**GLOSSARY**

**Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)** Launched in 1999 and headquartered in Winnipeg. APTN blends news and public affairs with multilingual programming devoted to the history and culture of Canada’s First Peoples. A vital resource for Northern communities, APTN is available on cable and satellite. See http://www.aptn.ca.

**Access rainbow** A socio-technological model that describes the multiple dimensions of access to the Internet, taking into account both the technical infrastructure (e.g. hardware, software) and the social infrastructure (e.g. literacy, governance).

**Actor-network theory** An approach to social theory that developed out of science and technology studies (STS), which grants agency to non-human factors as well as to human beings and attempts to map relationships between the material and the semiotic.

**Afya** A participatory action health informatics project developed for African American women in partnership with the graduate program in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Backbone** The Internet backbone refers to the principal data routes between large, strategically interconnected networks and core routers in the Internet.

**Backhaul** The backhaul portion of the Internet comprises the intermediate links between the core network, or backbone, and the small subnetworks at the “edge” of the Internet.

**Berkeley Community Memory Project** One of the first public access bulletin board systems, the Berkeley Community Memory Project was founded by Lee Felsenstein, Efrem Lipkin, and Ken Colstad in the 1970s to “harness the power of the computer in the service of the community.”

**Broadband for Rural and Northern Development (BRAND)** An Industry Canada program, BRAND was piloted in September 2002 to deploy broadband to unserved rural and remote Aboriginal communities and to isolated areas in Canada’s far and mid-North. A $105-million pilot project, it lasted until 2007.

**Bulletin board system (BBS)** An early computer system that allows users to connect via a modem and terminal program to a system for uploading and downloading files, exchanging information, and reading news and information posted by users.

**Canadian Heritage** A department of the Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage has responsibility for policies and programs pertaining to the arts and culture, media and communications networks, official languages, the status of women, sports, and multiculturalism. One of the CRACIN government partners.

**Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)** A federal regulatory agency created by the Broadcasting Act of 1968 as the Canadian Radio-television Commission. Its name was changed in 1975 when its mandate was expanded to include telecommunications. The CRTC grants and may revoke licenses for radio and television stations, television networks, cable companies, specialty and pay channels, satellite distribution systems, and multi-point microwave distribution systems. Since 1975, it has also overseen the telephone and telecommunications industries. The CRTC has established
Canadian-content rules for both radio and television and has set forth numerous regulations on such issues as sex-role stereotyping, television violence, and editorial independence. The CRTC consists of up to thirteen full-time and six part-time commissioners appointed by order in council. The federal cabinet maintains the right to give directions to the CRTC, to set aside its decisions, and to refer decisions back to it.

**Capacity building**  The ability of community groups to define, delineate, and deploy actions that address community concerns in a positive and empowering fashion.

**Captive portal software**  An authentication system that obliges an HTTP client on a Wi-Fi network to log in before accessing the Internet.

**Community informatics**  The use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to enable communities to reach their social, economic, cultural, and political goals. The term refers to both a body of practice and a research area.

**Community Learning Networks (CLN) Initiative**  Launched in 1998 by Human Resources Development Canada, through its Office of Learning Technologies, the CLN Initiative aimed to encourage adult learners to acquire new skills and engage in lifelong learning. It offered support to projects that made use of community learning networks—shared access, web-based, content management systems that are locally controlled and are designed to serve the learning needs of a community. St. Christopher House received funding from the CLN Initiative.

**Community network**  A means of providing public and low-cost or free access to the Internet, often oriented to serving the information and communication needs of a geographically based community.

**Community technology movement**  Organizations and individuals involved in creating community networks and organizational infrastructure to support community networks.

**Connecting Canadians initiative**  A suite of programs initiated by Industry Canada in the mid 1990s to bring Internet access to Canada. These included the Community Access Program (CAP), SchoolNet, First Nations SchoolNet, VolNet, and Smart Communities.

**Counter publics**  Networks of individuals and groups excluded from the dominant regimes of power and policymaking.

**Digital divide**  A term popularized in the mid-1990s to refer to the fact that socioeconomic factors, including income and educational levels, geographical location, gender, ethnicity, and age, influence participation to the Internet. Implied in the term is the recognition that digital technologies not only confer benefits but also contribute to social inequalities. Not everyone has equal access to digital technology and, even among those who do, not everyone is equally competent in its use.

**Digital economy**  A term popularized by the Canadian federal government to refer to the use of ICTs (information communication technologies) for economic development.

**Digital Ontario**  A program of the Ontario Ministry of Government Services aimed at investigating the use of broadband in Ontario for social and economic development.

**802.11 standards**  A set of standards developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for the implementation of wireless local access network (WLAN) communication. Available at http://standards.ieee.org/getieee802/download/802.11-2007.pdf.
E-Rate  The subsidy program in the United States that provides federal funds for Internet access to libraries and schools under the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

FLOSS (or FOSS) movement  An acronym for Free/Libre and Open Source Software, referring to a group of designers and users who create, modify, and promote the use of open source software.

