the "town square" or common areas that give the city its unique character.

ACTION: More thinking needs to go into the definition of a community network, particularly with respect to the absence of reference to personal relational communications and dialogue in Telecommunities Canada's membership definition, and the balancing of remote and urban services in the Morino Institute definition. Use of the metaphor of cyberspace as public space or an electronic common, and the reduction of the "city" metaphor to a subset of this, might help.

STATUS

There are 55 community organizations across Canada involved in organizing or operating a community network. Currently 14 community networks are fully operational, and 5 others are operating in test mode. Of the 41 in various stages of organizing, 14 more have indicated they will open between now and June, 1995. Except for one community network service hosted by a school district, all of them are governed by voluntary associations or societies. With 7 up and running, British Columbia has more operating community networks than any other province. BC and Manitoba are the only provinces with established provincial umbrella organizations for the support of community network development.

BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia have operating community networks. Saskatchewan, Quebec, New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland and the two Territories do not. Although all operating community networks are essential urban based, the representation of small, medium and large communities is roughly equal.

NATIONAL STATUS

There are some federal and provincial agencies with a peripheral interest in community networks. I am aware of provincial information highway policy focal points in BC, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and there may be others. But, as yet, no government agency in Canada has specific responsibility for community networks development. Because of the reliance of networked services on the quality of infrastructure for telecommunications and electronic media, all network development, including community networking, focusses attention on structural inequalities in rural and remote services. Existing governmental interests coincide with parallel interests in the growth of telecommunications and information infrastructure, questions of rural and remote access to networked public services, and the utility of community networks to assist these. In other words, governments still view community networks as secondary means to the ends of other services, and not as primary new social agencies in their own right. This relative inattention will change as it becomes apparent that the number of participating Canadians is significant.

Telecommunities Canada sees that community networking sustains community directly, particularly through provision of new communications technologies as means of voicing

community concerns and directly expressing the community's telepresence. In this sense, community networks are central social learning institutions in the creation of a knowledge society. Because of this, Telecommunities Canada sees local autonomy and community control as basic to the very definition of a community network.

The concept of a cultural mosaic is fundamental to Canada's chosen self identity. Community networks are providing a pluralistic umbrella that serves the communications and relational needs of ethnic and minority communities directly.

There is an advantage to this period of relative governmental inattention. It allows time for experimentation, organization, and consolidation of experience, in order to articulate the defense of autonomy and community control that will be required. If the present growth continues, community networks should be able to negotiate from strength over the means of their sustainability and their autonomous status. The present government climate of fiscal constraint should actually favour the development of self sustaining community networks in the long run. A shift is occurring in perceptions about public mandates and programs. We are moving away from rowing and toward steering the boat of government. This shift should favour the new forms of organization that community networks represent. They share knowledge of how to address common needs widely, and they coalesce opinion and broad-based responses rapidly.

ACTION: In order to anticipate the need to defend the autonomy of community networks and clarify their purpose, community networks should research and share information on federal / provincial relations issues and initiatives surrounding the development of telecommunications infrastructure and Information Highway policies, particularly with respect to their relevance in sustaining a grassroots movement for local control of communications capabilities.

ACTION: Within the context of the equity and universal access questions facing the Information Highway Advisory Council, the experience of community networking associations that place special emphasis on addressing the needs of rural and remote access (for example; Blue Sky FreeNet, TDG/FreeSpace, and the "Connecting the North" project) appears particularly relevant and should be carefully examined and communicated.

NAMES OF ASSOCIATIONS

There is no established convention for the naming of community networks. Variants on the themes of FreeNet, Free-Net(tm), Info Net, Community Net, FreeSpace, and several others are in common use. FreeNet is often assumed to be a generic term for electronic community networking but, in fact, it is not. Approximately half of the community networks (27 of 55 associations) use some variation of the word "Free-Net" as trade marked in Canada by the US based National Public Telecomputing Network (NPTN). Several of the 27 are considering a name change. They do not intend to continue with their NPTN affiliation and its attendant charges and obligations. Telecommunities Canada and NPTN are negotiating over the use of the name. NPTN sees itself as a central organization that is building a network of FreeNets. Whereas Telecommunities Canada is a national association of associations characterized by cooperative support in the organization of its member community networks. Telecommunities Canada supports community networking by sharing experience and articulating a common voice among all types of community networks. These differences in objectives and purpose

will affect the outcome of the Free-Net name negotiations.

As a naming footnote, even the word "Telecommunity" has been reserved by the federal government for the use of The Open Learning Agency. As a consequence, the formerly named "Telecommunities Development Group" in Guelph has changed its name to the "Telecommons" Development Group. Telecommunities Canada has not yet approached The Open Learning Agency, but may also be blocked in its use of the word "telecommunity."

ACTION: Legal use of the word "telecommunities" should be clarified.

CONTACT NAMES

There are 86 people listed in the directory as persons willing to act as first point of contact for their organizations. We don't have role titles for all of them, but where we do, they are predominantly senior members of the governing executive committee. In 29 cases, it's the president or chair that's listed as a primary email contact. Only 3 of the 86 listed contacts are identified as staff. This is characteristic of both the voluntary nature of the community networking movement and the limited degree of its institutionalization. For now, the virtual door to the top office is always open. Given the interactive communications and civic purposes of community networks, any evolution away from openness, and toward a professionalized separation into service providers and clients, should be resisted.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

As community networks are new social sector institutions, we should expect that their governance will evolve from where it is now. As we might expect of voluntary community associations, the governance of community networking should be subject to dynamic shifts in emphasis and ability as the cast of volunteers changes. In fact, although all 14 operational systems of service have emerged so rapidly it may be too soon to tell, this does not seem to be the case. Consistent leadership by the same key individuals has been constant throughout the transition from project initiation to implementation in successful projects. Another constant has been reliance on the message and experience of Tom Grundner, the Founder of Free-Nets (if not specific adherence to the NPTN model). Although I have an impression of some shift in key people as projects move from the early stages to operational status, in general community network projects are magnets for enthusiastic, committed and competent volunteer support. There is a rule-of-thumb in community development, "People want to talk." If you provide them the means, they will do so. That rule-of-thumb certainly squares with the early experience in organizing community networks.

The typical organizational structure of a community network is as follows:

- * A small executive or steering committee (three to five people)
- * An elected board of directors (several have twelve members)
- * A subcommittee structure that addresses the tasks of:

- Content providers support
- Funding
- System design / Technical / Hardware - software
- Community contact / public relations / marketing
- education / training in connection
- administrative liaison

Community networks use these very general headings for their subcommittees. Since, in every case, the people who come together to organize a community network have not done this before, this generality probably reflects the necessity to anticipate the unknowable in planning an organization. The Thunder Bay community network project, "807-CITY," has a First Nations Services Committee, an example of special emphasis in representing a particular user community. Communities giving special emphasis to anglophone and francophone services include a Translation Subcommittee. The subcommittee structure of National Capital FreeNet has evolved rapidly and ad hoc in response to growth and need. Its experience may be an indicator of key points of emphasis facing newer projects. It includes the following:

- Public Access Strategies Committee
- Hardware and Software Committee
- The Menu Design Taskforce
- Ways and Means Committee
- Comite' francophone de Libertel / NCF Francophone Committee
- The Help Desk Committee
(includes Documentation Task Force)

The Guelph based Telecommons Development Group, organized as a workers cooperative, is a departure from the general model of governance. This model may neatly balance the question of how to ally a system with commercial sources of revenue while still keeping it focussed on the human behavioral change goals of a social sector institution. But TDG is more of a regional provider of support and organizational development services *TO* community networks than an operator *OF* a community network.

ACTION: "Planning" implies an iterative performance evaluation that the newness of experience in operating community networks does not yet allow. Projects initiated in university settings, such as NCF at Carleton and FreeSpace at the University of Guelph, are highly conscious of the political dimensions and socio-economic implications of community networking. These may be ideal locations for a study of how to set performance goals that balance the governance needs of community networks with community control and their essential grassroots nature.

USERS

At this date, the picture of who uses community networks, why, and how many is far from clear. But it is very clear that any new community network, in spite of never catching up with phone / modem access demands, will experience a growth rate that exceeds their expectations. Many Canadians are ready and waiting to use and enjoy community networks. Of the 14 operating systems, there are membership figures available from only 5; Prince George, Victoria, Edmonton, National Capital FreeNet, and Toronto. In these five, there are now 80,000

registered members and projections of 300,000 by the end of 1995. In total in the 14 operating systems a guess of 150,000 registered user seems reasonable.

Crudely projecting from the growth rates of the 5 for which we have figures to the 28 we can anticipate as operational by mid 1995, it is not unreasonable to anticipate that 750,000 to 1 million Canadians could be experiencing community network services by the end of 1995. With a community network emerging as a concrete example in almost every major city in Canada during 1995, public awareness of alternatives to structuring Information Highway services will increase. Even by Internet standards, that 10 times expansion would be an explosion of growth. It means that coping with rapid growth is a key issue in the development strategies of Canadian community networking.

The Communications Research Centre, Industry Canada, is currently undertaking an extensive social science research project on the use patterns and demographics of National Capital FreeNet members. The information this research will provide is badly needed, not just as description, but also to experiment with how systems of quantitative evaluation of community net performance can be designed.

