

## **First Nations SchoolNet Program**

Keewatin Career Development Corporation (KCDC) is the Regional Management Organization for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's First Nations SchoolNet program for Saskatchewan and Alberta as of December 2006. We have signed a contribution agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to provide administration of the program for First Nations Schools between now and March 31, 2009. The First Nations SchoolNet Program has provided Internet connectivity assistance to First Nations schools since the late 1990s.

In order to provide better services for First Nations Schools under SchoolNet, Industry Canada invited proposals for Regional Management Organizations to administer the program as it continues. Our organization entered that competition and have the role of Regional Management Organization for First Nations Schools in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Our organization has a track record and experience in implementing Information and Communications Technology with First Nations and provincial schools. Through a series of projects, we have worked with schools to better their connectivity, maintain their systems, train their teachers in technology use, and deliver on-line courses. Our corporate vision is to use Information and Communications Technology to increase the educational opportunities available in First Nations and remote communities.

KCDC is a registered Saskatchewan non profit organization. Our membership is comprised of partner agencies from education and employment services in Northern Saskatchewan. Our member agencies include the northern Saskatchewan tribal councils, Meadow Lake Tribal Council and Prince Albert Grand Council. More information about all of our activities is available at our website: [www.kcdc.ca](http://www.kcdc.ca).

Through the First Nations SchoolNet Program, we provide assistance to schools for Internet connectivity and Help Desk Services. Under our contribution agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs, signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the participating schools is required. The Help Desk service was implemented to provide assistance to our First Nations schools with troubleshooting local area networks and connectivity problems. A toll free number had been assigned as 1-866-766-7373 to access technical assistance.

For the 2008/2009 fiscal year we are left with enough funds to cover the Internet connectivity only for the participating schools. We have been forced to shut down our First Nations SchoolNet Help Desk effective Friday, May 23, 2008 that provided technical assistance for 168 First Nations Schools, and as well our KCDN Breaking Barriers Series ends effective May 15, 2008. We are also considering reducing costs by suspending Internet connectivity for the summer months of July and August.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but due to funding cuts we are no longer able to provide these services.

FNS would like to express thanks to all community leaders and educators with whom we have had the great opportunity to work over the last five years. Your dedication and commitment to the education of First Nations children is evident, and we must strive to help the government departments understand the importance of adequate support for schools.

Regardless of the future of the First Nations SchoolNet program, KCDC will strive to continue to provide technical services and training that will help First Nation communities with socio-economic development and develop the skills of Aboriginal technicians. As a non-profit organization that receives no core funding, we will continue to fund our operations through sales and provision of service. Please click to see information on the services that we provide. [KCDC Services](#)

Source: [www.firstnationsnt.ca](http://www.firstnationsnt.ca)