

Over the Northern airwaves

Seven broadcasters
in NWT and Nunavut

Iqaluit station owner
premieres new station

by Guy Quenneville
Northern News Services
NWT/Nunavut

There are many NWT and Nunavut-based broadcasters offering a variety of programming focused on Canada's North.

The Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), on air since 1982, employs 30 people at its main office in Iqaluit and bureaus in Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak and Iglood. Its financial head office is in Ottawa.

All of the corporation's Nunavut-based staff is Inuit and many other Inuit are contracted to work on special programming like documentaries.

Among the most popular IBC programs is the Niqitsiat Cooking Show, hosted by Rebecca Veevee, who prepares traditional Inuit dishes. The show, which finished its fifth season last spring, airs every week from November to April on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

On an annual basis, the IBC produces 52 hours of original programming, including children's programming, live phone-in shows and cooking shows.

The IBC receives funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Government of Nunavut's department of culture, language, elders and youth.

In Inuvik, the Inuvialuit Communications Society (ICS) has a staff of seven, including two Inuvialuit.

Shooting all of its programs in high definition, ICS is currently producing eight half-hour documentaries on life in the Inuvialuit region, to eventually air on APTN (first in English and later in Inuvialuktun.)

ICS also publishes a quarterly magazine called Tusaayaksat, which is delivered free to Inuvialuit beneficiaries.

The North's biggest and largest broadcaster is CBC North.

In total, CBC North has 128 staff members over four distinct territories: Nunavut and Nunavik; Northern Quebec Cree area; the Northwest Territories; and the Yukon. These staff numbers represent radio, TV, web and support personnel.

From its regional headquarters in Yellowknife, using staff in all three territories, two daily television shows are produced by CBC North.



Whether they're wielded by long-established Northern broadcasters or visiting documentary filmmakers, cameras are a familiar sight in the NWT and Nunavut.

Iglaaq, broadcast in the NWT and Nunavut, is wholly produced in the Inuktitut language and highlights news from around the world and stories from the Inuit perspective by Rassi Nashalik, a fifteen year veteran.

Northbeat, broadcast in three territories, is an evening news roundup covering relevant events affecting viewers in the NWT, Nunavut and the Yukon.

In the James Bay Cree district, Maamuitau is a weekly Cree-language magazine of news and current affairs.

Over 3.4 million sq. km

in the territories and Nunavik, CBC North broadcasts radio coverage of local stories covering news, current affairs and weather. Many of the shows are language specific for the people in the area. In total, people receive the information in eight different Aboriginal languages.

Many radio stations

The Francophone radio station in Iqaluit, 107.3 CFRT FM, produces 10 to 15 music shows a week. Operated by the Francophone Association of Nunavut, the station has two paid employees, who are

aided by 12 volunteers.

Iqaluit also has two commercial radio stations independently run and owned by Glen Craig.

The first, formerly known as Raven Rock, was rebranded as the new CKIQ last year and plays current music.

The second, called 103.5 Capital FM, is devoted to classic rock from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

Both are run by Craig and two freelance announcers.

Transmitting to 30 other communities and the three NWT diamond mines is CKLB.

The station is run by the Native Communications Society of the NWT. The society has 15 full-time employees working in either TV or radio.

CKLB's TV division is currently in production on a new series called "Dene – A Journey." Each episode will track a Dene person of the Northwest Territories undertaking a journey to discover his or her language and culture by doing traditional activities while trying to use their Dene language.

Radio Taiga is a French-language radio station in Yellowknife. It has one full-time employee and 25 volunteers and produces 11 weekly and bi-monthly original programs, including its weekday morning show from 7-9am.

Mix 100, CJCD FM, broadcast in Yellowknife and Hay River, has 10 full-time and two part-time employees. The station has been operating since 1979 and is currently owned by Vista Radio Ltd., based in Kelowna, B.C.

The station offers, news, sports and popular music and is also streamed live on its website.

Iglulik Isuma Productions – best known for making the first feature-length Inuktitut-language film, 2001's Anatarjuat (The Fast Runner) – launched a website in 2008 featuring works by indigenous filmmakers that can be viewed for free.