Some commercial Internet access providers and private bulletin board operators anticipated competition from the establishment of a community network. In reality, through the free training of sophisticated and eager users, operating community networks create a rapidly expanding market for all types of net-based services.

ACTION: The experience of Blue Sky FreeNet in Manitoba and the Thunder Bay FreeNet in active participation by First Nations organizations may be useful in other communities.

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

All community network associations in Canada, as social sector organizations, are committed to some form of universal "free" access as an ideal. The means of achieving that ideal are varied, particularly with respect to the questions of fee-for-service and provision of commercial service. All associations rely on in-kind volunteer services, so that access to computer mediated communications technology, and not salary, is the highest component of operating cost. Although raising money is not a big part of the motivation of community networking activists, it is a huge part of their reality. Community networks are efficient and very effective methods of achieving universal access to computer mediated communications, and universal participation in the new networked social structures of the Knowledge Society. But they are not cheap. The fund raising scramble consistent to all associations includes seeking and maintaining:

- donations
- project contracts and charge backs levied to other organizations for networking services or development research
- Computer vendor product donations
- federal / provincial project establishment grants
- in-kind services from municipal governments and primary sponsoring agencies

National Capital FreeNet raises significant coverage of telephone line costs by charging

businesses and organizations for identified annual line sponsorship.

The following are examples of the creative range of fundamentally different approaches to raising money:

- * National Capital FreeNet, Ottawa - a pure "Free-Net" model, with no fee for access or membership, but donation heavily encouraged.
- * Calgary Free-Net - A PBS model, where use is free, but there is a \$50 charge for active membership in the association itself.
- * Edmonton FreeNet - membership revenue from a \$15 registration fee is a significant component of budgeting to meet projected costs.
- * Manitoba Blue Sky FreeNet - charges for network connection services at the level of provincial programs (eg. education) and communities.
- * Halton Community Net - has grown a platform with sufficient infrastructure to sustain public access through cooperatively meeting the direct internal networking needs of a large group of municipal, educational and public service agencies.
- * Telecommons Development Group / FreeSpace, Guelph - charges for parallel commercial space, gateways, and value added service in order to sustain free access in autonomous community-based FreeSpaces.

ACTION; Sharing experience gained from applying these models, and documenting acceptable funding methods that achieve self-sustaining growth, is a critical issue for the Canadian community networking movement. The chapter on funding in the national "cookbook" on how to grow a community network is a matter of urgent importance. But, remembering that all operating community networks are new, it also seems important to encourage and support this experimentation with a range of models. The criteria for success in funding is not just meeting costs. It's achievement of the ideals of universal free access to basic local networked communications services and universal participation in social opportunity via grassroots organization.

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS

The list of organizations that typically take an interest in the initiation and support of a community networking project is lengthy and includes; universities, colleges, schools, libraries, CableTV companies, Computer hardware and software companies, regional telephone companies, technology research centres, foundations, and First Nation organizations. But starting a community network is really not a matter of institutional support. It's individuals who take action. It's individuals who become aware that the social sector of life in community can gain control of, and benefit from, new communications capabilities. The individuals who do this are people who have experienced electronic networking in schools, community

colleges, universities, libraries, BBSs, and MUDs. They have a strong sense of its implications for positive social change. They know how effective providing an electronic commons can be in intensifying relationships among individuals and organizations. This knowledge that they are making something happen strengthens their volunteer effort and commitment.

In almost all cases, municipal governments are noticeably absent as key initiators.

Direct participation by regional telecommunications carriers, for example in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and New Brunswick, should be contrasted with a seeming lack of involvement in national community networking issues at the STENTOR level. The one instance of CANARIE involvement occurs in Thunder Bay but is specifically in support of the use of the network for tourism marketing. There is an emphasis in the CANARIE / SchoolNet projects on community Internet training through physical "community information access sites," but the relation of the sites to community networks is not yet clear.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS / INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES

Since for the moment the average person's primary access to community networks is via phone lines, community networks are creatures of the local dialing zone. Flat rate access is essential to understanding their success and, in fact, to imagining their future. Important exceptions to telephone access occur in the Chebucto, Cape Breton and Toronto systems where CableTV companies provide some experimental access routes via TV cable. Most of the skepticism expressed by telecommunications technologists about the future of community networks relates to the problem of scaling up internal modem access to the same switching volume as local dialing zones. But this is clearly a problem of the supporting access infrastructure and regulatory framework, rather than a problem inherent in community networks themselves.

Community nets technology platforms imaginatively and dynamically combine existing off-the-shelf hardwares and softwares that support the major functions of Internet connectivity. Since the Internet is evolving rapidly and the bundled components require tinkering, debugging and adaption to fit local needs, this means that community nets must attract and keep people who are happy at evolving within a UNIX environment.

Although the initial community net software was adapted from NPTN's FreePort, as developed at Case Western Reserve University, several community networks have shifted entirely to a www / mosaic / lynx base. In the case of the Montreal Free-Net this was the only way to achieve essential use of accent marks in French. The French language interface being developed by the Montreal Free-Net is an enhancement to "Chebucto Suite," developed by the Chebucto FreeNet, Halifax.

However, the switch toward graphic interfaces this represents can raise serious content design problems in accommodating users disadvantaged by low income or, for example, blindness. Using a web based client does not mean that you *must* go heavy on the graphics. It means that you *may* enhance the text information with graphics, sound and video. So far, text based interfaces remain the best developed, simplest to use, and cheapest route to access. Ensuring that the power and flexibility in www is used effectively requires careful attention to access objectives in design specifications.

However as the cost to access and the ubiquitous availability of graphic interfaces improves, the advantages of text may become specific to particular uses. TDG / FreeSpace, Guelph, uses a graphical user interface client program called Remote Imaging Protocol (RIP) which allows for point and click control over a multimedia information environment. Much of FreeSpace is based in a graphical and audio collaborative virtual environment in which users can freely interact and communicate in real time. It utilizes experience being gained in the online world of MUDs. Learning within the system is more intuitively a matter of seeing and feeling than of language skills.

There are two small community nets operating on 486 based systems. The hardware of larger systems includes several varieties of Sun SparcStations, IBM 6000s, and at least two DEC Alpha APX 3000/550s. All of the currently operating community nets are testing hardware load factors beyond previous experience. But scaling up phone lines, bandwidth, modems, and distributed hardware to accommodate rapid growth is not viewed as the real problem. The real technical resource allocation problem is seen as rationalization of system services to sustain local services and content as the first priority in system design and related overall technology costs. In other words the technical problem is not in how you do it but in what you do.

ACTION: Montreal Free-Net (in cooperation with the developers of Chebucto Suite), as the world's first francophone community network, should receive priority support for the rapid development, implementation and dissemination of its www based bilingual services. This service is a potential product for global distribution.

THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Why will people continue to click on the community net icon, and to write cheques for support of their local associations, after Internet access is folded into the costs charged by their local telecommunications carriers?

In our current Industrial Society, no institution, including government, has a primary mandate to provide a public space where public opinion can be constructed. The space that the federal government creates and maintains is parliament - an institution of representative democracy, where representatives of the people act on their behalf. As of yet, no government anywhere sees either the mandate to create a self-representative public space or its essence as the defining institution of a Knowledge Society. This does not mean that the recently created technological possibility of an electronic public space should not be valued by governments, or that governments should not assist in the development of more open and complex patterns of public expression.

The notion of an expanding universe of discourse means hearing more of the voices that we now stifle. These include: the poor, the technologically disadvantaged, the non-urban, the crackpots, the politically incorrect, the character disorders and, worst of all for the sensibilities of elites, the ordinary. If we are ever going to be even a little less cruel to one another, we must discuss, debate, inform, come to understand, and persuade each other of the kind of society we want. We should take our chances on not losing this kind of dialectical contest to the Nazis, the pornographers, and the others that advocate and practice cruelty. Trying to ignore intolerance and hide these ideas from a 'vulnerable' public certainly didn't seem to stop the cruelty in the 20th century. Full public discussion is the best inoculation against private conspiracy or unthinking paternalism. Any public discussion leaves open the

possibility of consensus. This is the 'liberal' hope for a less cruel society. Access to a public sphere of discourse provides the means to nudge that hope along. The experience of community networks is that people want to talk and will take personal responsibility for sustaining the means of conversation.

To ask "whose network is this anyway?" and, if you believe it is owned by the community, "how do you get the 'community' to pay for it?" are two ways of asking the same question. In terms of public policy concerning community networks, the federal government can best serve the interest of an evolving electronic common by ensuring that the pricing structure of the technologies does not surround the 'public space' by access routes that are purely commercial. The concept of a market driven right to speak in public is an oxymoron. Unless there is a clear policy that values these new public spaces, the existing regulatory process will continue to hold our arms while industry picks our pockets. This is likely to make community networking too costly to survive, except in the largest centres or except with massive government funding.

Any institutionalized public space will have trouble standing the heat of open discussion. Certainly, governments, or universities, etc. don't want to be seen as promoting any unpopular or 'dangerous' ideas, and will immediately make exclusionary rules. In fact "netiquette," or public behaviour in cyberspace, already dominates the board agendas of operating community networks. As a corollary, guaranteed access to full participation in the conversations of electronic public space will have to be distributively financed by the distributed membership called the community. If not, it will become the funding body's constrained creature. Certainly the government, which now behaves as if the public sector were divorced from the social sector, would be a disastrous source of major funding.

