



BCNET RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003/2004

VANCOUVER, BC (September 29, 2004) – **BCNET** (www.bc.net), a non-profit society for the development of advanced networks within the province, released their Annual Report for 2003/2004 today. The report shares how BCNET is focusing on meeting future educational needs through its advanced networks, highlights the use of innovative lightpath technology, describes a videoconferencing pilot project, and includes a recap of community outreach initiatives.

Following a mandate from the provincial government, higher learning institutions are looking for ways to increase enrolment and expand their institutions by 2010. In order to support its member institutions in their expansion targets, **BCNET** will be expanding its physical network architecture to accommodate these growing campuses. *"This past year, we grew our infrastructure, research and education applications, operations and outreach programs."* said **Michael Hrybyk**, President and CEO of **BCNET**. *"Next year, we will continue to expand in these areas to meet the needs of our stakeholders."*

The report gives case studies illustrating how using lightpaths are facilitating the UBC Medical School Expansion Project, the Westgrid project and TRIUMPH with data transfer. As part of UBC's Medical School Expansion Project, lightpaths are being used between UBC, UVic and UNBC, to provide dedicated links for high network usage activities such as videoconferencing for lectures and meetings. Students will take some of their classes via distance education and will stay connected to the UBC main medical campus through BCNET's ORAN (Optical Regional Advanced Network). Lightpaths are creating efficiencies, cost savings and superior performance for the Westgrid Project; they facilitate the sharing of the computer resources, data storage space and the advanced collaborative initiatives of seven institutions spread across Alberta and British Columbia. The Videoconferencing (VC) Pilot Project enables staff, faculty and students to share ideas and collaborate, and allows multiple users to be connected together by video, voice and shared applications.

A hardcopy of the report is available from **BCNET**; it is also on the **BCNET** website at www.bc.net.

BCNET serves BC's academic, research and development institutions, government bodies, community organizations and industry groups. **BCNET** leads the way for enhancing education and research capabilities over the Internet, and is supported by the provincial and federal governments, as well as by its regional member institutions.

BCNET

Suite 3200 – SFU Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 5K3
Phone: 604.822.1348 Fax: 604.822.9887
www.bc.net ~ info@bc.net