Tech summit set to plug in Inuvik

The Internet Society will hold its second annual Indigenous Connectivity Summit in Inuvik Oct. 10 to 11.

Organizer says Inuvik has potential to be Silicon Valley of the North as Indigenous Connectivity Summit set for October

"We have a focus on communities that are ... more isolated and remote."

Mark Buell

The society, which operates in approxi- mately 140 countries, works to ensure that everyone has access to a secure Internet connection.

The first Indigenous Connectivity Summit was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in November last year and saw more than 200 attendees.

Buell said the society formed an advisory committee of Indigenous network operators and Indigenous community members in order to drive the creation of the first summit.

He said Inuvik has the potential to be the Silicon Valley of the North, with the Mackenzie Valley fibre link and growing satellite station facility, which makes it the perfect location for the summit.

"Inuvik is the perfect place to hold a summit on connectivity right now. The theme for our conference is connecting the last thousand miles ... we have a focus on communities that are a little more isolated and remote," he said.

"Inuvik has a real potential to be a cyber-hub for the North. Inuvik’s got the infrastructure, it’s got the people, it’s a major centre for government services, it’s got a college – it just seems like the ideal community to showcase the potential for Northern communities with good-quality Internet access."

He said there will be something for everyone at the summit, from using the Internet to preserve and promote traditional languages, to coding camps for kids, as well as policy issues.

Representatives from Indigenous communities, Indigenous network operators and experts in the field will be speaking at the summit.

There will also be one panel focusing on connectivity in the Beaufort Delta region, which will discuss how to ensure more remote communities have better quality and cheaper access to the Internet.

Buell said the society hopes to make the conference a community event and will close out with a community feast on Oct. 11.

"We don’t want this to just be a conference, we want to engage the whole community," he said. "We want it to be more of a celebration than a boring technical or policy conference. It’s going to be great fun, I’m over-the-top excited!"

Did we get it wrong?

Inuvik Drum is committed to getting facts and names right. With that goes a commitment to acknowledge mistakes and run corrections. If you spot an error in Inuvik Drum, contact the editor at (867) 777-4545 or email invukdrum@nnsl.com.