



NEWSLTR

First Nation Innovation | Digital Inclusion | Community Partnership | Empowerment Through Technology



Snapshots from an amazing day at this year's Bannock Bake-Off, held on August 1, 2025, during the Blueberry Festival.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Every year, the importance of reliable telecommunications system for our communities grows greater. We are reliant on telecommunications for running our health care, education, finance, payroll systems, payment systems, infrastructure, security, policing, emergency services and more.

Here at K-Net, we have been working on building better, faster and more reliable systems in the First Nation

communities we serve. There are more and more challenges every year. This year, our region has been affected by many forest fires which have taken out some of our telecommunication's systems for long periods of time. Although it was a difficult time with many forest fires, our communities are strong, and we care for each other. We thank those who gave many long days to coordinate evacuations, keep us informed and safe. In our response, we have worked with alternative satellite network systems as backups for a more resilient network and cellular services that we provide. K-Net is also working on a cellular upgrade beyond 3G. We need to continue to work together on solutions for reliable backbone fibre.

The world will continue to be blanketed with more and more satellites and satellite providers. It has provided a relief for many people to access Internet where and when it is needed. It shouldn't be the only service that is available for us though. Having local and regional fibre infrastructure that is owned and controlled by our First Nations is important. It takes more work and time to develop and support, but as resourceful people, we can and have been doing this for years.

STAFF UPDATES

KNET like many organizations in the area goes through staffing changes. Find out who's new, who's changed roles, and who's no longer with us. Read on to learn more about our staff updates!

New Staff

Cheyenne Linklater
Finance Assistant

Lambert Riosa
Junior Network
Administrator

Tim Boay
Service Desk Technician

Elaine Oombash
Service Desk Technician

Vietta Morris
Service Help Desk Technician

Jenna Cummings
Cellular Sales Clerk / Reception

**For Available
Positions at
KNET visit our
website.**

www.knet.ca/careers

MEET THE TEAM: VIETTA MORRIS

Vietta Morris is a Service Help Desk Technician at KNET, bringing her leadership experience, problem-solving skills, and deep connection to her community to the team. Originally from Muskrat Dam First Nation, Vietta has spent years serving her community, including six years on council, first as a councillor and later as Deputy Chief.

With a strong passion for land-based activities, Vietta enjoys moose and duck hunting, fishing, ice fishing, boating, and camping. Her favorite fall activity? Partridge hunting—an experience that reflects her deep appreciation for the land and traditions of her home.

Vietta joined KNET in November 2024, drawn to the challenge of learning something new every day. She loves the team-oriented, supportive work environment and is inspired by the dedication of her colleagues. A natural problem solver, she is quick to understand complex issues and is always ready to assist those in need—whether it's troubleshooting technical issues or helping someone in the community.

Her commitment to helping others extends beyond her job; Vietta is known for her generosity and willingness to lend a hand wherever needed. Whether it's keeping up with deadlines, solving challenges, or supporting those around her, she approaches every task with dedication and a strong sense of community responsibility.

KNET is proud to have Vietta as part of our team, where her leadership, skills, and passion for service make a real impact.

For more information about the KNET Team www.knet.ca/meet-the-team

CYBER SECURITY TIP OF THE DAY: USE ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE



Installing and regularly updating a trusted antivirus program is one of the simplest ways to protect your computer and mobile devices.

Why it matters:

- Blocks malicious software like viruses, spyware, and ransomware before they cause harm
- Scans downloads and emails to stop threats at the door
- Provides real-time protection against suspicious files or websites
- Adds peace of mind so you can browse, shop, and work safely online
- Pro tip: Don't just install it—set it to update automatically so you're always protected against the latest threats.

An excellent source of Cybersecurity tips with sections specifically geared to the individual/family is at the Canadian Center for Cyber Security - [Get Cyber Safe](#).

For example, with regards to the use of AV the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security published the following guidance Protect your devices from viruses - [Get Cyber Safe](#)

KNET's 10GB Upgrade: Connecting Our Communities for a Stronger Future



KNET is continuing its commitment to building faster, more reliable internet connections across our northern and remote Indigenous communities. If you've noticed our team in your community lately, here's what we're working on.