What has been visible so far in the Information Highway Advisory Council policy discussions, and in the CRTC consultation process, is not a national vision. It's a defense of public/private distinctions of the status quo. It's essentially supporting the mass media model that is being pushed by the telecommunications industry - just enough upstream bandwidth to let us click on the "buy" icon.

The experience of mediating intensified relationships in electronic public space provided by the community networking movement shows that the Knowledge Society's not going to be that way. Despite all efforts to hype the Information Highway as merely downloaded information and entertainment spectacles, the concept of cyberspace as an electronic common slowly gains strength. But this is not just a matter of every citizen gaining access to cyberspace via an Internet email address. It depends on what they do when they get there. Responsible citizenship in an electronic common requires contributing to it more than you retrieve from it.

It takes knowledge to get knowledge. In a Knowledge Society, what we can know is directly related to the degree of expression of what we do know. As we express ourselves in our local experience of electronic public space we upload a richness of texture to the totality of global connectivity. It will be answered by an inbound flood of the knowable that is already truly beyond comprehension. Community networks are the best means we have in letting anyone and everyone participate in the creation and use of electronic public space. Community networks are key agencies for achieving equity of opportunity and learning in Canada's transition to a Knowledge Society.

CANADIAN
COMMUNITY NETWORKS
DIRECTORY

compiled by
GARTH GRAHAM
(aa127@freenet.carleton.ca)

on behalf of
TELECOMMUNITIES CANADA

January 25, 1995

CANADIAN COMMUNITY NETWORKS DIRECTORY

Updated with public domain information and submissions from listed community networks to January 25, 1995.

The Directory is organized by province/territory, reading geographically from West to East across Canada. Within each province/territory, the listings are in alphabetic order, beginning with a preface note on province/territory focal points for support of community network development where these exist.

Please send corrections and additions to:
Garth Graham (aa127@freenet.carleton.ca)

NATIONAL AGENCIES

CAN-FREENET

There is an unmoderated mailserver for discussions of Canadian community networking issues. To join, send a message to:

listprocessor@cunews.carleton.ca

with the line

subscribe Car-Freenet Firstname Lastname

in the body of the message.

If you wish to unsubscribe, send a message to:

listprocessor@cunews.carleton.ca

with the line

Unsubscribe Car-Freenet

COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE, INDUSTRY CANADA

The objective of this Directorate is to accelerate the introduction of new and advanced, communications-enabled services - for the benefit of all Canadians. Their focus is on non-commercial services in areas such as healthcare, education, public information (including library services), and community network access. Their thrust is toward increased awareness,

involving: planning initiatives, pilots, demonstrations, and studies. The community networks contact is:

Karen Walker, Senior Policy Officer (walker@cp.istc.ca)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION ACCESS CENTRES CANADA

Community Information Access Centres are physical sites designed to provide community level training in the use of Information Highway based services for jobs and growth. Contact is:

Michael Raggett, President

Tel: 705-327-2121

Fax: 705-484-1622

CONNECTING THE NORTH SYMPOSIUM

The Inuit Broadcasting Corporation has been key organizer of several steps in a Pan-arctic electronic distance community consultation process. In several stages they have been exploring needs, issues, and options associated with the Information Highway and community control of communications infrastructure in a Northern context. Contact is:

Lorraine Thomas (ab270@freenet.carleton.ca)

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

Tel: 613-235-1892

SCHOOLNET

SchoolNet is a national project to connect all of Canada's schools through the Internet. Although SchoolNet's Community Access pilot projects are largely oriented to school / library partnerships, they do have a general interest in supporting other types of "community access sites," particularly in rural and remote areas, and as they relate to the use of schools in the service of adult education for continuous learning.

TELECOMMONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

For a full description, please see the FREESPACE listing in the Ontario Section. Although TDG's current community network development activities are in Ontario, their interests in designing appropriate rural access services are not limited to that province.

TELECOMMUNITIES CANADA

In August 1994, over 40 Canadian community network associations and Free-Nets came together for a conference in Ottawa. They recommended the formation of a national association, Telecommunities Canada, to support their common interests in the development of the Canadian community networks movement. The Interim Board of Telecommunities Canada, elected at the founding meeting, is working to implement the national association, to articulate a national strategy for the development of electronic community networking in Canada, and to meet community network needs for a national voice. Members of the Interim Board are:

Michael Gillespie (michaelg@freenet.mb.ca)
Roger Hart (rh@teleconsult.com)
Andre Laurendeau (andrel@pubnix.qc.ca)
Kevin Alexander James Nugent (aa006@cfm.cs.dal.ca)
Gareth R. Shearman (shearman@freenet.victoria.bc.ca)
David Sutherland (aaoo1@freenet.carleton.ca)
Lynda J. Williams (lynda@freenet.unbc.edu)

Associations with an interest in becoming members of Telecommunities Canada should contact:

Michael Gillespie (michaelg@freenet.mb.ca)

YUKON TERRITORY

YUKON NET OPERATING SOCIETY

Whitehorse, Yukon

CONTACT:

James P. Tousignant (jim@bullfrog.nugyt.yk.ca)

President, Yukon Net Operating Society

Fax: 403-668-7887

Re: community network development:

Gord Bradshaw (bradshaw@orca.gov.bc.ca)

PO Box 2799, Yukon College, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5K4

Tel: 403-668-8768

Julianne Ourom

Manager, Public Library Services

Libraries and Archives Branch

Yukon Department of Education

P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6

Tel: 403-667-5447

Fax: 403-667-2666

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Yukon Net is a regional Internet service provider, approved as a non-profit organization by CA*net. It is considering how best to encourage community services content, interactivity and access within Yukon's network infrastructure.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

FREENET BRITISH COLUMBIA

(the British Columbia FreeNet Association, a Provincial voice for the BC Free-Nets)

PURPOSES:

1. To promote the establishment of FreeNets in British Columbia communities
2. To provide support for existing FreeNet organizations within British Columbia
3. To advocate equitable access to electronic information and network services
4. To facilitate public education and awareness of the issues surrounding access to information and network services

CURRENT EXECUTIVE (May 1994):

President: Gareth Shearman - chair, Victoria Free-Net
(shearman@freenet.victoria.bc.ca)

Vice President: Brian Campbell - chair, Vancouver Free-Net
(campbell@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca)

Secretary: Lynda Williams - chair, Prince George Free-Net
(lynda@freenet.unbc.edu)

Treasurer: Detlef Rudolph - chair, Sea to Sky Free-Net
(drudolph@cue.bc.ca)

CAMPBELL RIVER FREENET

Campbell River, British Columbia

CONTACT:

Pat Presidente (ppreside@cln.etc.bc.ca)

Member, Organizing Committee

Robron Secondary School, 740 Robron Road

Campbell River, British Columbia, V9W 6J7

Tel: 604-287-9030

Fax: 604-923-5268

STATUS: Organizing. Have applied for BC society status

CIAOI FREE-NET

Community Information Access Organization (CIAO)
CIAOI Free-Net,
Box 166, Trail, British Columbia, V1R 4L5

CONTACT:

Ken McClean, Chairman, (kmclean@ciao.trail.bc.ca)
CIAOI Free-Net,
Box 166, Trail, BC., V1R 4L5
Tel: 604-368-2244
Fax: 604-364-2470

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Modem: 604-368-5764
Internet: 142.231.5.1
Telnet: ciao.trail.bc.ca (login: guest)
Gopher: ciao.trail.bc.ca

STATUS: Operational

CRANBROOK FREE-NET

Cranbrook, British Columbia

CONTACT:

David Humphrey (dahumphr@cln.etc.bc.ca)
Tel: 604-426-7258

STATUS: Organizing

FORT ST. JOHN FREENET

Fort St. John, British Columbia

CONTACT:

Ian Baxter (IBAXTER@ftstjohn.env.gov.bc.ca)

Tel: 604-787-0356

STATUS: Organizing

GULF ISLANDS INTERNET ACCESS COMMITTEE

Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna and other outer Gulf Islands,
British Columbia

CONTACT:

Dale Lyon (dlyon@cln.etc.bc.ca)

RR #2, S42, C12, Galiano, British Columbia, V0N 1P0

Tel: 604-539-5428

Fax: 604-539-2318

Jim Parry (fprj524@bcit.bc.ca)

Instructor, Computer Systems Technology

British Columbia Institute of Technology

3700 Willingdon Ave., Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2

Tel: 604-432-8864

Fax: 604-439-1522

STATUS:

Organizing. Intending to serve the outer Islands only. Salt Spring
Island is in a different long distance phone exchange.

KITIMAT FREE-NET

Kitimat, British Columbia.