The website, isuma.tv, was formed in partnership with the producers of Atanarjuat, Nunavut Independent TV Network (NITV), imagineNATIVE Film+Media Arts Festival and Vtape.

The website's archive – totalling more than 2,000 videos in 42 different languages – includes clips of elders' stories and traditional cultural practices recorded since the 1970s.

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Pond Inlet added to Northwestel mobile service

Latitude Wireless serving six Nunavut communities

iPhone usable in four communities

by Guy Quenneville

Northern News Services

NWT/Nunavut

Cellular phone coverage is provided to several NWT communities, one way or another, by Bell Canada, whether it's by the communications giant itself or its Northern Canada subsidiary, Northwestel.

In the case of Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Liard, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, Bell Canada itself provides coverage.

In Nunavut, Iqaluit also receives cell phone service courtesy of Bell Canada.

But there are a number of other communities in the NWT and Nunavut that receive cell phone service from Northwestel – which was purchased by Bell Canada in 1988 – under Northwestel's Latitude Wireless product brand.

Those include Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Arviat, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk and Pond Inlet.

The service is compatible with Bell, Telus, Aliant, Sask-Tel and MTS service in Canada. Users are able to roam seamlessly on all other Canadian CDMA networks.

The service range for communities with one tower has a standard radius of five kilo-

metres, although actual availability of a signal can depend on the terrain because the system is based on line of sight.

Other variables can include the number of users on the system at any given time and the weather.

In the NWT, Nunavut, Yukon and Northern B.C., Northwestel provides roughly 74,000 local access lines, of which 35,000 are residential.

Inuvik-based Ice Wireless, the only independent phone company in the North, provides cell phone service in Inuvik, Hay River, Yellowknife, and Behchoko.

In 2008, the company launched a new roaming service in partnership with southern cell phone provider Rogers.

Under the terms of the agreement, Rogers allows Ice

Wireless customers to place calls using existing Rogers networks anywhere in Canada, while Rogers customers can use the Ice Wireless network in the NWT. iPhones and Blackberries can be used in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Liard using Bell's HSPA+ (High Speed Packet Data) mobile network, which was launched in late 2009.

NorthwesTel by the numbers

Financial results in millions						
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Total revenue	\$221.8	\$211.8	\$204.4	\$182	\$164.3	\$158.4
Expenses	\$106.9	\$110	\$148.9	\$137	\$128.2	\$120.6
NWT workforce						
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	
Employees	197	239	203	213	217	
Payroll	\$16.8 million	\$15 million	\$15.1 million	\$15.1 million	\$12.5 million	
Average full-time salary	\$75,335	\$62,190	\$60,640	\$56,587	\$60,300	
Nunavut workforce						
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	
Employees	46	36	42	49	53	
Payroll	\$3.1 million	\$2.5 million	\$3.5 million	\$3.1 million	\$2.1 million	
Average full-time salary	\$77,520	\$68,047	\$66,700*	\$56,099*	\$56,627*	

* Salary figures do not include Northern living allowances, housing allowances, vacation airfare allowances and Team Incentive Plan payouts.

Source: NorthwesTel

Northwestel's revenue in 2010 totalled \$10 million more than in the previous year.



Kevin Allerston/NNSL photo

Bell Canada provides cellular phone service in the NWT both directly and through its Northern Canada subsidiary, Northwestel.

New tools for Nunavut web users

by Guy Quenneville

Northern News Services

Nunavut

In the NWT and Nunavut, Northwestel and SSI Micro are the only providers of Internet for Northern web surfers.

Northwestel

Northwestel offers satellite Internet through its Netkaster service. Powered by Telesat Canada's Ka-Band high-efficiency spot beam satellite, it is a broadband Internet service that requires no phone line connection.

