

The Future of CAP

Proposed Recommendations To Industry Canada for feedback from the CAP Community.

COMMUNITY
ACCESS
PROGRAM

"Now, it's not good enough just to produce good science and to create new innovation and new ways of thinking. You then have to get into how you ensure that the economy takes advantage of science and the human capital that you're creating. And you quickly get to applications of technology."

~ (Minister Emerson, Industry Canada)

BACKGROUND :

- **CAP Program ends March 31, 2006 leaving an unused legacy of local, regional, and national cross sectoral networks with significant technology infrastructure.**
- **CAP Celebrates 10 years of success & innovation on March 31, 2005**
- **CAP was part of the Connecting Canadians Initiative and made Canada a leading nation and an international model for the technological empowerment of communities.**
- **CAP was a connectivity, economic development & ICT skills building program.**
- **Since two year budget renewal 3,800 "official"/funded sites remain, with thousands more unofficial sites that have been created over the past decade.**
- **CAP sites remain one of the only direct links the federal government has to communities.**

WE KNOW :

Assumptions...

Four Stages to technology adoption:

Infrastructure
Access
Skills
Application

While there is still work to be done in the first 3 stages, & we need to begin to tackle the 4th.

CAP needs to identify the types of support a community, its organizations, corporations and citizens require in order to use technology in a way that is of benefit to them and their communities. Technology is the cornerstone of sustainable communities.

- **The digital divide is deepening and widening.**
- **A competitive community is one where people can make use of the internet and technology to improve their lives**
 - CAP has the track record and "footprint" to make this real for communities across Canada.
- **Many communities in Canada still do not have access to the internet. (for example, over 200 First Nations Communities in BC alone remain unconnected and without public internet access) - The program still has work to do!**
- **Time and support are required in order for communities to strategically apply technology in a manner that will build local community and organizational sustainability.**

MOVING FORWARD :

How do we use technology tactically within our communities in order to:

- **Break down the digital divide**
 - **Build sustainable communities (Industry Canada)**
 - **Build Community Capacity (Social Development)**
 - **Build Skills and Employment (HRSDC)**
 - **Reaffirm and/or reinforce Canadian identity (and build content) (Heritage)**
- CAP has a strong track record in leveraging resources and will move forward with this vision in a horizontal fashion.**

CAP is More than Technology and Access

We are strategically placing our existing networks, people, and infrastructure to enhance community, economic, social and cultural development.

This Discussion is focused on Industry Canada, their participation, & departmental mandate.

CAP – Strong Track Record of Leveraging to be nurtured and continued :

- ▶ A larger footprint than Starbucks and Tim Horton's
- ▶ At least 50% of the costs of operating a CAP site are found and leveraged from the community. *(representing an annual contribution in excess of \$20 million)*
- ▶ CAP is a collaboration platform that has each year:
 - Spawned OVER 2,000 additional projects across the country each year.
 - Engaged over 20,000 community partners in those projects.
 - Leveraged well over 150 million dollars.
 - Touched over 5 million Canadians. (over and above CAP Site Visits).

Objectives Of The Renewed CAP Program :

Renewed CAP Program Strategy:

We are unable to guess at how a community will use technology to enhance their local community sustainability. That decision needs to come from communities, and so we are proposing that a "site model" of service delivery be enhanced. It is through the sharing of strategies and best practices in communities that we will achieve our goal of enhancing the sustainability of local communities. Within the CAP movement the infrastructure of networks exists to support this work.

- ▶ Focused on the application of technology not just access to technology
- ▶ Focused on the needs of workers and the unemployed in our communities (the digital divide).
- ▶ Completing the work begun for hundreds of remote communities
- ▶ Based on principals of local leadership, inclusiveness and accountability
- ▶ Providing Value added services
- ▶ Serving organizations and individuals

Tiered model of Sites :

- ▶ Kiosk (access only – no support)
- ▶ Access (Mentoring available)
- ▶ Innovation (Community Resource Networks – relevant Government Online access – and deep training resources that are relevant to local needs)
- ▶ Business Community Service Hubs - in support of and in cooperation with Canada Business Centres and Community Futures – CAP is a mechanism to enhance their reach and to bring community based technology expertise to bear on local challenges.

Sharing of Best Practices and further leveraging of resources :

- ▶ Local Network Administration and Coordination
- ▶ Provincial Coordination
- ▶ National Coordination

Suggested CAP Envelope :

\$42,500,000 per annum. (not inclusive of internal government expenditures – grants only)

For more information and detailed proposals:

www.capcanada.net

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Each of the CANCAP members have been appointed by their province to represent their regional view at the national table. CANCAP was formally established in March 2004 with a mandate that is outlined the document "From Access to Inclusion".

This document has been reviewed by the members of CANCAP, and the participants at the Pacific 2005 Summit. The recommendations are being validated by grass roots cap site operators from coast to coast to coast.