



ICT Infrastructure as Public Infrastructure: Community Wireless Infrastructure Research Project

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Background

- Project was initiated in Fall 2005 in response to Infrastructure Canada's call for Peer Reviewed Research Studies
- Funding runs March 2006 - March 2008

Partners

- City of Fredericton - eZone
- Île Sans Fil (Montreal)
- K-Net/KORI (Keewaytinook Okimakanak tribal council)
- Wireless Nomad (Toronto)
- Industry Canada

Community **W**ireless **I**nfrastructure

- infrastructure in communities - encompasses municipal and community initiatives
- wireless - just part of the puzzle

ICT Infrastructure as Public Infrastructure

- What examples of public information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure exist in Canada today? How is “public” defined?
- What are the different models and best practices of public ICT infrastructure in terms of deployment, technology choice and innovation, investment, governance, adoption and use?
- What are the public benefits of community-based/public ICT infrastructure provision?
- What public policies and supports are necessary to promote and sustain public ICT infrastructure?



Focus on *Public Broadband Networks*

- Should municipal broadband networks and community WiFi be considered as basic infrastructure for the 21st century?
 - Fred eZone, Île sans Fil, K-Net, Wireless Nomad
 - Additional case studies:
 - Toronto Hydro Telecom One Zone
 - Province of Saskatchewan

Progress and activities to date

- Understanding the terrain of public broadband infrastructure in Canada: community and municipal providers
- Articulating benefits of public broadband infrastructure, desiderata for public wireless infrastructure, review of literature and international experiences, user perspectives
- Investigating policy aspects of deploying public broadband infrastructure (e.g. spectrum, health)

Longer term goals

- Documentation of successes and failures in Canadian public broadband deployments, documentation of best practices
- Theorizing about public aspects of infrastructure
- Understanding parallels between public broadband and earlier instances of public ICT infrastructures
- Developing policy recommendations for deployment of public wireless infrastructures

Research Output

- www.cwirp.ca/resources.php
 - Case studies, technology guide, background papers, bookmarks
- www.cwirp.ca/publications.php
 - Conference papers, presentations

Workshop Objectives

- Extend the discussion of developing infrastructures to a wider audience of network builders, policy makers and researchers
- Share our research and learn from others
- Continue to develop the case for public infrastructure, provoke questions about ICT infrastructures and disseminate findings to a wider audience