

SUPERNET BACKGROUNDER **Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12)**

Updated November 2006

Overview

- SuperNet is a high-speed, high-capacity broadband network linking approximately 4,700 government offices, schools, post-secondary institutions, municipalities, child and family services, health-care facilities and libraries in over 429 communities across Alberta.
- There are over 1600 K-12 sites connected to SuperNet.
- In addition to connecting every hospital, learning institution, library and provincial government facility in the province, Alberta SuperNet allows Internet Service Providers (existing and new) access to the network at competitive rates. In turn, these Service Providers make commercial and residential high-speed Internet services available to remote and rural areas at rates comparable to those in large urban areas.
- SuperNet provides the ability to create secure wide area networks (WANs) for K-12 school jurisdictions, as well as connections between other school jurisdictions.
- Through Internet service providers, SuperNet has the capacity to bring high-speed access to more than 86 per cent of Alberta's population, making SuperNet a key factor in rural Alberta's social and economic development.
- For more information, visit <http://www.albertasupernet.ca> .

Project Completion

On September 30, 2005, the Alberta Government announced the completion of the Alberta SuperNet.

Additional details are included in the following news release:

[Alberta SuperNet now operational throughout the province.](#)

SuperNet Access Costs

- SuperNet Service Funding for basic access is provided to all publicly funded learning institutions, including all Kindergarten to Grade 12 and post-secondary sites identified for a connection. Institutions funded at less than 100% will receive SuperNet Service Funding at the same percentage that Alberta Education and Alberta Advanced Education typically fund them.
- Basic SuperNet access for learning institutions is defined as a 10-megabit per second (Mbps) connection with 5 Mbps guaranteed throughput (10/5 connection). Other levels are also available.
- Learning institutions are responsible for the difference in costs if they subscribe to increased SuperNet services.
- Information on Kindergarten to Grade 12 SuperNet Service Funding is available in Alberta Education's 2006-2007 Funding Manual for School Authorities. [Online: <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/funding/FundingManual/pdf/5.3.pdf>].
- SuperNet Service Funding does not include Internet access fees. Learning institutions will continue to be responsible for Internet access costs.

Stakeholder Communications

- Alberta Education's Stakeholder Technology Branch (STB) is the primary contact for information on SuperNet related to the learning sector in the province.
- STB receives advice on SuperNet issues from various technology groups including the School Technology Advisory Committee (STAC), the K-12 Technology Advisory Group (TAG), and the Advisory Committee on Educational Technology (ACET).
- STB shares information with stakeholders at various events, as well as through a monthly e-mail newsletter, *tech.news*. To subscribe to *tech.news*, please send an e-mail through your school jurisdiction or stakeholder organization e-mail account to tech.news@gov.ab.ca , and enter "Subscribe to tech.news" in the subject line.
- For further information on the SuperNet build, contact Erwin Loewen, (Erwin.Loewen@gov.ab.ca) at (780) 427-0253 [toll-free call in Alberta by dialing 310-0000].
- For further information on SuperNet applications, contact Kevin Campbell, (Kevin.Campbell@gov.ab.ca) at (780) 427-9001 [toll-free call in Alberta by dialing 310-0000].
- For SuperNet funding information, contact Fiona Chew, (Fiona.Chew@gov.ab.ca) at (780) 427-6224 [toll-free call in Alberta by dialing 310-0000].
- Information on SuperNet is also available at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/technology/supernet/> or <http://www.lnt.ca> . You will need to register to log on to the <http://www.lnt.ca> site.