

In 2007, NAN was given a general mandate to discuss further development of the community and regional networks and infrastructure to replace the current out-dated system. In November 2010, the more than \$81 million Northwestern Ontario Broadband Expansion Initiative was first announced as a joint effort between NAN First Nations, both the federal and provincial governments, and Bell Aliant to bring a state-of-the-art backbone fibre-optic network to 26 remote First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.

To date, close to 400 kilometres of the 2470 kilometre fibre build has been completed. Currently, construction is taking place in the areas of Red Lake to Poplar Hill, Ignace to Mussel White mine, and moving toward Cat Lake. The entire Initiative is expected to be completed by 2014.

For more information on the Northwestern Ontario Broadband Expansion Initiative visit www.nanbroadband.ca

Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5 – an area covering two thirds of the province of Ontario. www.nan.on.ca

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