



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Launch of the First Nations Innovation Research Project
Researching and Celebrating Achievements with Information and Communication Technologies**

<http://fn-innovation-pn.com>

Remote and rural First Nation communities are using broadband networks and information and communication technologies (ICT) in many innovative ways - to support e-health, e-learning, e-business, e-administration and many other applications and services. Community members use ICT to access services online and communicate with people everywhere.

A team of First Nation organizations and researchers is launching the First Nations Innovation project to study and celebrate these achievements. We recognize the value of research to support and develop understanding, evidence-based policy and transformative change. The partners are Keewatino Okimakanak in Ontario, the First Nations Education Council in Quebec, Atlantic Canada's First Nation Help Desk / Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and the University of New Brunswick.

On **Thursday February 21, 2013**, the team will launch the new project and website. We invite everyone to join us by webstream for the 45-minute event - hosted by project partner the First Nations Education Council - **starts at 1:30 Atlantic time, 12:30 Eastern, 11:30 Central, 10:30 Mountain and 9:30 Pacific.**

View the webstream here at the start time: <http://meeting.knet.ca>

First Nations Innovation (FNI) is creating new benefits for Canada with:

- Sharing and documenting First Nation innovative success stories and best practices with other First Nations, academics and the Canadian public
- Supporting First Nation ownership, control, access and possession of ICT tools, infrastructure and capacity through appropriate and respectful documentation and presentation of innovative practices by First Nation partners
- Developing an understanding of how First Nations are using technologies for community, social and economic development
- Making the links between broadband networks in First Nations and self-determination, treaties, and national and international policies such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Contact: For further information or to schedule an interview, contact Susan O'Donnell, University of New Brunswick (susanodo@unb.ca), Tim Whiteduck (twhiteduck@cepn-fnec.com) or Thanissa Lainé (tlaine@cepn-fnec.com), First Nations Education Council.

Keewatino Okimakanak: www.knet.ca

First Nation Education Council: www.cepn-fnec.com

Atlantic Canada's First Nation Help Desk: www.firstnationhelp.com

University of New Brunswick: www.unb.ca

First Nations Innovation project: <http://fn-innovation-pn.com>