

The Edge

Monthly Newsletter

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A Community Wireless Network for Economic Development

It is said that information is power. In many ways, this is true – especially when talking about ready access to information. Cities and towns have already witnessed the value of participating in the information economy and access to the Internet.

Studies have shown that higher levels of job growth and new business creation occur in communities where mass-market broadband Internet access is widely available. On the other hand, communities that lack widely available broadband access increasingly find themselves at a significant disadvantage – an economic gap that is likely to widen with time. Even within communities with broadband services available, there may be areas where service is not available.

A growing number of communities, cognizant of the role that access plays in fostering broadband economic development, are looking for answers. Looking to usher in a new wave of innovation and economic development driven by participation in today's information-driven economy. The answer these communities increasingly find is in the deployment of a broadband network based on wireless technology.

Wireless networks can spur economic benefits in a number of areas – some expected and many unexpected. These include:

- Providing Internet access to areas too expensive to service via other technologies
- Expanding access to educational and career development opportunities from virtually anywhere
- Attracting business people, shoppers, and tourists to districts to meet, eat, and shop

- Fostering the birth of new businesses that build applications and services that leverage the wireless network
- Facilitating experimentation with new business models based on un-tethered access to the Internet
- Spurring new investments from businesses and residents seeking the advantages offered by locations with these services

Other benefits of broadband include:

1. It is always on – no dial up – no waiting
2. High speed downloading – graphics, photos, videos and music files load quickly
3. Fixed fees – you know what you are paying each month
4. Frees up your phone line
5. Joy may come to you, if you send to five others

Broadband Internet Access – 12-Month Contract

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1. The term of this agreement will be 12 months from date of service activation, to be Provided by **Edgewood Community Internet Society** at time of placing your order for Broadband Internet access at the rate of:
Residential \$ 34.99 (plus PST/GST) monthly, billed in advance.
Business \$ 69.99 (plus PST/GST) monthly, billed in advance.

Account payment to Okanagan.Net, Kelowna (agent for **Edgewood Community Internet Society**) to be set-up by either credit card or auto withdrawal from a bank or Credit Union.
2. Equipment purchased by customer, please check
[] 900Mhz \$600.00 (plus PST/GST)
[] 2.4Ghz \$350.00 (plus PST/GST)
3. Cancellation of this account, anytime prior to the twelve month duration specified under item one above, will result in a cancellation fee due to Okanagan.net of \$ 120.00

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Special Thanks to