CONTACT:

Craig Simpson (craig_simpson@kitimat.can.secal.alcan.ca)

Tel: 604-632-3984

STATUS: Organizing

MOUNT ARROWSMITH FREE-NET ASSOCIATION

1602 Marine Circle
Parksville, British Columbia, V9P 1Y7

CONTACT:

Jim Swanson, Chairperson, (jswanson@cln.etc.bc.ca)
Teacher - Winchelsea Elementary
Tel: 604-752-5643
Fax: 604-752-1911

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Chair, Jim Swanson, Teacher
Vice-Chairs Janice McLean, Head Librarian - local Library
 Bob Dobinson, Mechanic
Secretary Douglas Stolar, Teacher
Treasurer Chris Large, Contractor/sysop local BBS

STATUS:

Organizing, hopefully operational by first half of 1995.
First public meeting, April 1994.

NANAIMO SCHOOLSNET

Nanaimo School District (SD #68)
Nanaimo, B.C.

CONTACT:

Mike Silverton, Teacher/Sysop (msilverton@bbs.sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca)
Brian Kuhn, System Manager (bkuhn@sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

A free public access BBS operated by a school district that is a community network in concept but not name. It provides Internet access e-mail, Usenet, telnet, ftp, gopher, www, and more.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Telnet: [bbs.sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca](telnet://bbs.sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca) | Login as "guest"

Dial in: 604-754-3630 (2400 bps), or 604-754-9578 (14.4 & SLIP)
If dialing in, enter "2" at first prompt then "guest" at the Username prompt.

www: <http://bbs.sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca:8001/welcome.html>
gopher: [bbs.sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca](gopher://bbs.sd68.nanaimo.bc.ca)

STATUS: Operational

PRINCE GEORGE FREE-NET

Prince George, British Columbia

CONTACT:

Lynda Williams, President/Founder,
(lynda@freenet.unbc.edu) also (president@freenet.unbc.edu)
P.G. Free-Net Association
210 N. Quinn Street, Prince George, B.C.
(604) 562-9281

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

President, Lynda Williams

Content Committee - chair, Kathy Plett, College of New Caledonia
content@freenet.unbc.edu

Funding/PR Committee - chair, Edel Toner-Rogala, P.G. Public
Library, and Joan Jarman, Public Relations Officer
pr@freenet.unbc.edu
funding@freenet.unbc.edu

Technical Committee - chair, Lyndon Nerenberg, University of
Northern B.C., inquire via support@freenet.unbc.edu

Community Advisory Committee - coordinator, Clayton Gray,
Business Consultant, clayton@freenet.unbc.edu

Getting Connected Committee - Lynda Williams

Phone committee -- Bill McFarlin

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:
BSD Unix, FreePort, on 486 system

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:
Gopher: [freenet.unbc.edu](gopher://freenet.unbc.edu)
WWW: <http://freenet.unbc.ca>

STATUS:

- Operational
- Registered as a non-profit society in B.C.;
- Installed at UNBC with 4 operating phonelines. Opened for testing by 276 members and daring guests at end of July 94. Approximately 20 local information providers/moderators in various stages of readiness. Official Opening Ceremony is Sept 18/94, but taking about 150 connections a day and rising. Officially in beta test mode and have some troubles, but internet links, local text and post office functions are pretty stable and in use.

QUESNEL FREE-NET

Quesnel, British Columbia

CONTACT:

Mark Ekelund (ekelundm@sd28.quesnel.bc.ca)
Tel: 604-992-8802

STATUS: Organizing

ROCKY MOUNTAIN INFONET

Sparwood, Fernie, British Columbia

CONTACT:

Brian Grainger, President (brian.grainger@rmin.net)
Rocky Mountain InfoNet Society

Box 471, Sparwood, British Columbia, V0B 2G0
Tel: 604-425-2605
Fax: 604-425-7130

STATUS: Operational

SEA TO SKY FREE-NET

Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton, British Columbia

CONTACT:

Detlef Rudolph (drudolph@sea-to-sky-freenet.bc.ca)
President, Sea to Sky Free-Net Association
Box 2539, Squamish, BC, V0N 3G0
Tel: 604-892-5531
Fax: 604-892-5227

Tim Agnew, Vice-President, (Tim_Agnew@mindlink.bc.ca)
Box 2438, Squamish, BC, V0N 3G0
Tel: 604-898-4295 (H)
Tel: 604-892-9896 (W)
Fax: 604-892-9848

STATUS: Operational

VALLEY NET

Mission-Abbotsford-Chilliwack (Fraser Valley), British Columbia

CONTACT:

Paul Kurucz (kuruczp@fvc.bc.ca)
Chairperson, Board of Directors, Valley Net
Tel: 604-853-7441, local 4360
Fax: 604-855-7618

STATUS: Organizing

VANCOUVER REGIONAL FREE-NET

Vancouver Regional FreeNet Association
750 Burrard St.
Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 1X5
Office tel: 604-291-5229
Voice mail enquiry: 604-665-3944.

CONTACT:

Brian Campbell (campbell@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca)
750 Burrard St.
Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 1X5
Tel: 604-665-3579

Vic Vaivads (vaivads@mprgate.mpr.ca or
vaivads@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca)
Chair, System Design
MPR Teltech Ltd.
8999 Nelson Way, Burnaby B.C., V5A 4B5
Tel: 604-293-5766
Fax: 604-293-6100

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Modem: (604) 222-4723
Internet: freenet.vancouver.bc.ca
Telnet: freenet.vancouver.bc.ca (login: guest)
WWW: <http://freenet.vancouver.bc.ca/gopher.native-ed.bc.ca/FreeNets/VRFA>

STATUS: Operational, official opening September 9, 1994.

VANDERHOOF FREE-NET

Vanderhoof, British Columbia.

CONTACT:

John Rowlinson (ad356@freenet.unbc.edu)
Tel: 604-567-5545

STATUS: Organizing

VICTORIA FREE-NET

Victoria Free-Net Association
C/O Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre (VIATC)
Suite 203-1110 Government Street
Victoria, British Columbia, V8W 1Y2
Tel: 604-727-7057
Fax: 604-384-8634

CONTACT:

Gareth Shearman (shearman@cue.bc.ca)
(also shearman@freenet.victoria.bc.ca)
Tel: 604-385-4302

Ron Crabtree (crabtree@freenet.victoria.bc.ca)
Secretary, Victoria Free-Net Association

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

- * 4-member Executive (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary)
- * 12-member Board (monthly meetings)
 - Executive plus chairs of committees and ex-officio officers
- * Monthly public meetings. Annual General Meeting of membership (membership determination currently under review) with election of board
- * Information Provider Committee
- * Finance and Fundraising Committee
- * Technical Committee

USERS:

As at December 1994 over 9,000 registered. Primarily e-mail users, with some special interest participation.

FUNDING:

Primarily individual donations and some contracts, and computer equipment vendor product donations.

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

Camosun College, Greater Victoria Public Library, ZED Data Systems, Sun Microsystems, BC Tel and Vancouver Island Advanced Technology Centre

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Sun Sparc2, Sun IPX, Trailblaser with 21 dial-in modems. Services include freeport, lynx, gopher, news groups, WAIS, POP and pine e-mail for dial-in users, and gopherd, httpd, and waisd for Internet users. Key information bases include BC government directory of services, Greater Victoria Societies, BC statistics, and rare plant species.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Modem: 604-595-2300

Internet: freenet.victoria.bc.ca

Telnet: freenet.victoria.bc.ca (login: guest)

Gopher: gopher.freenet.victoria.bc.ca

WWW: <http://freenet.victoria.bc.ca/vifa.html>

(standard port assignments for httpd, gopher, waisd, ...)

STATUS:

Operational since Nov 17, 1992. Priority tasks or plans: More dial-in access, stable Internet access, and more accurate, timely, accessible and pertinent community information and information exchange.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

NTnet SOCIETY

Box 1976

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, X1A 2P5

CONTACT:

Ian Gamble (info@ntnet.nt.ca)
Secretary/Treasurer, NTnet Society
432 Gitzel St., Yellowknife NT, X1A 2C9
Tel: 403-873-6283
Fax: 403-669-9021

Bob Johnson
President NTnet Society
PO Box 1976 Yellowknife NT, X1A 2P5
Tel: 403-920-7724
Fax: 403-669-7286

Re: community network development in Yellowknife:
Byron Hynes (byronh@ntnet.nt.ca).

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

NTnet is a regional Internet service provider approved as a non-profit society by CA*net. Business, Content, Marketing, and Technical committees. "Currently, NTnet does not plan to establish a community net. We will provide free or cheap access via local BBSes. We are open to voluntary organization of a community network or Free-Net, but are not able to commit our resources at this time to organizing one ourselves." (Gamble, Sept16, 1994)

USERS:

Organizations and individuals throughout the NWT. "Dedicated line access only except in communities without ventures to provide dial-up access. We have a five year plan to extend service to all sixty communities of the NWT." (Gamble, Dec 27, 1994)

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

CANARIE, CA*net.

FUNDING:

CANARIE, self-generated revenues, government grants and subsidies. Intend to establish joint venture arrangements for special projects demonstrating applications and technologies suited for

remote and isolated communities.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM: Intel Pentium - BSDI/386 Unix.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES: DNS - char.ntnet.nt.ca, pike.ntnet.nt.ca

STATUS:

Operational in beta test mode for initial dedicated line users until January 15, 1995.

