

CANCAP
(Community Access Program National Association)
and
TC
(Telecommunities Canada)
Update
November 28th, 2005

We are very happy and proud to announce that the CANCAP Association has reached the end of the first leg of our journey.

In March of 2003 the CAP Community at the Vancouver Summit agreed that a national CAP Association was needed. That gathering endorsed a proposal "From Access To Inclusion" which called for an association and a reinvigorated CAP Program. At the Summit one person from each province and territory was nominated to take the work forward. That group of nominees has worked hard to improve communication between individual provinces and work towards the preservation of the ideal of equal and equitable access to technology for all Canadians, in all regions of Canada.

The CANCAP group is very proud of what has been accomplished. Over the past two years as a group, and with the assistance of so many fellow Canadians CANCAP has worked to ensure that the CAP Program improves and continues. In fact, we believe that we have had a very positive impact with Industry Canada and are encouraged by the possibility that a renewed CAP program may be launched in the spring of 2006. CANCAP has also contributed to the World Summit on the Information Society, the Canadian Telecom Policy Review, and has built strong relationships with the emerging "telecentre.org" (an international partnership between IDRC and Microsoft).

In our travels over the past year and a half we have met many that are doing similar work with technology in communities but are not part of the "CAP Program". It became clear that we needed to find a governance structure that represented a strong community perspective in terms of ICT's.

Over the past year we have received enormous support from the Board of Telecommunities Canada. The CAP program, and CANCAP specifically has benefited greatly by the support and counsel from this group of dedicated community volunteers.

TeleCommunities Canada - Mission Statement

To ensure that all Canadians are able to participate in community-based communications and electronic information services by promoting and supporting local community network initiatives.

To represent and promote the Canadian community networking movement at the national and international level.

ANNOUNCEMENT

While much has been accomplished, there is still work ahead. It is the belief of those entrusted with the creation of a national association, CANCAP, that the vision and values of CANCAP would best be served by working together with Telecommunities Canada. As such we are very happy to announce that it is the unanimous decision of all of the active members of CANCAP, representing over 95% of Canada, that the work of CANCAP can continue very effectively under the umbrella of Telecommunities Canada and its existing non-profit federal charter.

Through Telecommunities Canada we can continue to develop our strategy to share best practices (Stories That Travel)

Through Telecommunities Canada we can continue to be a strong advocate and national voice for those who are working with and integrating technology at a community level.

Through Telecommunities Canada we can weave together a strong network of regional access networks, individual organizations, and committed individuals and begin to share the wealth of knowledge and experience that is out there.

We invite you therefore to join Telecommunities Canada with us.

While the name CANCAP will disappear, the work will continue under our new banner, and the work can continue within a strongly democratic framework.

Attached you will find an Application for Membership.

Please join and strengthen the voice of access and community-based communications and electronic information services, as we work to ensure that all Canadians are able to fully participate in the information world.

Sincerely

CANCAP

Bev Collins – BC
Stephen Soucy – AB
Clairice Leader - MB
Darlene Thompson – NU
Michael Corbet - NT
Marie Prebushewski - SK
Peter Frampton – ON
Maurice Dion – QU
Rémy Vincent – QU

TELECOMMUNITIES CANADA

Gareth Shearman – BC
Peter Royce - BC
Garth Graham - BC
Michael Gurstein - BC
Brian Beaton ON
Chris Cope - ON
Marita Moll - ON
Alain Ambrosi - QU
David Murdoch – NS
Fred Campbell - NL

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Please Join Today