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■ NEWS: Nunavut April 12, 2016 - 4:00 pm

Nunavut, Nunavik deprived of basic telecoms, CRTC review hears

"Telecommunications is the difference between being remote and being isolated"

SARAH ROGERS

In communities throughout Nunavik and Nunavut, telecommunications is a vital link to the rest of the world

But those communications — particularly internet access — remain expensive, slow and unreliable.

That's what northern governments and organization told the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission April 11 during the first day of its review of basic telecom services in Gatineau, Que.



Joseph Manoll, project manager of operations at the Government of Nunavut, speaks to CRTC hearing on basic telecommunications services April 12. (CPAC IMAGE)

"For us, [telecommunications] is the difference between being remote and being isolated," Jean-François Dumoulin, with the Kativik Regional Government-operated Tamaani Internet, told the hearings April 11.

"But like all infrastructure in the Arctic, it remains fragile, extremely costly and difficult to operate."

The CRTC first examined basic telecommunications services in Canada in 1999, and again in 2011.

Following its last review, the commission set a target of download speeds of five Mbps to be made accessible across the country by the end of 2015.

But in 2016, many communities in the Canadian Arctic are still far from seeing that level of service.

For that reason, organizations in satellite-dependent Nunavik and Nunavut have called for broadband internet access, or high-speed internet, to be included in the definition of basic telecommunications services under the CRTC's mandate

"The North needs fibre," the Nunavut Broadband Development Corp. said in its submission to the review April 12, referring to the newest in broadband technology, fibre optic cable.

"Without a series effort to address the digital divide — urban and rural, rich and poor, indigenous and non-indigenous — the benefits of broadband will be largely reserved for the privileged," the corporation said.

The CRTC's chair Jean-Pierre Blais told presenters that the CRTC plans to use the hearing to decide what level of telecoms services should be deemed as "basic services" — ones that Canadians should be expected to and able to receive.

In a submission prepared by the Government of Nunavut, the territory calls on the CRTC to support the means to deliver broadband to all communities in the territory by 2019.

"As part of [this review], the commission needs to ensure Internet services are available to all consumers across Nunavut, regardless of their geographic location," the GN said in its April 12 submission.

"Remote isolation cannot be used as a justification for governments, businesses nor individuals being unable to access a service that is vital in today's digital economy and that in turn provides access to other services, such as health care, education, government, publish safety and

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banking."

The GN said it hopes to see the federal government deliver capital infrastructure investment into transport facilities such as fibre, microwave and satellite in all its regions, as well as the cost of maintaining those facilities.

The CRTC will hear from the Qikiqtaaluk Corp. and Xplornet Communiations Inc. April 13. The hearings run until April 28.



(23) Comments:

#1. Posted by I live in the Arctic on April 12, 2016

High speed would be nice, we just don't have enough people/customers in the Arctic to make affordably priced high speed internet possible. I hope it'll happen.

I want to access porn efficiently.

#2. Posted by dissed on April 12, 2016

Do you realize that 3rd world countries have better internet access/speeds then the North? With a wealthy country like Canada, you'd figure that from COAST TO COAST TO COAST, we'd have one of the best internet available to date. But the North is southern Canada's little pesky brother and always lagging behind the rest of the country.

It can be done, we just need action and stop talking about, they all know it needs to be done.

#3. Posted by windows 97 on April 12, 2016

you want high speed and fibre, then be prepared to pay for it yourselves. Does the GN have a strategy for getting high speed?

High speed internet is not a human right or even a need. where does the need for high speed rank against proper housing, for example.

#4. Posted by Canada on April 12, 2016

You do realize that around 90% of the people in those third world countries you speak of don't have access to it, or any source of Internet right? Tell me, how does this compare to Canada? Or even Nunavut for that matter?

Also, Nunavut has the exact same Internet that most of Canada's rural areas have. Now, the signal is not as good up here compared to other southern areas (Not a scientist and can't tell you why) but what exactly is the issue? I have ZERO problems streaming any video, visiting any website within seconds, or downloading bluray movies overnight. What do people think we have access to, dial-up only?

#5. Posted by Windows 97 wake up on April 13, 2016

At #3, where would you consider Health and Education in your ranks there? Because, unless you are living under a rock(which you must if you are using windows 97), internet can meet quite a few requirements based on Health and Education. If you don't believe me, here are a few links for you.

http://www.mbtelehealth.ca/

http://www.cisco.com/web/CA/about/connectednorth/index.html

Alot of advancements on Teleheath would help for all sorts of things. Education, well look at most post secondary institutes in Canada, most have online lectures.....anyways, research before surfing facebook.

#6. Posted by Rural on April 13, 2016

I live in a very rural area in the south and we do not have high speed anything. If you want all of the conveniences of the big city, move to the big city.

#7. Posted by Canada on April 13, 2016

Just because you don't have it, doesn't mean you don't have access to it #6.

#8. Posted by Access on April 13, 2016

"As part of [this review], the commission needs to ensure Internet services are available to all consumers across Nunavut, regardless of their geographic location,"

I'm confused, what communities lack access to the internet?

#9. Posted by Northern Man on April 13, 2016

Typical GN, crying the blues but yet do nothing to improve the situation themselves...

As far as I am concerned, every community in Nunavut has access to internet. Either Qiniq or

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xplornet????

Non reliable? Since when, My internet never goes down...

