



NetworkBC

Continuing the Dialogue BC Broadband Conference 2009

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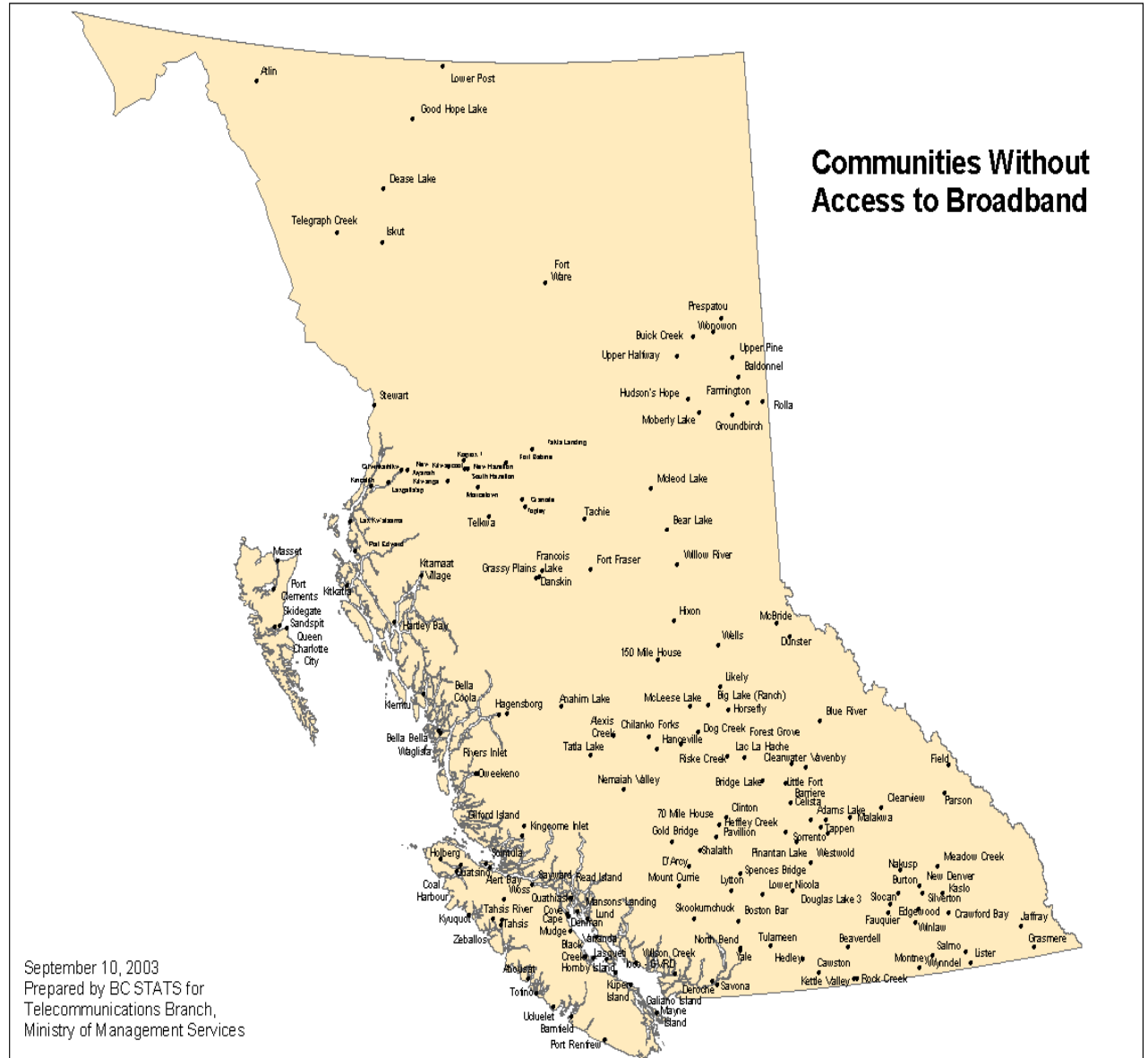
“It’s encouraging to see the government asking various organizations/individuals for their input on how to bring broadband to all BC – let’s hope it’s not a smoke show.”

