



Telecommunications Commission announced Wednesday. (File photo)

By David Lohead

Northern internet and energy company SSi Canada will receive close to \$27 million in funding to improve high-speed satellite internet in Nunavut's 25 communities.

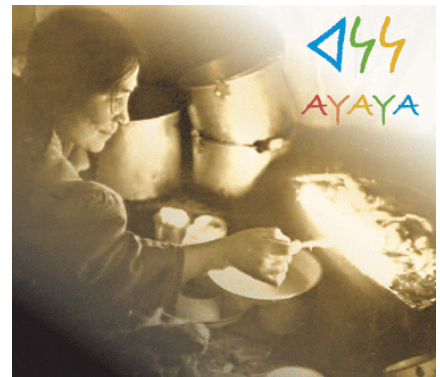
The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, which regulates broadcasting and telecommunications, announced Wednesday it will provide the company up to \$26,843,533 over five years for the work.


SSi Canada is the parent company of Nunavut telecommunications company and internet provider Qiniq Inc.

The funding is expected to allow Nunavummiut to access download speeds of 50 megabits per second, and 10 megabits per second for uploads, which is the minimum standard for high-speed internet, the CRTC said in its announcement.

SSi partnered with Starlink to provide faster internet service, SSi's chief development officer Dean Proctor told Nunatsiaq News.

By September, SSi had finished putting Starlink terminals in every community so that Starlink satellites were the backbone of SSi's internet connection.






**UTILITY RATES REVIEW COUNCIL OF NUNAVUT**  
 IGLUIN AULATJUTITIGUN AKITUTILAANGINNUT KATIMAYIIT NUNAVUNMI  
 CONSEIL D'EXAMEN DES TAUX DES ENTREPRISES DE SERVICES DU NUNAVUT

**A message from the Utility Rates Review Council**

Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) has filed for approval of a Major Project Permit Application with the Minister Responsible for QEC to replace generator sets in several communities. The URRC would like to hear your views.


**The deadline for written submissions is:  
 5 p.m. (EST) February 5, 2024.**



Have any thoughts?  
 Write a letter to the editor.

We want to hear from you.

**NUNATSIAQ 50 NEWS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Wastewater Systems Operator (Re-Advertisement)**  
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES RANKIN INLET, NU

**Water Treatment Operator (Re-Advertisement)**  
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES RANKIN INLET, NU

Continued...

With that development, SSi currently offers a wide range of price plans.

At the lower end, Qiniq Utility provides two gigabytes of data at 512 kilobits per second download speed for \$20 a month. At the higher end, Taki Pro offers 100 gigabytes of data at a download speed of five megabits per second for \$120 a month.

Proctor said that with the federal funding SSi will be able to use its partnership with Starlink to boost customers' speeds of 50 megabits per second for downloads and 10 megabits per second for uploads at an affordable price.

He said he can't disclose just yet what the new prices will be because SSi is still in discussions with the CRTC over its price plans.

However, he said there will be a base price and customers will be able to add higher-level service from there. Customers will be able to buy more data on a per gigabyte basis.



Lori Idlout  
 Member of Parliament  
 Nunavut



Warm wishes for the holiday season!  
 Know that New Democrats have  
 your back in the New Year.

**Happy New Year**  
 from the team at Nunatsiaq News



**NUNATSIAQ 50 NEWS**

www.nunatsiaq.com | 613-299-1413 | ads@nunatsiaq.com

“The bottom line is this is very affordable as a base package,” Proctor said.



SSi has until May to complete its agreements with the CRTC before implementing its internet and mobile services price plans, he said, adding “we don’t have any intention of taking that long to complete all this.”

“We’re ready to go,” Proctor said.

He emphasized the need to provide good internet services for Nunavummiut at a price most can access.

“Not everybody can afford ... \$200 a month for internet,” he said.

This funding for high-speed internet will improve access to health care and education, as well as help preserve Inuktitut, according to the CRTC.

“This project is the first major milestone in supporting improved telecommunications services in Nunavut,” commission spokesperson Leigh Cameron told Nunatsiq News in an email.





### ↳ Posted by iThink on Dec 22, 2023

Because the government loves to launder money through make.work.schemes.

👍 16 👎 2

[Reply to this message](#)



### Posted by Northern Inuit on Dec 21, 2023

You shop at northern if you have to. But if you can afford and wait for order you order from south.

If you have to, you get cable from coop of go direct.

Same with internet plans.

Qiniq is the Northern Store of providers.

👍 14 👎 2

[Reply to this message](#)

### Posted by Just adding a middleman? on Dec 21, 2023

So most people can get starlink from home for 147 a month that is unlimited and much faster than what SSI is offering... given they are using starlink as their connection now arent we just adding a middleman uselessly?

