

# *Factoids, Caring Canada*

*element: A society committed to offering equal opportunities to each person, including women, young people, residents of remote areas, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities (continued)*

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***message: Canada Has a Plethora of Services That Enables its Inhabitants to Live Well (continued)***

Rural Access Project, created Feb. 28, 2001

- provides education programs to people in rural Saskatchewan
- includes video conferencing and internet connectivity, and a virtual instructor with 21 students in the class
- higher education/computer skills = employment
- is in its 2nd year of a two year pilot program
- has created high interest and demand
- funded by Human Resources Canada (\$100,000), Saskatchewan Department of Post Secondary Education & Skills Training (\$70,000), and Agriculture Canada's Rural Initiatives Program (\$18,750)
- goal is to provide the Canadian public with affordable access to internet and the skills needed to use it well
- began in 1994 in rural communities with populations up to 50,000
- by 1999 was rolling out to larger population centres
- by the end of 2001 the Connecting Canadians Program established public internet sites in 10,000 rural, remote, and urban areas across Canada

Department of Indian and Northern Development (DIAND)

- Native Internship program offers summer employment in HRDC offices to aboriginal students

Youth Service Canada for First Nations Youth Community Access Program (CAP)

- community service projects for unemployed, or out of school youths on reserves

The Host Program is a volunteer program that helps newcomers with language barriers, lend support, and show them about Canadian life

On March 12, 2001 British Columbia launched a program to recognize foreign professionals in Canada

- announced by Multiculturalism and Immigration Minister, Sue Hammell
- the government will dedicate more resources to help foreign trained workers find meaningful jobs, and reach their full potential by contributing to the province's economic growth