



Media Release

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**Ontera Customers To Benefit from
Investment in State-of-the-Art Network**

Ontera, an Ontario Northland company, announced today that it is making a major investment in its infrastructure with the construction of new fibre optic cable routes to develop a “Ring” network throughout much of northeastern Ontario.

“The Ring topology will substantially enhance our core telecommunications network and will allow Ontera to provide greater reliability to all of our customers and to all telecommunications carriers traversing the network,” said Steve Carmichael, President and CEO of Ontario Northland.

The Ring framework provides critical diversity, so that in the event of an unplanned service interruption at one location, the network avoids service outages by re-directing traffic in an alternate direction. The result being that customer services, such as local and long distance calling, 9-1-1, Internet and data, emergency services etc. will continue to work seamlessly, even in the event of a fibre cut along the network. This eliminates the “single point of failure” weakness that characterizes a linear network.

“Ontera’s Ring network project improves upon our current services and speaks to the core of our business – providing reliable telecommunications solutions that benefit our customers and promote economic development and prosperity in the North,” said Paul Goulet, COO of Ontario Northland and Vice President and General Manager of Ontera.

Communities encircled by the Ring, which will span from North Bay to Timmins to Chapleau to Sudbury and back to North Bay, will benefit from this enhanced service. In conjunction with Ontera’s carrier partners, all telecommunications providers will have an opportunity to offer more robust and reliable services throughout northeastern Ontario via this new network.

Ontera has been planning for the introduction of a Ring network for the last 18 months and will begin the construction phase of the project immediately. It is expected that the new network Ring will be fully operational by the spring of 2009.

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