ALBERTA

CALGARY FREE-NET ASSOCIATION

c/o The Canada West Foundation
#810, 400 - 3rd Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4H2

CONTACT:

Shawn Henry (henry@acs.ucalgary.ca)
c/o The Canada West Foundation
#810, 400 - 3rd Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4H2
Phone: (403) 264-9535
Fax: (403) 269-4776

David Elton (delton@acs.ucalgary.ca)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

- Steering Committee, which acts as a Board of Directors
- Hardware/Software Committee
- Information Resources Committee
- Funding Committee
 - Public relations sub-committee;
Lorne Darlington, 403-274-6927

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

- selected a computer proposal submitted by IBM Canada. "We will

be running the system on a hopped up rs/6000 c-10, which we will upgrade to the new 604(?) chip as soon as it becomes available."
(Shawn Henry).

- software will be based upon a hyper-text server package distributed free on the Internet

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

uri: <http://www.freenet.calgary.ab.ca>

Guest access will be available early in 1995 via telnet at freenet.calgary.ab.ca

STATUS:

Operational in test mode, with phone lines for members, October 15, 1994. "We will be coming online for the general public in January - about 65 lines. We are adhering to a PBS model of membership - ie., you don't have to be a member of the freenet association to use the system (\$50 per year) but we will try to guilt you into it, and we have secured some discounts from local businesses for members as well as allowing them to stay online longer than plain, non-contributing, registered users." (Shawn Henry).

EDMONTON FREENET

FreeNet Office
#220, 10232-112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1M4
Tel: 403-421-1745
FAX: 403-421-7159

CONTACT:

Jon Hall, Project Manager (jonhall@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
FreeNet Office, #220, 10232-112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1M4
Tel: 403-421-1745
FAX: 403-421-7159

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

A 12 person board of directors is responsible for policy creation, connection to the founding sponsors and funding development. The Project Manager reports to the board. The heads of the six functional committees form an operations committee chaired by the project manager. This committee coordinates development and operational activities, recommends policy and manages the volunteer activities. Functional committees are headed by a volunteer chair: Marketing, Hardware/Software, Education, Finance, Information Content and Services, Membership & Registration.

Staff:

Jon Hall (jonhall@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
Project Manager

John Boeske (jboeske@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
System Manager

Board:

Penelope McKee (Edm Public Library), President
(perry@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
Carol Humphries (Learning Link), Treasurer
(carol@@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
Paul DeGroot (Edmonton Journal),
(pdegroot@@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca)
Myron Borys (Edmonton Telephones)
Janine Andrews (U of A Libraries)
Dory Baxter (Software Alberta Society)
Roger Pederson (AGT)
John Mathewson (IBM)
Bill Smith (business man)
Cornelius Guenter (Edmonton Recycling Society)
Fil Fraser (Consultant)
Joel DeBlock (Concordia College)

USERS:

1500 paid members as of Dec 10, 1994

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

Edmonton Public Library, University of Alberta Libraries,
The Learning Link, Software Alberta Society, Edmonton Journal,
IBM - Canada, Edmonton Telephones, AGT

FUNDING:

Funding is in place to sustain operations until the end of 1995 assuming it attracts 10,000 members and receives no additional donations. Membership will be \$15 per member although guests will be able to read all files. Revenue comes from \$20,000 (minimum) from each of six founding sponsors, \$200,000 federal / provincial / municipal infrastructure grant, \$25,000 for public access terminals from a funding foundation, pro bono services from law and software companies, \$150,000 in memberships, and additional funds from private and corporate donations.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Two IBM RISC-6000 have been purchased and installed. The software is public domain LYNX, WAIS, PINE, GOPHER. The system went operational with 16 phone lines but with capacity and infrastructure in place to handle up to 100 lines as demand warrants. Modem pool was increased to 42 modems in Mid November. A mail server and Internet access were provided by a founding sponsor. Twenty five older PCs have been donated and are being reconditioned and placed throughout the city as public access terminals in mid January 1995.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

STATUS: Went operational as planned during Science and Technology Week on October 18, 1994. After 1.5 years of activity, Edmonton FreeNet was incorporated as a not-for-profit company under the Alberta Companies Act on May 24, 1994.

PRAXIS FREE-NET ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

c/o Lawrence Chen
468 9th Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 1N7

CONTACT:

Lyle Roberts (Lyle_Roberts@lhaven.uumh.ab.ca)
BBS: 403-526-6957/403-529-1610/403-526-5035

Dave Bahnmitter (Dave_Bahnmitter@lhaven.uumh.ab.ca)
BBS: 403-526-6957/403-529-1610/403-526-5035

Lawrence Chen (dreamer@lhaven.uumh.ab.ca)
468 9th Street S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 1N7
Tel: 403-526-6019 (answering machine)
Fax: 403-529-5102
BBS: 403-526-6957/403-529-1610/403-526-5035

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Serving Medicine Hat, Alberta and area and operating under
the Praxis Society.

Co-chairs: Lawrence Chen, and Lyle Roberts

Fund Raising:

Lyle Roberts (committee co-chair), Piet Visser, Dave Bahnmitter
(committee co-chair), Lawrence Chen

Steering Committee:

Lawrence Chen, Lyle Roberts, Bob Batchelder, Dave Bahnmitter,
Ken Short, Dan Eslinger

Info Systems:

Bob Batchelder (committee chair), Pat Evans, Keith Walker, Lloyd
Ford, Lawrence Chen

Hardware/Software:

Lawrence Chen (committee chair), Ken Short, Brian Gue, Dan
Eslinger, Jonn Schoolkate, Mike McWilliams

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Current discussions on Lawrence Chen's BBS
(Lunatic Haven/Praxis Society).

"Just a Crazy Engineer with an Amiga and an HP48sx"

CIS: 74200,2431

Praxis Society K12 BBS: +1 403 529 1610

Lunatic Haven: +1 403 526 6957,

CYSNET Packet BBS: +1 403 526 4304

LHaven Dialup: +1 403 526 5035

Packet: VE6LKC @ VE6PAQ.#SEAB.AB.CAN.NA

STATUS: Organizing. Had first public meeting in October 1994, plan to have Steering meeting in January to find out progress and come up with unified plan.

RED DEER FREE-NET

Red Deer, Alberta

CONTACT:

Maureen Toews (mtoews@admin.rdc.ab.ca)

SASKATCHEWAN

GREAT PLAINS FREE-NET

55 Cowburn Cr

Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 5R9

306-584-9615

rhg@unibase.unibase.sk.ca

CONTACT:

Mark Suggitt, Consultant, (72143.337@compuserve.com)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Chair Bob Greenfield (rhg@unibase.unibase.sk.ca)
Vice-Chair Neale Partington
(Neale.Partington@f45.n140.z1.Fidonet.org)
Secretary Ted Quade (TQuade@unibase.unibase.sk.ca)
Treasurer Lorry Wilson (Lorry.Wilson@f45.n140.z1.Fidonet.org)
Public rel Mark Suggitt (72143.337@compuserve.com)

STATUS: Organizing, planning to be operational by May, 1995

SASKATOON FREE-NET

Saskatoon Free-Net Association
Box 339 RPO University
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 4J8
lib_freenet@sask.usask.ca

CONTACT:

Darlene Fichter (Darlene.Fichter@usask.ca) or
(fichter@willow.usask.ca)
438-5th St. E., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7H 1E9
Tel: 306-652-0947

Peter Scott (scott@herald.usask.ca)
438 5th Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7H 1E9
Tel: 306-966-5920

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Board of Directors with ten members.

- Executive Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Finance Committee
 - Sponsorship Sub-Committee
- Information Provider's Committee
- Public Relations and Promotion Committee
- User Education Committee
- Technical Working Group

- Office Help Working Group
- Help Desk Working Group

FUNDING:

To date all funding has come from personal, corporate and institutional donations and membership fees.

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

- Saskatoon Public Library
- University of Saskatchewan
- City of Saskatoon, Leisure Services Dept.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Planning to use the Chebucto lynx client and WWW server running on linux box.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Demonstration System:

Gopher: willow.usask.ca 71

WWW: <http://www.usask.ca/~fogel/freenet.html>

STATUS: Organizing. Incorporated in July 1993 and have a demonstration system up and running. Software and server in testing for January 1995. Operational Date: March 1995

MANITOBA

BLUE SKY FREENET OF MANITOBA INC.

