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*The Backbone of Research,
Education and Innovation*

BCNET Upgrades Northern BC's Network Technology

For immediate release.

Vancouver, BC (October 23, 2007) - BCNET announces today its plans to upgrade the next generation research network that connects northern British Columbia to the world. BCNET currently maintains a 2 gigabits per second (gbps) super broadband network that serves higher education and research in Prince George. This link is to be upgraded by early 2008 to an impressive 10 gbps, which will provide data transfer rates equivalent to downloading 250 high-quality songs in one second or a full-length motion picture in about 2 seconds.

"The BCNET infrastructure provides the telecommunications backbone for the Northern Medical Program and allows for collaboration between researchers at multiple locations. This link is vital for a research-intensive university located outside of a metropolitan area," says Don Cozzetto, President of UNBC and member of the BCNET Board of Directors. "The improvement in the network will facilitate even greater connection between universities to share research and programming. Not even every major metropolitan university in Canada is as connected as UNBC will be when this expansion is completed."

BCNET provides the network connectivity to the Prince George hub, which currently serves UNBC, the Northern Health Authority, and the Prince George Public Library. Telus and Bell, as commercial Internet providers, are also linked to this hub. Opportunities afforded by the improved infrastructure may include expanded opportunities for telemedicine and connecting to data banks maintained by other health authorities in the province, all provided in the blink of an eye.

The expanded infrastructure is allowing for greater collaboration between public institutions beyond academic programming and research. The new high speed link, in conjunction with Prince George's geographic stability, positions UNBC as a desirable data storage facility for lower mainland institutions as part of their emergency preparedness in the case of an earthquake.

BCNET has contracted Shaw Business Solutions to provision the 10 gbps network link between Prince George and the Vancouver Transit Exchange locations by early 2008. The upgraded connection demonstrates BCNET's continued efforts and commitment to connect member communities across the province of BC with world-class networking technologies as part of the BCNET 2010 Project, funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

About BCNET
BCNET builds high-performance networks for British Columbia's research and higher education institutes – enabling connections, collaborations, and innovation by facilitating technological advancement. Collectively funded by BC's universities and the federal and provincial governments, BCNET is a not-for-profit society that manages the development of the province's high-speed dedicated Optical Regional Advanced Network (ORAN). The ORAN links researchers and educators in BC across the country and globally; it enables world class projects in the areas of science, health, physics, and education. For more information, please visit our website at www.bc.net.

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