In the NWT, Netkaster is available in Wrigley, Whati, Wekweeti, Ulukhaktok, Tulita, Tuktoyaktuk, Tsiigehtchic, Trout Lake, Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Nahanni Butte, Lutsel K'e, Kakisa, Jean Marie River, Gameti, Fort McPher-

son, Fort Good Hope, Fort Resolution, Fort Providence, Fort Liard, Enterprise, Detah, Deline, Colville Lake, Behchoko and Aklavik.

Northwestel also offers Internet through its television cable system in Yellowknife and Norman Wells.

Last year, Fort Smith became the third NWT community to get cable Internet.

Northwestel purchased Fort Smith Cable from locally-owned CAB Construction. The town had previously received Internet service from

Northwestel through phone lines, but cable Internet works at a faster speed.

The purchase created one extra job in the community, as well.

A number of other communities are either limited to or also enjoy a DSL Internet option: Inuvik, Hay River, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPher-son, Fort Good Hope, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Fort Providence, Fort Liard, Enterprise, Behchoko and Aklavik.

DSL uses existing copper

pair phone line wiring together with special hardware on the switch and user ends of the line. This special hardware allows for a continuous digital connection over the phone lines.

Last September, Whati was added to that list. Northwestel was working on adding Tulita and Tsiigehtchic to the roster, as of press time.

In Nunavut, Iqaluit is the only community to receive DSL service, while other communities receive the Netkaster service: Whale Cove,

Fort Smith gets cable Internet

Whati added to DSL Internet roster

Taloyoak, Sanikiluaq, Resolute, Repulse Bay, Rankin Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Nanisivik, Kugluktuk, Kugaaruk, Kimmirut, Iglulik, Hall Beach, Grise Fiord, Gjoa Haven, Coral Harbour, Clyde River, Chesterfield Inlet, Cape Dorset, Cambridge Bay and Baker Lake.

For every extra gigabyte of download used above the monthly cap, the customer must pay an additional \$20.

The lowest-tier package, billed at \$69.95 a month, offers two gigabytes a month and has no usage cap.

SSI Micro

Northwestel's competitor is SSI Micro

Through its wireless satellite network, called AirWare,

SSI Micro provides broadband Internet service to 31 communities in the NWT.

In Nunavut, SSI Micro's satellite and wireless network, Qiniq, delivers broadband Internet services to all Nunavut communities.

The Qiniq system was launched in May 2005 through a partnership between SSI Micro and the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation (NBDC), a non-profit organization.

Thanks to \$21 million in federal funding since 2008, NBDC has been adding to the territory's bandwidth capacity.

Last fall, SSI Micro launched two new Internet tools it created specifically for the Nunavut market: Meet

Please see **Qiniq A26**

Print media in the North

Nine weekly papers serve the NWT and Nunavut

Northern News Services establishes Twitter feed in 2010

by Guy Quenneville
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NWT/Nunavut

Print media remains strong and plentiful in the NWT and Nunavut, thanks to nine weekly newspapers, one twice-weekly newspaper, and regularly published magazines.

Nunatsiaq News was established in 1976. It is published on Fridays by Nortext Multimedia of Ottawa, with an office and staff in Iqaluit. It serves Nunavut and Nunavik, in Northern Quebec, and is published in Inuktitut and English.

Hay River Hub has been operating since 1973 and is published every Wednesday by Hub Publications. It serves the residents of Hay River.

Slave River Journal was established in the mid-1970s. It primarily serves the people of Fort Smith and residents of Northeastern Alberta.

L'Aquilon – the North's only French language newspaper – was established in 1986. It reaches the Franco-phonie community around the NWT on a weekly basis.

The other papers of the North are part of the Yellowknife-based Northern News Services Ltd. group.

Yellowknifer was established in 1972 and is the only Northern paper published more than once a week.

Hitting newsstands every Wednesday and Friday, *Yellowknifer* is distributed in Yellowknife.

Nunavut News/North is published Mondays with stories in English and Inuktitut. It serves all of Nunavut. It has editorial and sales offices in Iqaluit and Yellowknife.

NWT News/North, started in 1945, is also published Mondays and serves the NWT.

The main editorial staff members are based in Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife. A separate edition is published for Yellowknife, also on Mondays.

