

Wikwemikong First Nation Telco Offers Triple-Play On Manitoulin Island

WIKWEMIKONG, Ontario, May 5, 2017 – FirstTel Communications Corporation (FirstTel), a local telco on Manitoulin Island owned and operated by the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, is pleased to announce it has launched its unique triple-play featuring high-speed internet, TV and home phone to serve the members of the Reserve. FirstTel, with the assistance of WireIE (Canada) Inc. has built a unique wireless solution to provide the Wikwemikong Reserve with a high-speed internet service which major telco and cable services were unable to provide. In conjunction with the launch of its internet and home phone services, FirstTel has also launched a full range of TV channels packaged and provided by VMedia Inc., one of Canada's leading independent TV distribution undertakings.

"We are very proud to have been chosen by FirstTel to serve the residents of the community, and look forward to providing all of its homes with VMedia TV," said Alexei Tchernobrivets, Chief Executive Officer of VMedia. "It has been a pleasure working with FirstTel and WireIE to implement the delivery of our service, and we will continue to work with them to deliver our packages to the entire community."

The enhanced fiber solution using wireless broadband, the first of its kind developed by a First Nations community to serve its residents, enabled Wikwemikong to provide quality broadband internet services to indigenous communities across Ontario. The partnership with WireIE not only improved broadband coverage to over two hundred households, but also led to the deployment of a new broadband fiber gateway to the community, which provided three times the existing bandwidth at less cost, ensuring sufficient capacity to handle the requirements of all community stakeholders, and created incremental revenue streams through colocation fees to existing and new carriers.

"WireIE is proud to have helped implement an alternative broadband telecommunications service which will increase opportunities for economic development and quality of life for the Wikwemikong community," Rob Barlow, CEO, WireIE, "Wikwemikong now has access to broadband internet, bringing them up to par with established communities across Canada and we look forward to implementing this solution to other underserved communities."

Since its incorporation in 2003, FirstTel has been on the leading edge in providing cost-effective alternative telecommunications throughout Ontario for First Nations. With the broadband Triple-Play service launch, FirstTel will now be able to offer service equivalent to that available in urban markets, thereby leveling the competitive playing field.

FirstTel Communications Corporation

, is FirstTel is owned by Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and provides communications solutions for residential and commercial clients. Located on the picturesque Manitoulin Island, FirstTel has customers from all across Ontario.

WireE

is a Canadian telecommunications carrier, specialized in the deployment of MEF Certified Carrier Ethernet 2.0 networks to underserved markets. WireE's proven network performance, backed by industry-leading SLAs, has been established as the provider of choice for mission critical network requirements, across all industry verticals. Believing in a strong partnership model allows WireE to focus on building missing components of broadband network solutions while keeping the costs down and dramatically reducing delivery times.

VMedia Inc

., based in Toronto, Ontario, provides innovative TV, high-speed internet and home phone services, offering more choice and flexibility, unique features and lower prices than the major players. VMedia is the only alternative triple-play provider to those players available throughout Ontario, and soon across Canada. VMedia is a leader in IPTV and the company's cool, affordable TV platform delivers a whole new home entertainment experience, enabling consumers to seamlessly enjoy conventional TV, over the top content, video on demand, social media and a world of apps. VMedia makes every TV smart!

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