

ABOUT SIRA:

High-speed internet access is a critical tool for the business sector, as it facilitates marketing and communications efforts. Research shows that when properly implemented, it can also introduce significant operational efficiencies and cost savings. Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre recognizes the importance of connectivity, and acknowledges that many businesses are located beyond the reach of traditional high-speed internet service.

With the advent of new 2-way, satellite services however, remote or rural businesses and organizations now have a viable option to dial-up internet. The Satellite Internet for Remote Areas Program (SIRA), which Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre is administering, was introduced to help Northern Ontario's business community secure cost-effective high-speed internet access.

Eligible applicants may receive up to 75% of the supported costs of equipment and installation of 2-way high-speed internet service, to a maximum of \$1,000. Supported costs include the satellite dish and installation fees. The service provider chosen must be an authorized reseller. Travel costs incurred by the vendor to install the equipment may also be considered eligible if the business is located more than 50 km from the nearest satellite equipment provider. This program is available for a limited time and you may apply for assistance while funds last.

ELIGIBILITY & INSTRUCTIONS:

You must meet specific eligibility criteria to qualify for the rebate:

- You must have a small or medium-sized business operating on a full-time basis from a location in Northwestern Ontario. Seasonal businesses, such as tourism operations and incorporated not-for-profit organizations may also apply for assistance.
- Businesses must generate minimum annual sales of \$35,000.
- You'll need to identify a contact person at an agency, community organization or institution that will verify your status as a full-time business or non-profit corporation. This may be a bank, a Community Futures Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce, trade association, Local Services Board, etc.
- The program is not available to cottagers, private homes or hobby-businesses.
- The program is designed to assist small businesses located in areas where there is no existing high-speed Internet solution available. Include full contact details, including the physical address and/or description of the remote location to which this application will apply. Provide additional details on the remote location, i.e. why it is considered a remote area.
- You must choose an authorized provider for your service.
- High-speed Internet solutions other than K-band satellite may be considered eligible for support if there are no high-speed Internet solutions readily available in the area and the applicant/project meets the eligibility criteria listed above.
- Provide information on the vendor from whom you will purchase the service. Include a contact name that we may call to verify that you have received the service. If you plan to get monthly internet service from another vendor, provide the name of the business and a phone number.

We suggest that you complete and send in the application form BEFORE you purchase the equipment. You'll need to select an eligible satellite vendor and secure and attach a quote. Upon receipt of your application, Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre will contact you regarding your eligibility. Should you be eligible for assistance, you will then have 30 days to finalize the purchase and submit your claim. This time limit is necessary so that funds are not held in reserve indefinitely.

If you are eligible and wish to proceed with the purchase, you may go ahead with the installation. You may then send your original receipt and proof of payment to Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre for reimbursement as per program guidelines.

For more information, please contact:

Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre
1294 Balmoral St. Suite 150
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5Z5
Phone: (807) 768-6682 Fax: (807) 768-6683 Toll Free: 1-866-768-6682
info@nwoinnovation.ca



Send completed applications by mail, fax or email to:

Attention: Heather MacDonald-Craig
 Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre
 1294 Balmoral St., Ste. 150
 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5Z5

E-mail: heather@nwoinnovation.ca
 Phone: 807-768-6682
 Fax: 807-768-6683
 www.nwoinnovation.ca

Application Form: Satellite Internet for Remote Area Program

Is this application for a (check one)	Registration/Incorporation Information	Admin Use
Small Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Information Number (registration number) -	
Non-Profit Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporation Number -	
Does your business generate a minimum annual sales of \$35,000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
1. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION		
Name of Organization -		
Description of Business or Organization -		
Number of Employees	Fulltime -	Part time/Seasonal/Casual -
		Total No. -
2. APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Contact Name -		
Physical Address or Location -		
Mailing Address -		
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
Purpose of internet service -		
3. DETAILS OF REMOTE AREA		
Please ensure that you clearly indicate your remoteness as well as nearest large community		
Name/Description of rural area -		
Is there any other form of high speed internet available in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have road access?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. BUSINESS REFERENCE		
This is someone who knows your business and its location.		
Contact Name -	Organization -	
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
5. SATELLITE INTERNET INFORMATION		
Satellite Equipment Provider -		
Contact Name -		
Mailing Address -		
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
Name of Internet Service Provider (if different) -		
6. PROJECT COSTS		
Please attach a quote from your installer		

How did you hear about this program? (Check One)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Futures Development Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Based Network | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Trade Association | |

7. DECLARATION

I declare that:

- I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this program
- I have not (or the organization has not) received any other public sector funding for satellite internet, and
- To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is complete and correct.

Print Name

Position

Signature (if emailing this application, insert a scanned signature)

Date

Applications will only be processed if they are complete.

Administration Use Only	Confirmed by	Date
Application File Complete		Date
Approval Sent		Date
Receipts and Proof of Payment Received		Date
Application File Closed		Date