Nice to get a handout I guess... I understand some people cant get starlink because of the building they are in, but there must be a better way than a 27 million dollar handout..

👍 16 👎 3

[Reply to this message](#)



### ↳ Posted by common sense on Dec 22, 2023


Most people forget that without ssi micro alot of the communities would have no internet at all. This was because NWTel thought they would not make money. If something breaks better to call someone in the north than trying to call the usa.

 8  1

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by  on Dec 22, 2023**

I work for Nwtel  I need a new job maybe with start link 

 3  1

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by More Waste on Dec 22, 2023**

> The funding is expected to allow Nunavummiut to access download speeds of 50 megabits per second, and 10 megabits per second for uploads

We already reached these speeds on the old geostationary satellites years ago, so what exactly is this money getting spent on? You can test this for yourself by running a speed test on your phone since it relies on geostationary satellites for their signal.

P.S. measuring in bits makes everything seem bigger but we live in a byte sized world. 50 Mbps is only 5 MB/s

 4 

[Reply to this message](#)

**↳ Posted by alex on Dec 22, 2023**

Telecommunication bandwidth is measured in Mbps, not MBps. look at every single port on a network device,

or any network port on any device. It isn't 1GBps, its 1Gbps, its not 10GBps, its 10Gbps. So your point about Bytes vs bits is moot.

 5  2

[Reply to this message](#)

**↳ Posted by attack the non-important on Dec 22, 2023**

How about you tackle the real question in my comment. We already have these speeds, what good is this money doing?

 2  1



[Reply to this message](#)

**↳ Posted by Alex on Dec 23, 2023**

Well you are correct in saying these speeds are achievable, but they are heavily monopolized through the fact that Nwtel is really the only who can access the K19V sat from telesat. The business model of Qiniq and ssi is much different than that of nwtel and bell. With Nwtel and bell you must be privileged enough to have credit, and a credit card and reliable credit score to obtain these services. The reality is telecommunications is moving away from a commodity and is more utility and a basic requirement to survive in today's world. By supporting the qiniq business model, someone who does not have a credit card, who does not have the prop ability to install a starlink modem, who cannot be signed into a long term contract, can get the required 50down requirement of CRTC by using qiniq local model, where cash is all you need and no contract. It's a local business model that meets a large portion of Nunavut. I'll also add that 27 million is nothing compared to the 500 million Nwtel got to turn around and print money. But you are correct in saying technology wise Geo





synch has pushed well over 50 megs for years. But that's not what this about.

 6 

[Reply to this message](#)

#### **Posted by Get it right on Dec 22, 2023**



50Mbps is not 5 MB/s as you, its 6.25MB/s. There are 8 bits per byte. Doesn't actually matters, network speeds are measured in bits not bytes.

 5  1

[Reply to this message](#)

#### **Posted by Northern Business Owner on Dec 22, 2023**

This is good news for the Nunavummiut and for Qiniq Customers. We should celebrate when we see investments. I can understand you think it's a handout, however it provides jobs that Northerners can do and for Qiniq to continue. I run a small business and have star link but rely on qiniq when traveling to the smaller communities- so it's nice to have the option when other providers are not available or I don't want to pay for the service. Keep up the great work Qiniq and SSI!

 10  2

[Reply to this message](#)

#### **Posted by tuktuborel on Dec 22, 2023**

If the Feds really want the North to have better (cost and reliability) fiber optic cable has to be run to each community. Those nice Starlink Satellites aren't going to

stay up in the sky forever and will break down and will always be subject to solar flares and other unknowns.

 6  9

[Reply to this message](#)

#### ↳ **Posted by In the know on Dec 23, 2023**


This is a very ill-informed comment. The logistics of this make it impossible considering the number of people in each community. SSI has spent a ton of time and money to bring what they can to Nunavut. I think most appreciate it. Some always think they know better. Just be happy that someone is trying to help.

 4 

[Reply to this message](#)

#### **Posted by Joe on Dec 22, 2023**

Does that mean that I pay 27 dollars less a month when it is up and running?

 2  1

[Reply to this message](#)

#### **Posted by Free monry on Dec 22, 2023**

Big companies can keep asking governments for more handouts and will be freely given what they're asked for and yet inuit still go hungry.

They had starlink on their towers for a year. How is throwing more money at them suddenly going to improve? The federal government should've ditched ssi a long time ago and focused on starlink being the main provider and make ssi a secondary one with how much they ask the government every few years.

 3  8

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by Lucretius on Dec 22, 2023**

40,000 people in Nunavut. This funding works out to \$675 per person, including every man, woman, trans, teen and baby up here.