P.O. Box 1441

Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2Z4

e-mail: Info@freenet.mb.ca

Voice HELP line: 204-992-HELP

CONTACT:

Wolfgang von Thuelen, Secretary (wolf@freenet.mb.ca)

ISM Information Systems Management Corp
400 Ellice Ave Winnipeg, MB R3B 3M3
Tel: 204-946-6776
Fax: 204-947-3837

Terry Lewycky (lewycky@freenet.mb.ca)
c/o Infopak Communications
#7 Killarney, PO Box 34027, Winnipeg
Tel: 204-269-0797

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Board of Directors, 12 members including:

Terry Lewycky, President, (lewycky@freenet.mb.ca)

Michael Gillespie, Vice-President (michaelg@freenet.mb.ca)

Tel: 204-943-9000

Wolfgang von Thuelen, Secretary, (wolf@freenet.mb.ca)

Murray Elchitz, Chair, Fund Raising Committee (ME@freenet.mb.ca)

Sponsors:

SUN Microsystems (Tronica Computers), Manitoba Telephone System,
CISCO Modems, The Winnipeg Free Press, University of Manitoba,
MBnet, Manitoba Library Association, The Winnipeg Public Library,
and Manitoba First Nations

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Modem: 204-987-1234 (login as "guest")

STATUS: Operational as at October 17, 1994, the first FreeNet to be implemented province-wide. Blue Sky FreeNet plans to provide toll free community network access to all residents of Manitoba, rather than concentrate on a single urban community. "We hope to soon have the funding in place to continue our strategy of providing all Manitobans with affordable access to the FreeNet. Until then, users outside of Winnipeg will see long-distance charges on their phone bills." (Terry Lewycky)

EASTMANET

Pinawa, Manitoba

CONTACT:

(gehond@wl.aecl.ca)

STATUS: Organizing

SEARDEN FREE-NET

Sprague, Manitoba

CONTACT:

Larry Geller (larry_geller@mbnet.mb.ca)

Box 180 Sprague, MB, Canada ROA 1Z0

Tel. 204-437-2016

Fax. 204-437-2382

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Serving Sprague, South Junction, Vassar, Wampum, Moose Lake and Middlebro.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

A 486 with Linux and the Chebucto Lynx on top. "We are also going for Pine, gopher client and server, etc." (Larry Geller)

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Specifically for "ONLINE CANADIAN WRITING "

Host=access.mbnet.mb.ca

URL: gopher://access.mbnet.mb.ca:70/11/member-services/geller

OR --> Bluesky --> Literature/ONLINE CANADIAN WRITING

STATUS:

Operational as at end October, 1994. "We are going to be fully bilingual and I hope to carry des matieres du Societe Franco-Manitobain, the Archdiocese of St. Boniface and our FM paper La Liberte." (Larry Geller)

ONTARIO

Contacts in the Ontario Government with an interest in community networks development include:

Andrew Kuczer (kuczera@gov.on.ca)
Ontario Network Infrastructure Program (ONIP)
Information Infrastructure Branch
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
77 Bloor St.W.,20 floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2R9
Tel: 416-326-9623

Angela Vassos (vassoaa@gov.on.ca)
Libraries and Community Information Branch
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation
77 Bloor St. West, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9
Tel: 416-314-7630
Fax: 416-314-7635

There is a listserver called "Ontalk" that discusses community networking issues in Ontario. To subscribe, send a message to:

listserv@uoguelph.ca

with the text message:

subscribe ontalk yourfirstname yourlastname

(Please ignore the system's request to change your password - this function is not enabled). Contact for this listserver is:

Don Richardson (drichard@uoguelph.ca)
Member, Interim FreeSpace Steering Committee - Guelph/Wellington
Assistant Professor Rural Extension Studies, University of Guelph.

ATIKOKAN COMMUNITY NETWORK

Atikokan, Ontario

CONTACT:

Warren Paulson (wpaulson@hookup.net)
Owner & Top Banana, Words & Pictures Publishing
Box 261, Atikokan, Ontario, P0T 1C0
Tel: 807-597-2540
Fax: 807-597-1348

STATUS: Organizing. "We in Atikokan, Ontario are in the early pipe-dream stages of developing what could be the smallest Free-Net in Canada. Our plan is to first develop a local access network by expanding on existing local resources (library, high school etc). Eventually we hope to develop some sort of Internet access." (Warren Paulson)

COLLINGWOOD COMMUNITY NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

Collingwood, Ontario

CONTACT:

Norm Griffiths (norgrif@village.ca)

DURHAM FREE-NET INC.

Whitby, Ontario

CONTACT:

Durham Steering Committee:
John Norman (John.Norman@freenet.durham.org)
Chair, Steering Committee
P.O. 26071, 206 King Street East, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 1C0
Tel: 905-725-9633

John Krasnay, Chair of the Hardware/Software committee
(john.krasnay@freenet.durham.org)

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

"We have opted for a Web front end with BSDI as the OS. Pentiums are the hardware of choice. Because of the way Bell has carved up our Region we may have to use the net to tie our LAN together."
(John Norman, Jan 15, 1995)

STATUS:

Organizing. "We have a firm online date to the general public of June 12, 1995. Test equipment is in place. A full timeline has been developed and we submitted our implementation application to ONIP on Jan 3/95." (John Norman, Jan 15, 1995)

FREESPACE

TELECOMMONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Guelph, Ontario
info@tdg.uoguelph.ca.
Tel: 519-767-0145
Fax: 519-767-1510

The FreeSpace Switchboard, a monthly newsletter,
can be reached at:

<http://tdg.uoguelph.ca/tdg/archive/switchboard>

CONTACT:

Greg Searle (searle@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)
Paul Graham (pgraham@uoguelph.ca)
Telecommons Development Group

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

- The Freespace model depends upon self-direction and autonomy at the community level with each community founding its own Freespace Steering Committee. The Telecommons Development Group, a fully incorporated worker's co-operative, with support

from the Department of Rural Extension Studies, University of Guelph, supports steering committees with resources, consulting, training, and partnership-building.

Co-founders:

Gord Lipp: (glipp@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Paul Graham: (pgraham@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Greg Searle: (searle@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Dr. Don Richardson: Community/ govt liaison and development
(drichard@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Dave Johnston: Assoc researcher and community liaison
(dj@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Gavin Nesbitt: Community liaison and program development
(gnesbitt@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Rebekah Jamieson: Program administration
(rebekah@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

Joel Weekes: Program administration
(jweekes@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

John Stevenson: Organization and business development
(jstevens@tdg.res.uoguelph.ca)

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

FreeSpace uses a graphical user interface client program called Remote Imaging Protocol (RIP) which allows for point and click control over a multimedia information environment. Much of FreeSpace is based in a graphical and audio collaborative virtual environment in which users can freely interact and communicate in real time.

World Wide Web

FreeSpace also contains space and gateways for commercial-quality information access and value added services.

STATUS:

Current emphasis is on developing sound working relationships with communities in Wellington county and surrounding Guelph, Ontario,

and in developing a feasibility study for a provincial rural network.

GUELPH FREESPACE STEERING COMMITTEE
(See WELLINGTON COUNTY FREESPACE)

HALTON COMMUNITY NETWORK
Oakville, Ontario

CONTACTS:

F.P. (Rick) Booth (rick.booth@sheridanc.on.ca or
hcn@sheridanc.on.ca)
Principal & Managing Associate, EN-TECH Associates
Chair, Halton Community Network
2599 Addingham Crescent, Oakville, Ontario L6J 7K6
Tel: 905-829-0892
Fax: 905-829-0891

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

HCN Steering Committee officers:

F.P. (Rick) Booth, Chair (rick.booth@sheridanc.on.ca)
Sander Schimmelpennick, Vice-Chair
(sander.schimmelpennick@canrem.com)
Jane Leonard, Secretary (jane.leonard@sheridanc.on.ca)
Bob Griesbach, Technology Liaison (bob.griesbach@sheridanc.on.ca)
John Waller, Technology Committee Chair
(john.waller@sheridanc.on.ca)
Dennis Hurst, Administration Liaison (dennis.hurst@sheridanc.on.ca)
George Brown, Admin. Committee Chair
(george.brown@sheridanc.on.ca)
Pat Atkinson, SIGs Liaison (pat.atkinson@sheridanc.on.ca)
Golda Morrison, SIGs Liaison (golda.morrison@sheridanc.on.ca)

STATUS: Operational with an existing network and major
infrastructure courtesy the Halinet group. While there is limited

local personal modem access, there is an extensive public access infrastructure through the School boards, libraries and the local college. It's been estimated at over 3000 nodes on the physical network. As at September 8, 1994, was awaiting the installation of an upgraded server at Sheridan College, and subject to installation schedule changes, hoped to be actively adding new members by October 1994.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH FREENET

Hamilton, Ontario
steering@maccs.dcss.mcmaster.ca

CONTACT:

Marcel Mongeon (marcelm@joymrmn.on.ca) or
(marcelm@joymrmn.UUCP)
Chairman, Steering Committee
Information Technology Lawyer & Trade Marks Agent
Tel: 905-528-5936
Fax: 905 523-4144

Stephen Park (as301@freenet.carleton.ca)
ONIP Liaison and Treasurer

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A steering committee provides overall direction. There are separate committees for Business, Information Providers, Technical, Public Relations, and Education.

STATUS: Organizing. March 7, 1994, first public meeting of the Hamilton-Wentworth Freenet. "By November, 1994, we had everything except the money nailed down." Target public opening date is Feb. 1/95.

HOMEnet

London, Ontario
including Huron, Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin (HOME) counties

CONTACT:

Patricia Greig (greigpa@julian.uwo.ca)

Peter Marshall (peter@julian.uwo.ca)

Joe Swan (joeswan@julian.uwo.ca)

c/o Information London
325 Queens Ave., London, N6B 1X2
Tel: 519-432-8887
Fax: 519-432-1106

Stan Skrzyszewski (sskrzesz@julian.uwo.ca)

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Gopher: gopher.uwo.ca/UWOServices/Information Technology
Services/ITS Organization/Cooperative Projects/HOMEnet

STATUS: Organizing

LANARK COUNTY NETWORK PROJECT

Carleton Place, Almonte, Ontario

CONTACT:

Sietze Praamsma (as295@freenet.carleton.ca)

Sophia Hanafi (ae848@freenet.carleton.ca)

Tel: 613-257-7121

NATIONAL CAPITAL FREENET

Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5B6
Tel: 613-788-3947

CONTACT:

Lisa Donnelly (am412@freenet.carleton.ca)
613-241-2477

David Sutherland

(aa001@freenet.carleton.ca also daves@ccs.carleton.ca)

Computing Services
Carleton University
Ottawa, ON CANADA K1S 5B6
Tel: 613-788-2600 ext 3701

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

There is a 15 member board of directors, elected in staggered three year terms. Elections are conducted online.

