



PRESS RELEASE --
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INUVIK, NT – February 28, 2011 – The failure of a remote Northwestel microwave tower cut off virtually all communications with the Delta Region early Friday morning, severing all long distance, internet and cell phone service to the communities of Inuvik, Fort MacPherson, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, and Tuktoyaktuk.

According to a press release issued by Northwestel on February 25, 2011, the trouble was caused by an equipment failure at the Stony Creek microwave tower, which is located near the Dempster Highway, 4 - 5 hours south of Inuvik.

According to Northwestel's website, repair efforts have been hindered by severe weather conditions. A blizzard in the area has stirred up high winds, shutting down the Dempster Highway, impacting airline traffic, and delaying a trip to the site by helicopter.

Residents of the Delta region are unable to use their telephones to call the south and get a busy signal when they attempt the call.

Ice Wireless, a northern cell phone company, came up with an innovative solution on Saturday to restore a long distance connection out of Inuvik – bypass Northwestel's microwave system and run a connection to the south via satellite.

The solution was made possible by internet company SSI Micro, who generously supplied a block of their satellite bandwidth to help Ice Wireless restore communication to the residents of Inuvik. Ice Wireless technicians were then able to use this satellite bandwidth to reroute their cellular traffic to SSI's main uplink facility in Ottawa.

As a result, while long distance from land lines and from other cellular providers has stayed down, long distance service from Inuvik has been restored for Ice Wireless customers.

"This is a great example of how northern companies band together in times of crisis," said Tom Zubko, President of Ice Wireless. "Ice Wireless and SSI both had the same goal here, which was to help the people of Inuvik get back in touch with their loved ones as quickly as possible."

While the Ice Wireless' system was being reprogrammed, telecommunications company New North Networks made Iridium satellite phones available to residents of Inuvik for emergencies and short calls.

About Ice Wireless

Ice Wireless is a cellular network operator in Northern Canada. The company was incorporated in 2005 and is currently in its fifth year of operation. The Ice Wireless network covers 60% of the population of

the Northwest Territories, with operations in Yellowknife, Behchoko and Inuvik. Ice Wireless provides a full spectrum of cellular services, including voice mail, call waiting, call display and SMS messaging. Ice Wireless also provides roaming services for Rogers Wireless and Fido, whose customers use the Ice Wireless network while in the NWT. Ice Wireless customers use the Rogers and Fido networks while travelling in the rest of Canada.

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