It costs \$500 to buy the Starlink hardware. Perhaps it could cost \$150 to get it installed, although most people are fine putting out front of their house for free by themselves.

So, for how much money the Feds are giving SSI, they could optionally directly simply give or gift everyone Starlink.

Given that thousands of residents are not adults, do not have households, millions could actually be saved going that route.

Currently, SSI offers \$140/mo for 150Gb of data. Starlink direct offers unlimited data for the same price.

Anyone else see the problem here?

 12  4

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by pissed off on Dec 22, 2023**

For crying out loud, how much money has the Government poured into NSSI over the last 20 years ?????

You could photocopy their 20 years old proposals and promesses and the Feds would still send them loads of money.

Where is the accounting for all that money ?

Nice business to be in I guess

Thanks

 4  2

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by alex on Dec 22, 2023**

Hate it or love them, SSI is the people's internet provider. They are the most accessible company to get an internet connection. You don't need a credit card, no contract, no phone line. Get your modem, and away you go. Go to another community, bam internet. Their shortage on the Bandwidth offered is not something they are overly in control with, there are other players involved at that point. Hate it or love them, competition is what you need in this industry, and I am happy to see SSI Micro get this money.

 6  2


[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by common sense on Dec 22, 2023**

Just add up what the federal government has given NWTel over the years.

Probably 20 times or more than ssi has gotten. What has NWTel done for you lately?



A lot of people have short memories.

 12  4

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by Lol on Dec 22, 2023**

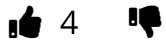
Too late!! LOL.

 3 

[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by Inuk on Dec 23, 2023**

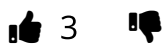
Finally, they took real action when Starlink became available in Nunavut. 😊



[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by nunalik on Dec 23, 2023**

Some people think starlink is the same kind of internet provider to that of qiniq, it is not. Starlink have long cables and connected to wall outlet, qiniq has mobile plans which you can put it inside your pocket around the world.



[Reply to this message](#)

**Posted by Manapik on Jan 8, 2024**

I bought my own starlink , the govt should subsidize my investments too.



[Reply to this message](#)

---

## Join the Conversation

Your email address will not be published.

Required fields are marked \*

Name\*

Email\*

Location

Comment

Receive news updates via email from this site

Empty comment box with a pencil icon in the bottom right corner.

SUBMIT COMMENT

## Job Listings

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - KITIKMEOT INUIT ASSOCIATION

Early Learning and Childcare Project Coordinator

ENGLISH

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Logistics and Administration Coordinator

ENGLISH INUKTITUT

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - GN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Wastewater Systems Operator (Re-Advertisement), and more...

ENGLISH INUKTITUT

## Notices & Tenders

### THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS - THE MARKETPLACE

Prices in effect January 1 – 13, 2024

ENGLISH INUKTITUT

### CONFERENCE OF NUNAVUT INUIT - NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK

Seeking Inuit Delegates

ENGLISH INUKTITUT INUINNAQTUN

### A MESSAGE FROM THE UTILITY RATES REVIEW COUNCIL - UTILITY RATES REVIEW COUNCIL OF NUNAVUT

Major Project Permit Application

ENGLISH INUKTITUT FRENCH INUINNAQTUN

### VISIT YOUR CO-OP - ARCTIC CO-OPERATIVES

Happy New Year

ENGLISH INUKTITUT

### HOLIDAY MESSAGE - LORI IDLOUT, NEW DEMOCRATS

Warm wishes for the holiday season!

**ENGLISH INUKTITUT**

**HOLIDAY MESSAGE - AQSARNIIT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

Have a safe and happy holiday!

**ENGLISH INUKTITUT**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS! - GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT**

From our family to yours...

**ENGLISH FRENCH INUKTITUT INUINNAQTUN**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR - NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

From the Board and Staff of NWMB

**ENGLISH INUKTITUT**

**SEASON'S GREETINGS - LESTER LANDAU CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS**

We hope you enjoy the holidays

**ENGLISH INUKTITUT**

**HOLIDAY MESSAGE - FROBISHER INN**

Happy Holidays

**ENGLISH INUKTITUT**

**SEASON'S GREETINGS - NCC GROUP OF COMPANIES**

On behalf of the NCC Group of Companies

**ENGLISH INUKTITUT**

**APPLY TODAY! - AURORA COLLEGE**

Programs for fall 2024

**ENGLISH**



Use this form to request a PDF of Nunatsiaq News to be sent to you every week on Friday.

[Privacy Statement](#)

[Commenting Policy](#)

Copyright © 1995-2024 Nortext Publishing Corporation (Iqaluit) and may not be reprinted for commercial publication in print, or any other media, without the permission of the publisher.

Site by [Mangrove](#).

Subscribe