Phase One – Completed Last Year

In 2024, the first phase of the 10GB upgrade was all about getting the connection to your community and ensuring each location had the right equipment at the head end (in-community technical hub). This step focused on installing and upgrading infrastructure to ensure every community had the technical foundation needed for future improvements.

Phase Two – Happening Now

We are now focused on upgrading community infrastructure—the systems and equipment that connect local buildings and essential services to that core head-end infrastructure. This means faster, more stable internet connections for:

- Nursing Stations
- Band Offices
- Other essential community services

These upgrades will strengthen communication, support vital health and safety operations, and improve access to online resources that keep communities thriving.

Residential Service

The 10GB upgrade increased the speeds to all homes and buildings. KNet continues to support your community-owned Internet service and your technicians who provide home connections. Communities are seeing speeds that are faster than Starlink for a cheaper monthly price with local support.

Looking Ahead

Every step we take brings us closer to a more connected North. We appreciate your patience as our technicians work to complete these upgrades, and we look forward to sharing more progress with you soon.



THE BANNOCK BAKE-OFF – BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

One of the most beloved traditions of the Sioux Lookout Blueberry Festival once again brought people together this year—the Bannock Bake-Off!

As part of the 43rd annual Blueberry Festival, which ran from August 1st to 10th, 2025, the

Bannock Bake-Off kicked off opening weekend with a celebration of tradition, community, and of course—fresh bannock.

How It Worked

Teams showcased their bannock-making skills in a friendly competition that highlighted both tradition and creativity. Entries were judged on:

- Taste
- Presentation
- Team Spirit

The event was more than just a contest—it was a celebration of culture and community pride.

Partners & Collaboration

The Bannock Bake-Off was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA), Windigo First Nations Council, and KNET. Together, these partners ensured the event was a success, uplifting tradition and bringing people together.

Whether participants competed, cheered on their favorite team, or simply enjoyed a warm piece of bannock fresh from the fire, the Bannock Bake-Off was a highlight of this year's festival.



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Kuhkenah ᑭᑭᑭ

Connecting Everyone, Everywhere

Thunder Bay Location

KO HQ

730 S. Syndicate Ave
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1E9

Open Monday to Friday
8:30-4:30pm EST

Sioux Lookout Location

KNET Offices

115 King Street
PO Box 1439
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B9

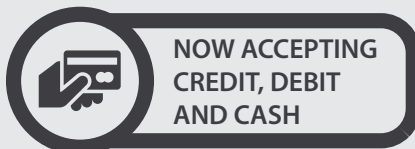
Open Monday to Friday
8:30-4:30pm CST
(closed for lunch, 12-1pm)

Balmertown Location

KO Offices

8 Eric Radford Way
PO Box 340
Balmertown, ON P0V 1C0

Open Monday to Friday
8:30-4:30pm CST



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THE KNET TEAM – TRAVELING TO COMMUNITIES



At KNET, connection is more than just a signal—it's about people. Behind every strong network are dedicated technicians who travel across the North to ensure that communities have the reliable internet and mobile services they deserve.

Over the past months, our KNET tech team has been busy on the road (and in the air), traveling into remote and fly-in communities to complete critical upgrades and maintenance projects. From installing new equipment to upgrading local infrastructure, the team is working hard to strengthen the digital backbone that supports health services, education, governance, and community connection.

On the Ground, With Communities

Every trip is a collaboration. Our technicians don't just arrive, do the work, and leave—they partner with local community techs and trainees, sharing knowledge and building capacity. Together, they ensure that upgrades are sustainable and that communities have local expertise to support ongoing needs.

Why It Matters

Reliable connectivity is a lifeline in the North. It enables:

- Nursing stations to connect quickly with doctors and specialists
- Schools to deliver online learning opportunities
- Band offices and councils to access essential digital services
- Families to stay in touch, even across vast distances

Every trip our team makes is an investment in community well-being, opportunity, and connection.

Looking Ahead

The work doesn't stop here. KNET will continue traveling to communities throughout the year, completing upgrades as part of our ongoing commitment to building a stronger, more connected North.

To the communities who welcome our crews and work alongside us—thank you for your partnership and trust. Together, we are building networks that empower.

For more information visit until www.knet.ca