



WireIE Provides Broadband Solution to the Wiikwemkoong Community

FACTS AT A GLANCE

CUSTOMER

- Wiikwemkoong
- First Nations communities lack broadband internet access

CHALLENGES

- Wiikwemkoong lacked the appropriate tools and infrastructure to apply for and access available funding to improve their situation
- A solution was needed that gave this First Nations community the tools necessary to go through the process of acquiring funding to plan and build out their network
- Sought a solution that could scale as network complexity increased

SOLUTION

- Improve broadband and internet access to First Nations communities
- Provide an accurate business model
- Conduct a feasibility study to help provide funding
- Connect with the right partners
- Engineer an impeccable design
- Validate the Solution

VALUE

- Improve broadband coverage to full time and seasonal households
- Lower capital build costs
- Shorter implementation timeframes
- Incremental revenue streams through colocation fees to existing and new carriers
- Canada's underserved communities

For most Canadians, access to affordable and reliable broadband internet is an expected part of their daily lives. Communities in remote or hard to reach locations, however, do not benefit from these same levels of access. The lack of quality, high-speed broadband coverage that Canadians living in remote areas are receiving across the country, particularly in First Nations communities, is an issue that the Government of Canada, with the support of the CRTC, is committed to resolving. Through the Connecting Canadians program, new funding is available to extend and enhance broadband service to a minimum target speed of 5 Mbps for over 300,000 Canadian households living in rural and remote communities.



The Impact of subpar broadband access on the Wiikwemkoong Community

Currently, 20% of the Canadian market does not have access to high speed internet and the Wiikwemkoong community, one of the fastest-growing communities on Manitoulin Island, is one of them. Previously, major parts of the community such as the health center, schools and local businesses were in need of common network services such as being able to connect to the internet and watch local television networks. Many of the activities that the majority of Canadians consider standard parts of their daily lives were simply not available. Worse even was the fact that the Wiikwemkoong community did not have the basic tools available to improve their situation. In addition to poor connectivity which made it impossible to access and send key information, they faced the complexities and cultural requirements that come with being an unceded First Nations community. They were in need of a solution to leverage their existing telecom assets as well as implement a technical and business plan for their crucial connectivity needs. With a clear focus on improving the speed, efficiency, and quality of the internet connectivity which is readily available to the community, Wiikwemkoong was in need of a strategic partner to leverage their existing telecom assets along with designing and delivering the most cost effective solution.

WireE Provides Broadband Solutions and Consultative Services: Assists with Funding & Feasibility Planning

WireE's unique position as an established national Canadian carrier delivering high performance networks in Canada's underserved markets made them a clear choice as a partner. Through this partnership, WireE provided Wiikwemkoong with:

- Preparation of a broadband feasibility assessment report including solution design, vendor selection, project management, outsourcing of NOC services and implementation enablement
- Assessment and mapping of current telecom broadband infrastructure to assess capability and capacity
- Opportunities to increase telecommunication products and bundling packages for sale and resale
- Identified regulatory requirements to grow telecom products and services
- Analysis of the external telecommunications sector and the re-use of licensed frequencies for delivery of broadband services
- Assessment of capabilities and capacity towards the overall growth strategy
- Delivery and deployment of quality, secured, broadband network solutions

The expansion of broadband services in Wiikwemkoong became a possibility through their partnership with WireE and subsequent access to funding through the Government of Canada's Connecting Canadians Program. The partnership with WireE helped to facilitate the construction of wireless broadband and provide internet service within the community servicing up to 200 households. This has allowed the community to facilitate growth and improve competitiveness to existing services. The success in implementing this alternative broadband telecommunications service will increase opportunities for economic development and quality of life for the Wiikwemkoong community. With the assistance of WireE, Wiikwemkoong now has access to broadband internet access, bringing them up to par with established communities across Canada.

Unleashing the Potential for Wiikwemkoong

Due to the WireE/WDC partnership, the Wiikwemkoong community can now benefit from the following:

- Improved broadband coverage to full time and seasonal households
- Lower capital build costs
- Shorter implementation timeframes
- Incremental revenue streams through colocation fees to existing and new carriers

A year ago, the Wiikwemkoong community didn't have basic internet access and today they have broadband connectivity on par with any internet service provider. Whether in first nation communities, or any other areas that currently do not have access to high speed internet, WireE is committed to providing solutions for Canada's underserved areas. As the CRTC has recently pointed out, providing high quality broadband internet access is a basic necessity that should be available for all Canadians. This has great implications for the economic development of Canada's rural communities, and greater access and efficiencies for Canadian businesses will have a great impact on the country's overall economy. WireE is doing their part to bring quality business grade broadband solutions to all of Canada's underserved communities, and enabling Canadian municipalities, communities and businesses to "Unleash their Potential."

"Through WireE's wireless and fiber infrastructure, Wiikwemkoong is now able to provide quality broadband internet services to indigenous communities across Ontario. WireE not only improved broadband coverage to over two hundred households, but also deployed a new broadband fiber gateway to the community which provided three times the existing bandwidth at less cost, ensuring sufficient capacity to handle the requirements of all community stakeholders. Their wide range of innovative services, high level of quality service and expertise, along with their ability to deliver services to remote areas at a competitive rate makes them an excellent partner to further the execution of our expansion strategy."

A.M.Sandford, First Tel Communications

About WireE:

WireE is a Canadian telecommunications carrier, specialized in the deployment of MEF Certified Carrier Ethernet 2.0 networks to underserved markets. WireE's proven network performance, backed by industry-leading SLAs, has been established as the provider of choice for mission critical network requirements, across all industry verticals. Believing in a strong partnership model allows WireE to focus on building missing components of broadband network solutions while keeping the costs down and dramatically reducing delivery times.