

### Community Access Program

The Community Access Program (CAP) is helping Canadians, wherever they live, take advantage of emerging opportunities in the new global knowledge-based economy. Combining the efforts of federal, provincial, and territorial governments, community groups, social agencies, libraries, schools, volunteer groups, and the business community, CAP connects people to the Internet and helps them develop information technology skills, exchange ideas with others, research information, post community events, and connect to government programs and services. Under CAP, public locations such as schools and libraries serve as on-ramps to the Information Highway and provide computer support and training.

Universal access is a key component of the program. All people in the connected community, including those who are vision- or hearing-impaired or physically challenged, the elderly, families with young children, and those using temporary mobility aids (such as crutches) or otherwise requiring assistance, should have full access to the location and be able to participate in all the opportunities and programs provided by the program.

CAP, the key component of the Government of Canada's Connecting Canadians initiative, was launched in 1994. It aims to establish up to ten thousand affordable public access Internet sites throughout Canada by 2001. More than four thousand sites have already been created in rural and remote communities, and the program is now expanding to include five thousand urban sites.

individuals to increase access to this technology in a learning environment. To date, the program has delivered more than 195 000 computers and is targeted to place 250 000 computers by March 2001.

Canada is also working with industry to develop tools that will assist industry in becoming more sustainable. The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy is participating with a wide cross-section of companies to test material and energy eco-efficiency indicators. Strategis, Industry Canada's business information site, links to many programs that promote sustainable development in business and industry. For example, the Canadian Business Environmental Performance Office is a virtual office that supports better environmental performance in Canadian businesses by providing easy and integrated access to providers of information, services, and advice in the areas of waste management; emergency, health, and safety management; climate change; and resource conservation and pollution prevention. It also provides industry-specific information. Several interactive multimedia tools, such as Canadian Environmental Solutions (which includes biotechnology

### GrassRoots Programming for Students

*The SchoolNet GrassRoots Program offers funding to schools to create innovative, interactive Internet-based projects. As part of the United Nations-sponsored Schools Demining Schools project, St. Elizabeth School in Ottawa, Ontario, developed Students Against Landmines. First-prize winner at the 1999 International Schools CyberFair, this program showcases activities undertaken by students worldwide and reminds people that children can make a difference. Launched in 1998 by the Canadian industry minister and Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, the GrassRoots Program is expected to create twenty thousand school projects by 2001.*