The executive committee of the board:

President	David Sutherland	aa001@freenet.carleton.ca
First Vice Pres.	Andrew Patrick	aa118@freenet.carleton.ca
Second Vice Pres.	John Ferguson	aa110@freenet.carleton.ca
Treasurer	Jean Wilmot	aa145@freenet.carleton.ca
Secretary	Al Seaman	aa331@freenet.carleton.ca

NCF Subcommittees:

- Public Access Strategies Committee
- Hardware and Software Committee
- The Menu Design Task Force...
- Ways and Means Committee...
- Comite' francophone de Libertel / NCF Francophone Committee...
- The Help Desk Committee...

(Includes Documentation Task Force)

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Computers:

freenet: Sun SparcStation 10 Model 512
128 Mb memory
400 Mb + 1.2 Gb + 1.2 Gb + 1.1 Gb disk
freenet2: Dual Sparc 2 Clone
64 Mb memory + 500 Mb disk
freenet3: Sun SparcStation 10 Model 512
128 Mb memory + 1.1 Gb disk + 360 Mb disk
freenet4: IBM PC running NCSA
freenet5: Sun SparcStation IPX
24 Mb memory + 200 Mb disk
freenet-news: Sun SparcStation IPC
48 Mb memory + 220 Mb disk + 1 Gb disk + 2.4 Gb disk

Modems:

97 modems, 300-2400 bps, no compression, no error-correction
64 modems, 300-14400 bps, compression + error-correction
Multiplexor for Ottawa Public Library
Modems for various library/city/gov't connections

Telephone lines:

96 lines, 300-2400 bps lines at 564-3600
64 lines, 300-14400 bps lines at 564-0808
14 lines dedicated to gov't, city, libraries, etc.
1 line (sysadmin) and 1 line (demos)

Misc: Three 64-port Xylogics Annex terminal servers

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Telnet: [freenet.carleton.ca](telnet://freenet.carleton.ca)
Gopher: [gopher.ncf.carleton.ca](gopher://ncf.carleton.ca)
WWW: <http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/>

STATUS: operational since February 1993. Membership is 32,000 as at December 1994

NIAGARA PENINSULA FREE-NET

NPIEC

Niagara Peninsula Free-Net
3550 Schmon Parkway, Unit 4
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4Y6

General E-mail information: (npfstaff@freenet.niagara.com)
Tel: 905-684-7200

CONTACT:

Jim Kerr (jkerr@dewey.ed.brocku.ca)

Jon Radue (jradue@sandcastle.cosc.brocku.ca)
Niagara Peninsula Free-Net Organizing Committee
Associate Professor , Computer Science Dept.
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2S 3A1
Tel: 905-688-5550 x 3867

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

A project of the Niagara Peninsula Industry Education
Council (NPIEC)

FUNDING:

ONIP Letter of Intent approved. Canadian Tire donated \$15,000 and
NPIEC has also funded a lot of the development.

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

Canadian Tire Acceptance, Brock University, Internet Connect
Niagara, NPIEC. We have a productive partnership with the NPIEC,
a non-profit organization that is very active in adult re-training,
and school/industry partnerships, etc. The Council has an
'Information Technology Strategy' with five main facets:

- Niagara Technology Recycling Program
- Information Technology Teacher Support and In-Service
Training Program
- Niagara Peninsula Free-Net Computer Network
- Information Technology Business Development Initiatives
- Curriculum Development, Training, and Labour Market

Orientation

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

SGI Indy as prototype. SGI Challenge S is planned for the public system. Software is a slightly modified Gopher, with special software for information providers to maintain their menus. Pine, pico, tin, etc. and off-line mail reading (NUPop).

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

@freent.niagara.com

STATUS:

"We are currently in 'public stress test mode'. We are NOT open, as we do not have all the parts functional, and we are running a prototype on a machine at Brock University. If our Server is installed in time, we will probably be opening in February 1995."
(Jon Radue, Dec 16, 1994)

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY NET

Central Avenue Public School
81 Central Avenue
Elliot Lake, Ontario, P5A 1L4

CONTACT:

Alan Wilson, Chair, (alanwils@vef.north.net)
4 Bracken Place
Elliot Lake, ON P5A 1L4 Ontario
Tel: 705-848-5106 (S)
Tel: 705-848-2989 (H)
Fax: 705-848-9225

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Chair: Alan Wilson (Teacher, North Shore Bd. of Ed.)
Secretary: Mike Courtin (Laurentian University Field Study Lab)
Ways & Means: Mike Blatchford (Sault College)
Allan Gibbons (Librarian, N.S.B.E.)

Peter Harris (Principal, N.S.B.E.)
Mike Lewis (Director, N.S.B.E.)
Craig McQuarrie (Reeve, North Shore Township)
Dugal McQuarrie, (Clerk, N.S.T.)

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

"Having been personally involved with the Ontario Teachers' Federation "Creating a Culture of Change" project - one that links all provincial teachers to a "free" conferencing system, "The Electronic Village"- I have become partial to the software, the developer and its ease of use. It runs on a Pentium box that apparently "plugs into the wall" - certainly a main concern of communities with a dearth of Unix techies." Alan Wilson

STATUS:

- Pursuing a regional plan that will link the three main communities of Blind River, Algoma Mills (the "hub" and official sponsor) and Elliot Lake
- Preparing a request for funding through a regional economic development "Working Group." Also, the area boards of education see this as a way of keeping up with provincial promises of linking all boards throughout the province.
- Anticipate a late fall 1994 "grand opening."

OWEN SOUND FREENET

Owen Sound, Ontario

CONTACT:

Brian Minielly (brianm@web.apc.org)

SARNIA COMMUNITY BBS

Sarnia, Ontario

CONTACT:

Kenneth G. SMY (ksmy@lambton.on.ca)
Sarnia Community BBS
1012 Lakeshore Rd
Sarnia, Ontario, N7V 2V4
Tel: 519-542 7622

STATUS: Organizing. A public information meeting and volunteer sign up is planned for February 1995.

SUDBURY REGIONAL COMMUNITY NET

Sudbury, Ontario

CONTACT:

J. Steve Beynon (steve@nickel.laurentian.ca)
Director, Computing and Telecommunications Services
Laurentian University, Sudbury, P3E 2C6
Tel: 705-675-1151
Fax: 705-673-6553

STATUS: Organizing

807-CITY

(Project becomes THUNDER BAY FREENET in phase II)
Lakehead University
BB 1043
955 Oliver Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5E1

CONTACT:

Board of Directors:
Don Watson (dwatson@flash.lakeheadu.ca)
Director of Computing Services
Lakehead University
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5E1

Tel: 807-343-8354
Fax: 07-343-8023

Technical Services:
Les Mayes (lmayes@tourism.807-city.on.ca)

Information Providers:
Laraine Tapak (tapak@confed.confederationc.on.ca)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Elected Board of Directors when the system is open.

Technical Services: anyone who wants to join can do so, and all help with tasks ranging from helping users to Unix expertise is welcomed.

Information Providers Committee: Subdivided into Health Services, First Nation Services, and Community Services committees who encourage particular groups to become information providers. Also an Information Provider Training Committee helps get new information providers started.

USERS:

807-CITY is divided into Phase I and Phase II. Phase I, "The Promotion of Tourism Through the Internet," is presently open and in progress; we offer a single login account ("guest", no password) which is allowed to browse our gopher. Gopher and WWW servers are available to the rest of internet. Phase I is aimed at tourists outside Thunder Bay and surrounding area. It will be the web server for the 1995 Nordic World Ski Championships in March, 1995. Phase II will be a full freenet system and is tentatively scheduled to begin April, 1995.

FUNDING:

CANARIE grant for the tourism/nordics project.

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

Don Watson initiated the 807-CITY project. Sponsors include

Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) who donated an Alpha AXP 3000/500 system; Lakehead University, a very generous supplier of donations in kind; and CANARIE.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

DEC Alpha AXP 3000/500 running DEC OSF/1. The software includes gopher (our primary server and software for the moment) and CERN HTTPD for the World Wide Web. Other standard Unix mail/news etc.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Telnet: [tourism.807-city.on.ca](telnet://tourism.807-city.on.ca)
login as "guest", press enter when asked for password.

Gopher: [tourism.807-city.on.ca](gopher://tourism.807-city.on.ca)

WWW: <http://tourism.807-city.on.ca/>

STATUS:

Phase one: (tourism/nordics project), operational.

Phase two: (a full freenet system), organizing, and is tentatively scheduled to begin April, 1995.

