



**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
IN
B.C.FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES**

**Report on an Environmental Scan Conducted by
The First Nations Technology Council**

Report Prepared March 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
First Nations Technology Council Mandate	1
Bridging the Digital Divide in First Nations Communities	2
First Nations Technology Council ICT Environmental Scan	2
Conclusions and Recommendations from the First Nations Technology Council Environmental Scan.....	3
Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations from the Broadband Internet Survey (2002).....	5
REPORTING ON COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY	7
Connectivity in the home.....	7
Band office connectivity	8
School connectivity	9
Health unit connectivity	9
REPORTING ON COMMUNITY TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	10
Band office ICT infrastructure	10
Community ICT support.....	10
REPORTING ON COMMUNITY ICT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	11
ICT user skills in the community	11
Potential for ICT user skills development in the community.....	12
REPORTING ON COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY	14
Culture and language.....	14
Schools in the community	15
Health service capacity in the community.....	16
REPORTING ON COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	17
Business use of Internet	17
Other community infrastructure.....	17
ICT planning	18



INTRODUCTION

The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly have mandated that ICT be recognized as basic infrastructure for First Nations communities. To better understand the current state of ICT in First Nations communities the FNTC undertook an Environmental Scan of First Nations communities, with a particular focus on ICT infrastructure and community ICT capacities. Our report on the results of this Environment Scan follows.

First Nations Technology Council Mandate

The First Nations Technology Council mandate has been established through a series of resolutions approved by the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly. These include:

- First Nations Summit Resolution #0602.12, dated June 14, 2002, which states in part:

“The First Nations Technology Council’s mandate is to develop a First Nations Technology Plan for First Nations in British Columbia which will address technology issues, including:

 - 1) high speed Internet connection;
 - 2) technology skills development;
 - 3) development of technical support.”
- First Nations Summit Resolution #0604.26, dated June 11, 2004, which states in part:

“The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly hereby expand the mandate of the First Nations Technology Council to include promoting the use of technology as a tool to support the revitalization of culture and language in all First Nation communities in British Columbia.”
- First Nations Summit Resolution #0604.27, dated June 11, 2004, which states in part:

“There is a need for First Nation communities to have high speed broadband access to the Internet that includes connecting all administrative offices, schools, health centres, water treatment plants and other community-owned facilities, as well as residences.

This connectivity should be considered as important as other basic infrastructure such as an electrical distribution system, water distribution system or community road.”
- First Nations Summit Resolution #1104.12, dated November 25, 2004, which states in part:

“The mandate of the First Nations Technology Council is to develop a Technology Plan for First Nations of British Columbia. In order to develop a Technology Plan that is achievable, secures the support of both levels of government and the private sector, and can be used as a model for other communities in the province, the Council proposes to lead a proof of concept project to be known as the FIT (Fully Integrated Technologies) Community project in a community cluster of at least 4 and not more than 8 communities located in the same geographic region. The FNTC would work closely with, and take the lead from, the FIT Community Project Team made up of representatives from the communities included in the Cluster.”