**--Participant
Open PoP Workshop
Nov, 2004**

Challenge In 2003

Communities
connected through:

- Better access to gateways
- Affordable pricing

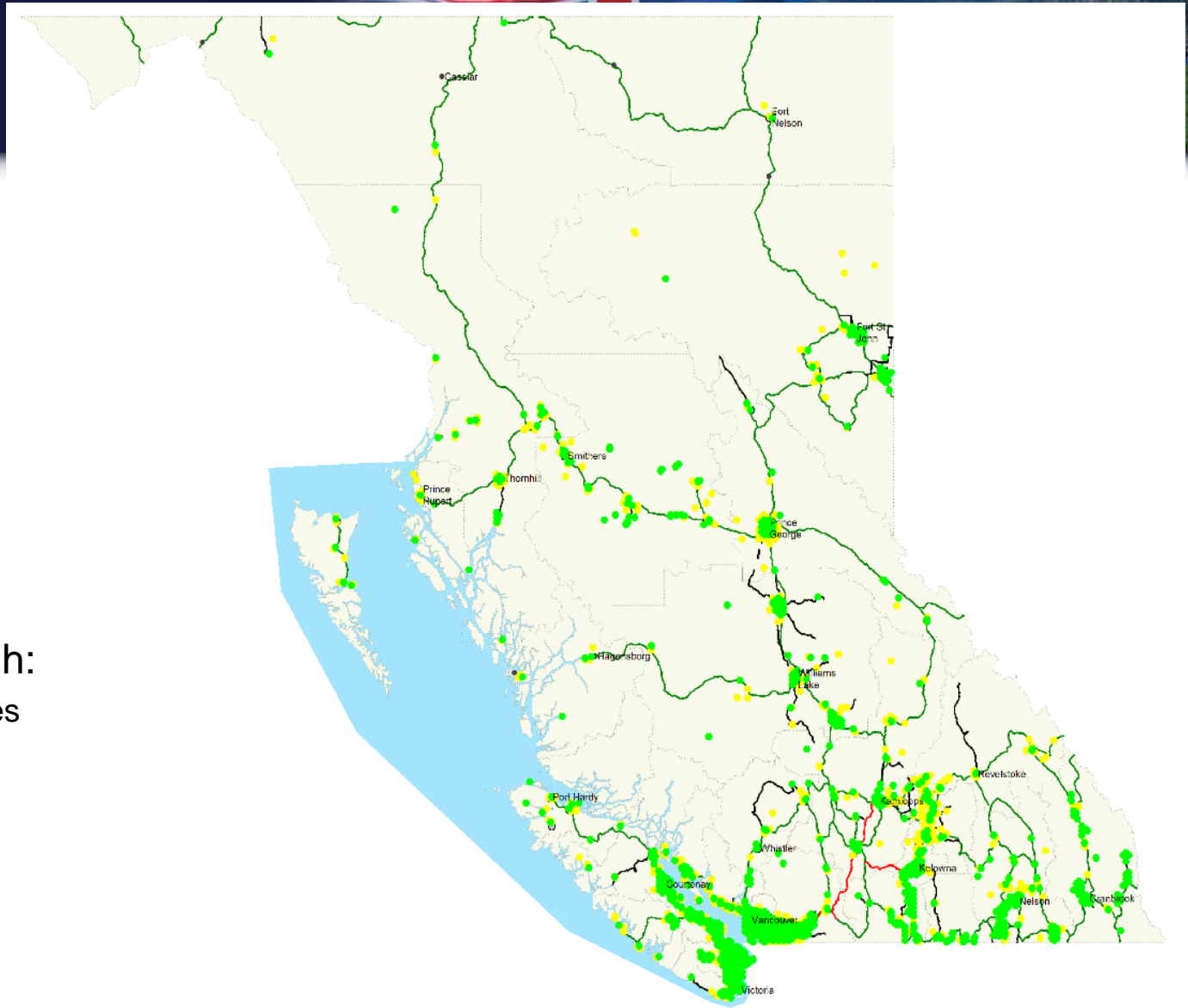


Challenge Today

Citizens

connected through:

- Sustaining services already provided
- Addressing the remaining 8%



Progress in 2008/09:

- Connecting Citizens Grant Program—awarded 67 grants to connect 100 locales.
- First Nations—123 of 203 connected.
- 330 of 366 communities have last mile (up from 135 in 2001)
- 92 per cent of citizens have access to high-speed connectivity.

Priorities:

- Leverage social benefits from the provincial telecommunications procurement
- Continue support for First Nations-led connectivity and capacity building initiatives.



ISP Feedback 2004-2008 (Themes)

1. Affordable access and higher speeds
2. Sustainable business model (not just subscriber-based)
 - Diversified portfolios, fair competition, partnerships, collaboration
3. Business development support
 - Business planning, employee training/development, community engagement, marketing
4. Provincial brokering and leveraging
 - PoP access, right-of-way access, tax incentives/breaks
5. Financial assistance with last mile distribution
6. Impact of technology convergence/bandwidth/QOS be considered in plans to bridge the digital divide
7. ISPs need a collective voice, advocate



Questions:

1. What is required to maintain existing connectivity?
2. What are some strategies for addressing the remaining eight per cent of un-served citizens?
3. a. What partnerships are important to maintaining existing connectivity and/or addressing the remaining the eight per cent of un-served citizens?
b. What would these partnerships look like?



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