FON / Fonero  FON is a crowd-sourced global Wi-Fi community that operates using the Fonera wireless router. A “Fonero” is a member of the FON community. There are three kinds of Foneros. An “Alien” does not have a Fonera router to share but must pay for access on a per-use basis. A Bill (named after Bill Gates) shares his or her router but charges others for its use, whereas a Linus (named after Linus Torvalds) shares his or her router freely and gets free roaming at any FON spot. See http://corp.fon.com/en.

Freenet movement  An activist movement, which reached a peak in the 1990s, that advocates for free and public community networking.

Global information society  A vision of human society based on the global use and coordination of ICTs (information and communication technologies), including the programs and policies that support such a vision.

Hotspot  A physical space where Wi-Fi access is available.

Hub-and-spoke system  A Wi-Fi configuration, in which one radio signal (the hub) sends and receives data for several users (the spokes).

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)  A department of the Government of Canada that is responsible for developing, managing and delivering a variety of social programs and services, including those related to skills and development, information technology, and education. HRSDC originated in 1993 as Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), which in 2003 was split into the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development and the Department of Social Development. The two departments were recombined in 2006 under the name Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Toward the end of 2008, the name was changed to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. HRSDC was one of the CRACIN government partners.

Industry Canada  Industry Canada is the department of the Government of Canada that has responsibility for regional economic development, including tourism, trade, and investment in small businesses, and for scientific and technological innovation, research, and development. Its stated mission is to “foster a growing, competitive, knowledge-based Canadian economy,” which includes responsibilities for telecommunications policy. One of the CRACIN government partners.

Information highway  A term popularly deployed in North America by the media and government during the 1990s to refer to the Internet.

Information Highway Advisory Council (IHAC)  A federal research body established in 1994, under the auspices of Industry Canada, to investigate the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of the ‘information highway’ and to formulate a strategy for adapting Canada’s economy and society to the digital age. Among other things, IHAC recommended that market forces be allowed a free hand in the development of Canada’s digital infrastructure, with minimal government interference.
**Information Highway Applications Branch (IHAB)** An arm of Industry Canada that operated programs at the local, regional and national levels to assist Canadians in accessing the Internet. Notable programs included the Community Access Program (CAP).

**Information society** A term that originated in the 1960s and that refers to the widespread use of information and communication technologies for economic, cultural, political, and social activities.

**Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council** A tribal council that represents six First Nations in Northern Ontario. The Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council was instrumental in the creation of the Kuh-ke-nah Network (K-Net) and has been a strong advocate of the use of ICTs to promote education and social cohesion among isolated Aboriginal communities.

**Local area network (LAN)** A network that connects computers located in a fairly circumscribed space, typically within the walls of a single building (an office or a school, for example). Various technologies can be used to build LANs, but Wi-Fi and Ethernet are the two most common.

**Mobile Digital Commons Network (MDCN)** A joint research project launched by Concordia University and the Banff New Media Institute, with support from Canadian Heritage, to investigate the use of mobile media for culture and arts. Île Sans Fil received funding from MDCN for some of its projects. See [http://mobilelab.ca/mdcn/](http://mobilelab.ca/mdcn/).

**MSAT** Developed by the National Research Council of Canada, MSAT (for “Mobile Satellite”) is a mobile telephony satellite service supported by companies in the US as well as Canada.

**National Broadband Task Force (NBTF)** Established by the Canadian federal government in 2001 to develop a strategy for the deployment of broadband in Canada, with the goal of making broadband available in every Canadian community by 2004. The task force explicitly recommended that priority be given to rural and remote regions, as well as to Aboriginal communities.

**Participatory action research (PAR)** A scholar-community research methodology in which research questions, studies, and evaluation frameworks are developed in partnership with the group or organization under study.

**Participatory design** A design methodology based on the principle that those who will be using a given technology should be involved in its initial design, development, and diffusion.

**Point of presence (POP)** A point of presence is a location from which the entire Internet can be accessed. It consists of servers, routers, call aggregators, ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) switches, and other such equipment and necessarily has a unique IP (Internet protocol) address. Large Internet service providers (ISPs) typically have many POPs, and the number of POPs an ISP operates is one measure of its size.

**Social capital** A sociological concept that refers to the collective social and economic value generated by social networks, that is, by the connections among individuals and groups. A related concept, human capital, refers to the knowledge, skills, and experience held by specific individuals.

**Spectrum policy** Policies governing the allocation, use, and management of spectrum, that is, bandwidths of a particular length.
**Telecommunications Policy Review Panel (TPRP)** A federal initiative to review the status of telecommunications in Canada and make policy recommendations regarding its “modernization.”

**Wide area network (WAN)** In contrast to a LAN, a WAN links computers that are geographically remote—in another city or province or country. They enable businesses and governments to transmit information instantaneously across long distances and can also be used to connect geographically distant LANs.

**WiFiDog** WiFiDog is an open source embeddable captive portal solution used to build wireless hotspots, developed by Île Sans Fil.