

The Edge

* **Monthly Newsletter** *

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Edge connection Memo to Clients

Staff at the Edge would like to clear up some confusion about 900MHz and 2.4GHz radios. All of you have noticed that the 900 's are considerably more expensive to buy than the 2.4's. The Edge distributes these radios to the clients at very close to our cost. The Edge has been absorbing the GST and shipping cost. The 900's are more expensive because, 1) they have been recently developed and are still undergoing software improvements, 2) they are twice as good as the 2.4's , they are more versatile, more powerful transmitters, and more sensitive receivers. 3) They have in and out ports and can be configured as Access Points (AP) where it is necessary to retransmit from client to client around obstructions or terrain breaks.

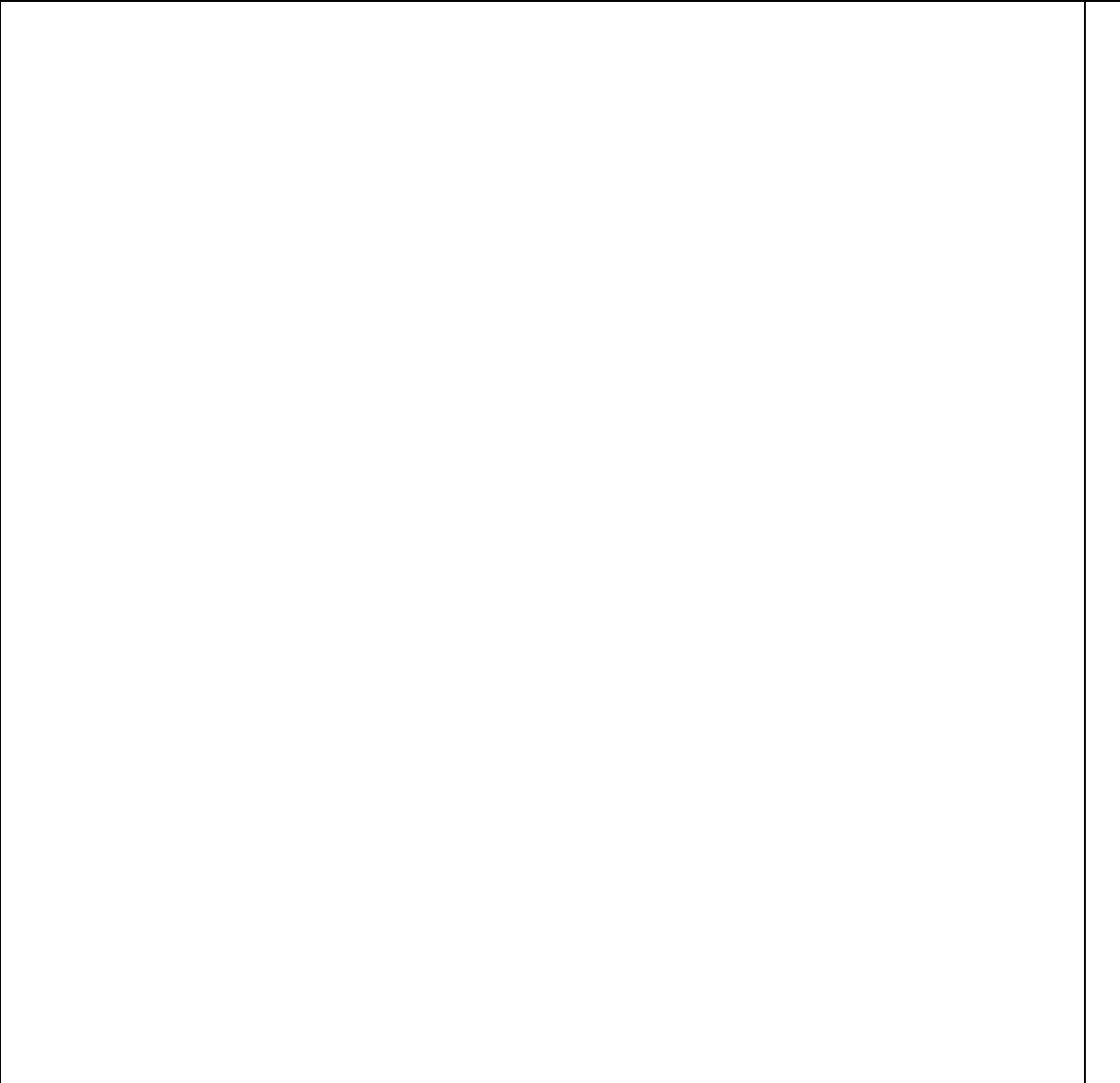
The 900 radios have been developed to work in situations where radio reception in the 2.4, 4.9 or 5.8 GHz bands that we are allowed to use will be severely compromised. It's a matter of physics. The 2.4 radio signals do not propagate very well through trees or around objects and the higher frequencies are worse. 2.4 radios require clear line of sight (CLOS) to link with the AP transceiver.. The 900 radio signal has much better ability to penetrate foliage and bend around objects.

When viewed from Goat Mountain some Edgewood Town site buildings have reasonable line of sight but the large majority are obscured by thick bush. Therefore our engineer decided that Edgewood town site would be best served by a 900 MHz transceiver; a lower cost,2.4 option would simply not work for most clients. The 6619 2.4 transceiver was therefore aimed at the valley where most houses have CLOS to Goat. It's antenna has a 60 degree broadcast sector horizontal and vertical and therefore is serving clients from just south of the dairy to just north of Jones's and from the tree tops below Goat to the east side of Arrow Lake and Whatshan Lake. The south end of the valley, the north end of the valley, and Robinson Rd clients each have their own 900 MHz AP transceivers to handle all network traffic. A forth 900 AP is under development to serve clients on the west shore of Arrow Lake. Six or seven APs will eventually be required to serve all possible clients in our mandate area.

We would like to reassure residents that the staff and volunteers at the Edge are working very hard to build a technically superior system at minimal cost to individual users. Organizational, contractual and monetary assistance of BC3 and Interior Health have made this all possible and we acknowledge the financial contributions of the CBT and RDCK. Every radio that is purchased by a client allows us to buy another radio for one of the 50 or so households that have requested service. Our internet service is faster and more economical than any satellite or landline delivery system. We appreciate all of your support and good wishes.

Sincerely,

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