



Minister's Statement March 17, 2010

The Honourable Peter Taptuna Minister of Economic Development & Transportation

Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize in this House the accomplishments of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, and of its two founding staff members, David E. Smith, and Lorraine Thomas.

As members are aware, on May 26, 2005, the QINIQ network was officially launched, which brought broadband Internet connections to every community in Nunavut.

The launch was the result of more than three years hard work by many different people, but chief among them were Dave Smith and Lorraine Thomas.

In 2003 they created the five-year business plan for Internet services in Nunavut that won the financial support of the federal government's "Infrastructures Phase 1" program.

Their plan focused on private sector delivery with strong local involvement. Today every Nunavut community has a trained Community Service provider. There are 21 CSP companies in Nunavut, eighteen of which are Inuit-owned.

In 2008, Dave Smith and Lorraine Thomas worked tirelessly to ensure that a second business plan for broadband in Nunavut was prepared and funded.

As members are aware, last year Infrastructure Canada and the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation signed a 5-year contribution agreement, which will result in an investment of \$43,202,000 to support our community broadband networks.

Mr. Speaker, on March 18, 2010, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation formally launched its new and improved broadband services for Nunavut.

At the same time, the corporation acknowledged the contribution made by David E. Smith and Lorraine Thomas, both of whom have stepped down from their positions as president and managing director, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I want to express my gratitude and admiration to Dave and Lorraine for the contribution they have made to Nunavut. Their work leaves a legacy in Nunavut that will support development in our communities for generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.