

Factoids, Civil Canada

element: An unsurpassed lifestyle that keeps getting better (continued)

message: Canada Displays Energy, and Creative Forces That Are Always in Motion

On March 30, 1999, Canada became the first country in the world to connect public schools and public libraries country-wide (www.schoolnet.ca)

By March 31, 2001, there were 250 000 computers in schools, or one per classroom

The objectives of Schoolnet are;

- to create 20 000 grass roots projects for online learning opportunities, to help students develop skills for the knowledge-based economy
- to connect all 620 First Nations communities (including ones without schools) to the Information Highway, to increase learning, support economies, and promote cultural development

The Bank of Canada, with assistance from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), has launched a new \$10 bill which has features that make Canada a leader in paper currency

- The new \$10 bill has raised bars, distinguishable by touch so blind or visually impaired persons can differentiate it from other bank notes. It also features defined colour contrasts, and larger numerals that enables better identification by low vision users
- The CNIB, along with Duxbury Systems Inc., and the American Printing House, are working on braille translations through the Internet (ex.: braille embossers, displays)

Heritage Canada has a Book Publishing Industry Development Program, which strengthens the capacity of Canadian-owned, and controlled, industry to publish and market Canadian books domestically and internationally

In March 2000, the Minister of Heritage announced that Raincoast Book Distribution Ltd. would receive \$286,265 to fund efficient, Web-based distribution of Canadian authors/titles