



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

Head Office

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Nelson House, Manitoba
R0B 1A0

www.mkonorth.com

Thompson Sub-Office

206-55 Selkirk Avenue
Thompson, Manitoba
R8N 0M5

■Winnipeg Sub-Office

Suite 1601-275 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3B3

Office of Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson

PRESS STATEMENT

Media Contact: Michael Hutchinson
Phone: (204) 390-2702
Email: Michael.hutchinson@mkonorth.com

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New Fibre Optic Cable can improve First Nations' access to services and markets

TREATY ONE TERRITORY, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA – The Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), Sheila North is pleased to hear of an improved Internet connection for First Nations through a new fibre optic network. The next step is for government and business to use this new infrastructure to increase services and quality of life in First Nation communities.

“This is a positive step for First Nations in Manitoba. Bringing the services and benefits the rest of the world enjoys to all the lands within Canada’s borders, should be a goal of all Canadians. We hope consistent and effective access to the Internet can improve delivery of health, education and governmental services for First Nations in northern Manitoba,” Grand Chief Sheila North said. “Online shopping is also a tool that First Nation families are using to improve their quality of life. With greater access to the world’s economy and services, First Nations will have a better chance to address their own needs. At MKO, our focus is First Nation families. We will be watching how government, service providers and businesses, like grocers, respond to First Nation consumers having access to this new infrastructure and doorway to Canada’s southern markets.”

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~Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. is a non-profit, political advocacy organization that has represented 30 First Nation communities in Manitoba’s North since 1981~