TORONTO FREE-NET

Metropolitan Toronto, Ontario

Information Tel, Toronto Free-Net Office: 416-979-9242

CONTACT:

For media, sponsor, or board related info., contact:

Rick Broadhead, Executive Director (rickb@nexus.yorku.ca)

Tel: 416-487-5220

Fax: 416-440-0175

Laine G.M. Ruus (laine@vm.utcc.utoronto.ca)

Secretary, Toronto Free-Net Inc.

Data Library Service

University of Toronto Library
130 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A5
Tel: 416-978-5365

Richard Malinski (malinski@acs.ryerson.ca)
President, Toronto Free-Net
Chief Librarian, Ryerson Polytechnic University Library

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Board of Directors and Three Active Committees:

- Hardware/Software Committee
- End-User Education Committee
- Information Resources Committee

USERS:

As of December 29, 1994:

- Approx. 27,000 applications received on-line
- Approx. 14,000 activated accounts

FUNDING

- (1) User Donations
- (2) Corporate and Institutional Support:

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

- Government Support; three year Ontario Government grant of \$485,000 (ONIP)
- In February 1994, Rogers Shared Services, a Division of Rogers Communications, signed a sponsorship five-year agreement to provide facilities management services. (5-year in-kind donation of \$450,000)
- Sun Microsystems (donation of computer equipment)
- Ryerson Polytechnic University Library provides office space and administrative services
- Toronto Sun donated one page of advertising space to run our membership agreement
- Many other organizations have assisted with donations of equipment and/or services

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Freeport

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Internet: Telnet to freenet.toronto.on.ca *or* torfree.net

Login as "guest"

Modem: 416-780-2010, 14,400 bps, login as "guest"

STATUS: Operational as of November 3,1994.

WELLINGTON COUNTY FREESPACE

P.O BOX 25042, Stone Road Mall Postal Outlet
435 Stone Road West, Guelph ON N1G 4T4

CONTACT:

Gerry Eastman (geastman@freespace.net)

Tel (home): 519-638-8951

Tel (work): 519-777-7000 x6896

Gord Lipp (sysop@freespace.net)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Project includes Guelph FreeSpace (Steering Committee) and North Wellington Computer Access Network. Local control over each FreeSpace with a county wide management body. Administrative assistance through the North Wellington Advisory Group (NWAG). Exact structure still pending.

USERS:

"Beta" FreeSpace used primarily by steering committee members for organizational use.

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

sysop@freespace.net (email/netnews only currently)

STATUS: Organizing. Funding and structure are two of the major priorities.

WINDSOR FREENET

Windsor, Ontario

CONTACT:

Paul Rousseau (roussea@server.uwindsor.ca)
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: 519-0735-7959

STATUS: Began organizing November 1993

QUEBEC

FREE-NET MONTREAL

Reseau Electronique du Montreal Metropolitain
1030 Beaubien east, #201
Montreal, Quebec H2S 1T4
General E-mail information: free-net@free-net.montreal.qc.ca
Voice mail: 514-990-REMM
Fax: 514-278-1498

CONTACT:

Andre Laurendeau (andrel@pubnix.qc.ca)

Diane Labelle (diane@pubnix.qc.ca)

Steven Sacks (ssacks@interlink.net)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

- * There is a coordinating committee of three people
- * Three thematic subcommittees

- Production (Information Providers and content management)
- Technical
- Communication and translations

* One person for each of: accounting, volunteers and archives

USERS: Estimating membership growth rates:

- 50,000 after year one, 75,000 after year two, 100,000 after year three.

FUNDING: Gross revenue projections for the next three years:

Membership and donations	560,000	14%
Services rendered by Free-Net	155,000	4%
Government funding	616,000	15%
Other donations in goods	593,000	14%
Other donations in cash	155,000	4%
Volunteer work	2,034,000	49%
	=====	
	4,113,000	

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

Bell Quebec (phone lines), and Universite du Quebec a Montreal (housing and support of computers systems). Many other ongoing negotiations.

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Chebucto suite (Pine-Pico-Lynx-Tin), translated in french.
Accessible both in french and english

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

thym.remm.uqam.ca

STATUS: Organizing. First general public meeting was February 15/16, 1994. A prototype system has been developed and is being refined. Target is to open in the Spring of 1995. There are approximately 12 Information Providers already involved, and more than 20 in the negotiations stage. Granted organizing committee status by NPTN. Founding member of Telecommunities Canada.

QUEBEC CITY FREENET

CONTACT:

J.-M. Poulin (jmpoulin@sit.ulaval.ca)
Associate director, Computers and telecommunications service
Laval University

STATUS:

"We held a meeting in November 1994 and had a second in December 1994. We will be, I think, looking for available volunteers for hard work quite soon." (Poulin, Dec 21, 1994)

NEW BRUNSWICK

FREDERICTON AREA FREENET

Fredericton, New Brunswick

CONTACT:

Michael J. MacDonald, I.S.P. (mikemac@unb.ca)
Senior Systems Specialist, Faculty of Computer Science
University of New Brunswick

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Executive committee Chair:	Dale Dunphy
Technical Committee Chair:	Dr. R Fisher.
Ways and Means Chair:	Paul Stapleton.
Publicity:	Marilyn Mosher
Media Relations:	Steven Sloan
Jack of all trades:	Michael MacDonald

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

- Would like web...considering freeport.

STATUS:

- First public meeting June 30, 1994
- Equipment acquisition: September 25, 94
- Ready for test: Dec 3, 94; Pilot: Jan 1 - Mar 31, 95
- Public access: April 1, 95 (this may be an omen)

MIRAMICHI CITY COMMUNITY NET

Miramichi City, New Brunswick

CONTACT:

Terry Matthews (matthews@nbnet.nb.ca)

SACKVILLE COMMUNITY NET

Sackville, New Brunswick

CONTACT:

(amiller@mta.ca)

NOVA SCOTIA

For provincial overview contact:

Marion Pape, Nova Scotia Provincial Library,
(mpape@nshpl.library.ns.ca)

CAPE BRETON COMMUNITY NETWORK (CB Net)

P.O. Box 1191, Sydney, Nova Scotia, B1P 6J9

CONTACT:

Debbie McGean (dmmcgean@fox.nstn.ca)

Secretary
Tel: 902-567-2813.

Pat Melski (pmelski@fox.nstn.ns.ca)
Chairman

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

Partnered with two cable companies to make use of existing fibre optic cable and will provide free access to public educational institutions within cable coverage areas. The plan is to provide island-wide access to residents, businesses and educational institutions.

STATUS: Organizing, expect to be operating by September, 1994.

CHEBUCTO FREENET

Metro*CAN Society
c/o Department of Mathematics, Statistics & Computing Science
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3J5
Tel: 902-494-2449

CONTACT:

Renee Davis (davisr@duncan.alt.ns.ca -or- aa005@cfn.cs.dal.ca)
6234 Summit Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3I 1R7
Tel: 902-424-2862
Fax: 902-424-0129

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Joan Brown Hicks, Co-chair , (aa025@cfn.cs.dal.ca)
Halifax Regional Library

David Trueman, Co-chair, (aa001@cfn.cs.dal.ca)

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

Web: <http://www.cfn.cs.dal.ca/>
You can telnet to CFN at: cfn.cs.dal.ca

or dial 902 484-8006, login as guest, no password

STATUS: Operational as of June 16, 1994

HURON VALLEY FREE-NET

Nova scotia

CONTACT:

Michael Todd Glazier (michael@mpcc.org)

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

The HVFN is available for browsing through a visitor log-in or with a browser. Point clients to <http://www.mpcc.org/home.html> , or telnet to mpcc.org and log-in as "visitor".

NEWFOUNDLAND

ST. JOHN'S InfoNET

C/O Randy Dodge HH2050 (randy@kean.ucs.mun.ca)

Dept. of Computing & Communications

Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5S7

CONTACT:

Randy Dodge (randy@kean.ucs.mun.ca)

Organizing Committee and Technical Committee member

Tel: 709-737-4594

Fax: 709-737-3514

Louise McGillis (mcgillis@morgan.ucs.mun.ca)

Organizing Committee member

Information Services, Queen Elizabeth II Library

Memorial University of Newfoundland

St. John's, Newfoundland, A1B 3Y1

Tel: 709-737-7427

Fax: 709-0737-3118

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

Organizing Committee

- Management Committee
- Fundraising/PR Committee
- Technical Committee
- Information Providers Committee

St. John's InfoNET Association - President, V Pres, Sect., Treasurer and up to 3 directors.

USERS:

Organizing, only committee members currently have access

FUNDING:

St. John's InfoNET Association Fundraising

FOUNDING SUPPORTERS / SPONSORS:

Digital Equipment of Canada, Memorial University of Newfoundland

INTERNET SITE ADDRESSES:

InfoNET.st-johns.nf.ca

Gopher: infonet.st-johns.nf.ca

TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM:

- DEC Alpha 3000/500

STATUS:

Organizing, but in test mode with accounts for committee members. Gopher/web addresses to be given out "soon." "We have everything but phone lines and hope to be operational in January, 1995." (Louise McGillis)

A parallel rural services and remote communities project, The Newfoundland and Labrador Community Computer Network (NLCCS), is on hold. It will be revived when InfoNET is in full operation.

