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NUNATSIAQ ONLINE

NEWS: Around the Arctic January 03, 2017 - 1:10 pm

CRTC sets fast new internet targets for remote and rural Canada

“We are in a day and age where everything is about broadband Internet”

JIM BELL

Just as *Nunatsiaq News* closed down for the seasonal holiday late last month, Canada’s telecommunications watchdog, the CRTC, declared Dec. 21 that no matter where they live, all Canadians must get access to fast high speed broadband internet speeds: 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload.

The CRTC issued the ruling after Canada-wide consultations that started in 2015 and a public hearing held this past spring.

That process was aimed at re-defining Canada’s “basic service objective” under the Telecommunications Act—the minimum level of service that all Canadians must receive.

The old objective—deemed hopelessly obsolete by most stakeholders—said all telecom operators should offer touch-tone voice phone service, access to long distance and directory assistance, and low-speed internet, redefined in 2011 as 5 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.

But the CRTC’s new broadband targets are 10 times faster than the fastest offerings now available in Nunavut, where all telecommunications are delivered via satellite.

The CRTC says meagre Nunavut-style internet speeds coupled with high charges for exceeding monthly data limits aren’t good enough for Canadians anymore.

“We heard from Canadians that a download speed of 5 megabits per second and an upload speed of 1 megabit per second doesn’t cut it anymore. We heard that data caps often impede their capabilities in a data-hungry digital world,” Jean-Pierre Blais, chair of the CRTC, said at a press conference in Gatineau.

To subsidize the cost of offering faster broadband to rural and remote regions such as Nunavut, Nunavik and many northern and isolated sections of the provinces, the CRTC has ordered the creation of a new fund worth up to \$750 million over five years.

That money—like an existing fund that subsidizes landline telephone service—would be raised through small surcharges on telecommunications firms.

The existing pot of money, called the National Contribution Fund, has been used since about 1999 to protect remote and rural consumers from having to pay the real economic cost of landline telephone service.

But the CRTC says landline voice telephones aren’t important anymore.

“We are in a day and age where everything is about broadband Internet,” the CRTC decision said.

That means the National Contribution Fund, worth about \$100 million, will transition away from landline subsidies and go into a new fund aimed at subsidizing broadband.

In its first year, the fund would make \$100 million available for broadband subsidies and rise to \$200 million by its fifth year.



Will your children one day get access to quality broadband telecommunications that are available to most Canadians living in urban centres? The CRTC took a big step towards achieving that objective late last December, when they re-defined Canada’s universal basic telecommunications service objective as 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload. They also said that the landline voice phone is a fading technology and the only medium that matters is broadband internet. (PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMAANI)

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Ten per cent of that money would be allocated to satellite-dependent communities.

Meanwhile, the current regulatory regime that caps Northwestel's prices will stay in place until Dec. 31, 2018.

SSi Micro Ltd., which offers internet in every Nunavut community through its Qiniq brand, is delighted with the CRTC's announcement.

"We believe broadband is the new basic telecommunications service, and appreciate the commission's USO [universal service objective] framework embracing that reality," Dean Proctor, SSI's chief development officer, said Dec. 22 in a news release.

Proctor said more investments should be made in backbone infrastructure for satellite-based communities to create "open gateways" available to all players.

"Yesterday's decision and the new USO ensure that will indeed happen," Proctor said.

The CRTC said it will launch a follow-up process in early 2017 to work out the details of how the broadband fund will work, including how it will be governed and audited and how the money will be raised.

They did say the fund would be managed by arms-length, third-party administrators and overseen by a board of directors.

And to qualify for funding, an operator would also have to qualify for existing public funding or private investment.

The CRTC also ordered that the latest LTE mobile wireless technology be made available not only to homes and businesses but also along major Canadian highways.