#10. Posted by Canada on April 13, 2016

Exactly Northern Man!

Affordability is one thing but in terms of access, every single person in Canada has access to high speed internet. Heck, I could get it out at my cabin 30km away if I really wanted to.

#11. Posted by Get a life on April 13, 2016

Many rural communities down South do not have high speed internet available to them as it would be to costly to install, dixit internet providers. The government will not and shall not subsidize this. Why would Nunavut and Numavik get everything for free? The true costs should be reflected in their monthly internet services just as we do down South. Any subsidy to the northern regions increases our taxes down South. Tired of this....

#12. Posted by ivalu on April 13, 2016

@ #11, actually Nunavik and Nunavut Inuit DO pay taxes just like southerners. That means our taxes will go up as well.

#13. Posted by science on April 13, 2016

In order to progress in the digital economy it is necessary to have high-speed internet. this is a no-brainer. old folks who print out their emails might not understand this.

#14. Posted by No taxes on April 13, 2016

#12 Actually no, that is not quite accurate. With over 50% on social assistance and living in social housing, purple cheques, Zone A deductions, child tax cheques the very few that are paying taxes are not covering for the ones who do not. Couple that with the cost of the highest transfer payments in Canada you are sucking from Ottawa's teet, not contributing.

#15. Posted by I live in the Arctic on April 13, 2016

I've seen it a couple times in the comments on rural communities not having access to high speed internet, and I am curious on what internet services cost in rural communities in the south, right now for Qiniq it is \$80.00/month/20GB.

#16. Posted by Canada on April 13, 2016

#15, right now in rural areas of Ontario (probably similar to other rural areas in the south), xplornet offers a similar 50GB package for \$89.99 a month with a onetime activation fee of \$99.

According to their website, in the Baffin region they offer a 25GB package for \$79.99 a month with the same activation fee of \$99.

Also, I don't know how you are on the 4G plan already with Qiniq because everyone else is paying \$80/month for only 10GB.

#17. Posted by I live in the Arctic on April 13, 2016

I'm not on the 4G plan its an upgrade from their original Atii Home Plan, their site if I wanted to upgrade to new plan when I signed in, and gave me an extra 10gb for upgrading, Qiniq needs to update their site I s'pose.

#18. Posted by Mad on April 13, 2016

Hey CRTC fhhftjnkkcsaxhjdfkpcdsshjgzghjrdbjfxvbkogssjkpgfhf do you know what that means? It means CRTC was set minimum target speed 5 down 1 up to all Canadians but why Nunavut didn't even meet the minimum target speed?

#19. Posted by Elizabeth on April 13, 2016

@ #14, do you live up here? I do, I work and so do quite a lot of the Inuit in my community have jobs. So we do contribute. Maybe not as much as the southerners as our overall population is not as huge as those down south. As well, there are a lot of Inuit who live in the southern cities and those who do have jobs do contribute as well. Inuit do not have a Treaty with the Government so we do pay taxes too.

#20. Posted by Inuk on April 13, 2016

Arctic fibre no more satellites please!.

#21. Posted by Get a life on April 13, 2016

If you would be paying the true cost of internet services you would be paying hundreds of dollars a month!!! Cannot compare montly costs with people down south as our internet providers are charging us true costs plus profits. Nunavut and Nunavik are heavily subsidized; saying the contrary is living in LalaLand.

#22. Posted by I live in the Arctic on April 13, 2016

It is proper that its subsidized right, what crazy person would want to live up here for Canada's



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sovereignty with everything unsubsidized, so that is the cost of Arctic Sovereignty I'd say and its resources, yea its only fair, we're protecting Canada's Arctic Sovereignty, all the people who live up here.

So thank you for helping me access free porn, cause that's what the internet has the most of.

#23. Posted by Priorities on April 13, 2016

Based on the following information:

http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/small-alberta-town-gets-massive-1-000-mbps-broadband-boost-1.1382428

We can see that it cost 14 Million to install fibre-op to this community, which is only 90km away from Calgary. (Who paid? the community and Gov. of Alberta)

If we take this number and assume it would be roughly double at least(because all things are in Nunavut), we would be looking at 28 Million per community (Assuming 90km only for each community)

Now, there are 25 communities in Nunavut which would make it 28Mill X 25 = \$700,000,000

So the GN, is saying it's the responsibility of CRTC to spend \$700,000,000 (Minimum) on getting fibre-op to Nunavut..... even though we already have high speed internet (not as high speed as the south, I know)????

That's roughly \$19,000 for every man, woman, and child in Nunavut. I'm sure many would agree we have some more serious issues to work out than making sure fibre-op is installed in every community.

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NOTICE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD WRITTEN HEARING

Notice is provided on April 8, 2016 that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) will be conducting a written public hearing to consider Fisheries and Coceans Canada's Proposal for WMMB Decision (Proposal) seeking approval of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Allartic Waltus in the Runavut Settlement Area, including the establishment of management units for Allartic Waltus.



NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD P.O. 80x 1379, Igaluit, NU X0A 0H9 Phone: (867) 975-7300 Fax: (848) 421-4832 F-mail: receptionist @nwmb.com Website: www.nwmb.com

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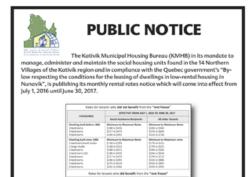
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