Inuvik Drum was founded in 1966 and is published Thursdays. It focuses its coverage on Inuvik, but also includes content from the other Delta communities.

Deh Cho Drum was estab-

lished in 1994 and is also published every Thursday. It serves residents of Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Kakisa, Trout Lake, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte and Fort Providence.

Kivalliq News was established in 1995 and is published on Wednesdays. Its content is split evenly between Inuktitut and English. It serves Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Baker Lake, Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay.

In addition to its weekly papers, Northern News Services also publishes six major supplements throughout the year: *Opportunities North*, the *Oil and Gas Drum*, the annual education supplement *Degrees of Success*, *Northern Construction* and two supplements aimed at the centre of the Northern mining economy – *Mining for Jobs*, aimed exclusively at the Nunavut mining and exploration industry, and *NWT and Nunavut Mining*, which focuses on activity in both territories.

In 2010, Northern News Services upped its efforts to



Guy Quenneville/NNSL photo

Northern News Services has an editorial staff of approximately 20 people, in addition to various columnists such as Cambridge Bay's Navalik Tologanak.

deliver news online. In addition to its website – www.nnsl.com – the company now regularly provides links to material through its Twitter account, NNSLonline.

Various NNSL papers regularly win awards at the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards, the Ontario Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Awards (for which Nunavut News/North is eligible) and the Alberta

Weekly Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Awards (for which *Yellowknifer* is eligible).

Nunavut and NWT, as well as the Yukon, are also the focus of two magazines, *Up Here* and its counterpart, *Up Here Business*, the latter of which was launched in 2008.

Up Here, which covers a wide variety of human interest stories specific to the North,

is published eight months a year, whereas *Up Here Business* comes out monthly.

In 2010, *Up Here Business* was named Best Magazine by the National Magazine Awards Foundation.

Published every two months is *Above & Beyond* – Canada's Arctic Journal. It is distributed to subscribers, is available on newsstands and is the in-flight magazine for First Air.



NNSL file photo

Last year, SSI Micro and the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation launched Meet Online, an audio-video conferencing tool for users of Nunavut's Qiniq network.

Qiniq network expected to grow by 2,300

New, from page A25

Online, an audio-video conferencing tool; and Qfile, a streamlined platform for delivering large files to and from Nunavut communities, where a limited amount of bandwidth has traditionally caused slow service and regular outages for Qiniq users.

Qfile and Meet Online were co-financed by NBDC and the feds to the tune of \$15.6 million.

Qiniq users and subscribers to Northwestel Internet services previously could use free programs similar to Meet Online such as Skype – but with mixed results. Meet Online benefits from having servers installed in individual communities, which means users are not competing for bandwidth with the greater world.

It's also faster and doesn't

use up as much bandwidth capacity, an important consideration in Nunavut, where Qiniq – which costs \$60 a month for most users – is supposed to be an affordable option for Internet surfers.

The Qiniq network, which currently supports 4,500 users, will grow its customer list to 6,800 in the next two years, according to Jeff Philip, president and CEO of SSI Micro.

The broadband funding is set to run out in June of next year, and more investment is needed, according to Darrell Ohokannoak, NBDC's chair.

"...broadband has to be a high priority right there with housing, water and sewer, roads and airports. If the investment in satellite bandwidth is not there, prices in Nunavut could double or triple, making it unaffordable for the average consumer."

“ This will definitely increase economic activity throughout NWT.

[Dan McConnell, Vice President - North West Company]



“Over the past several years the North West Company has invested millions in energy conservation technologies in our Northern Stores. We’re fortunate to be partnering with a progressive corporation like NTPC. Reducing electricity rates will definitely increase economic activity throughout the NWT.”

On December 01, new electricity rates were put in place for business owners in 24 NWT communities. At a time when rates in the rest of Canada are going up, we think this is very good news. It’s all part of the GNWT’s commitment to reduce the cost of living in our communities.

To see the new rate for your community, visit www.ntpc.com or www.iti.gov.nt.com



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