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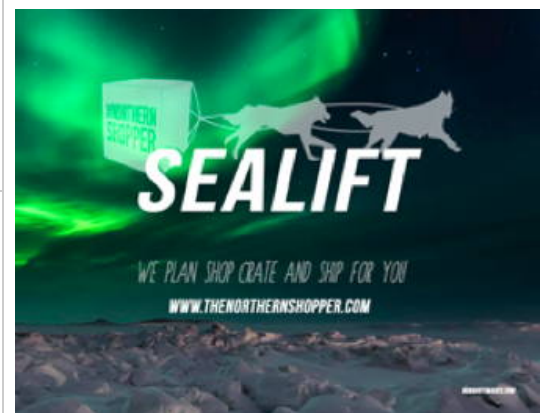


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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

NOTICE OF TYPE 'B' LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Pursuant to Section 55(1) of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* ("Act") notice is given of the following application:

- 2BE-NAN1318 Assignment, Peregrine Diamonds Ltd., Kivalliq Region, Nanaq Project, deadline December 29, 2016
- 2BE-NQN1521 Assignment, Peregrine Diamonds Ltd., Kivalliq Region, Nanaq North Project, deadline December 29, 2016
- 2BE-CHI1318, Amendment, Peregrine Diamonds Ltd., Qikiqtaaluk Region, Chidliak Project, deadline January 13, 2017
- 1BR-CST— New, Kituana Environmental Ltd., Kitikmeot Region, Cambridge Bay Soil and Water Treatment Facility Project, deadline January 13, 2017

P.O. Box 119, Gjoa Haven, Nunavut X0B 1J0
 Phone: (867) 360-6338; Fax: (867) 360-6369

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APPLICATION FOR BOARD MEMBER

The Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) in its mandate to manage, administer and maintain the social housing units found in the 14 Northern Villages of the Kativik region requires a Board member to represent the socio-economic facet of Nunavik.

The Board of Directors of the KMHB is composed of seven persons. Three of these persons are named by the Kativik Regional Government, two are elected from among our tenants and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and land occupancy (MAMOT) appoints the other two persons to represent the socio-economic facet. The term of each member is three years, renewable. The mission of the Board of Directors of the KMHB is to set objectives, determine priorities and assess results of our operations.

Applications must be received by January 27, 2017 and sent to:

Office of the Director General
Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau
P.O. Box 1200, Kuujuaq, Quebec J0M 1C0

Applications received will be reviewed by the Board and a recommendation will be made to the Minister of MAMOT who will announce his appointment.

Continued ...



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Ph: (867) 979-3537 Fax: (867) 979-3538
Email: llewis@northviewreit.com

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Nanavut Tunngavik Inc's Board of Directors wishes you all a safe and joyous holiday season.




www.tunnngavik.com

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Merry Christmas
Happy New Year



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Nunavut Government
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FIRE DOES NOT TAKE A BREAK DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

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Watch what you heat

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Encourage smokers to smoke outside

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Water trees daily

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Keep Alert, Keep YOUR HOMES fire safe.



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L'été, l'été, l'été, l'été, l'été
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The magic of Christmas never ends and its greatest of gifts are family and friends.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
La magie de Noël est éternelle car ses meilleurs cadeaux sont la famille et les amis.
Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

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Celebrate the Season
Please Don't Drink and Drive!

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The following organizations made this message possible



Continued ...

Don't let alcohol spoil your fun this holiday season
Don't drink and drive!
Pas d'alcool au volant!

A message from the governments of Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon
Un message des gouvernements du Nunavut, des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et du Yukon



Continued ...

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!
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Please show pride in your home and be extra careful when cooking, burning candles and celebrating this holiday season!

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(Left to right) Board members Moses Aqoyook, Lolly Paribak, Marlene Tuluksat and Mimi Osh-Coleby wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Season's Greetings

from our family to yours.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in 2017.



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Continued ...

Merry Christmas

From your friends at
Nunatsiaq News

Our office will be closed
December 26 to January 3.

There will be no paper
published December 30.



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