



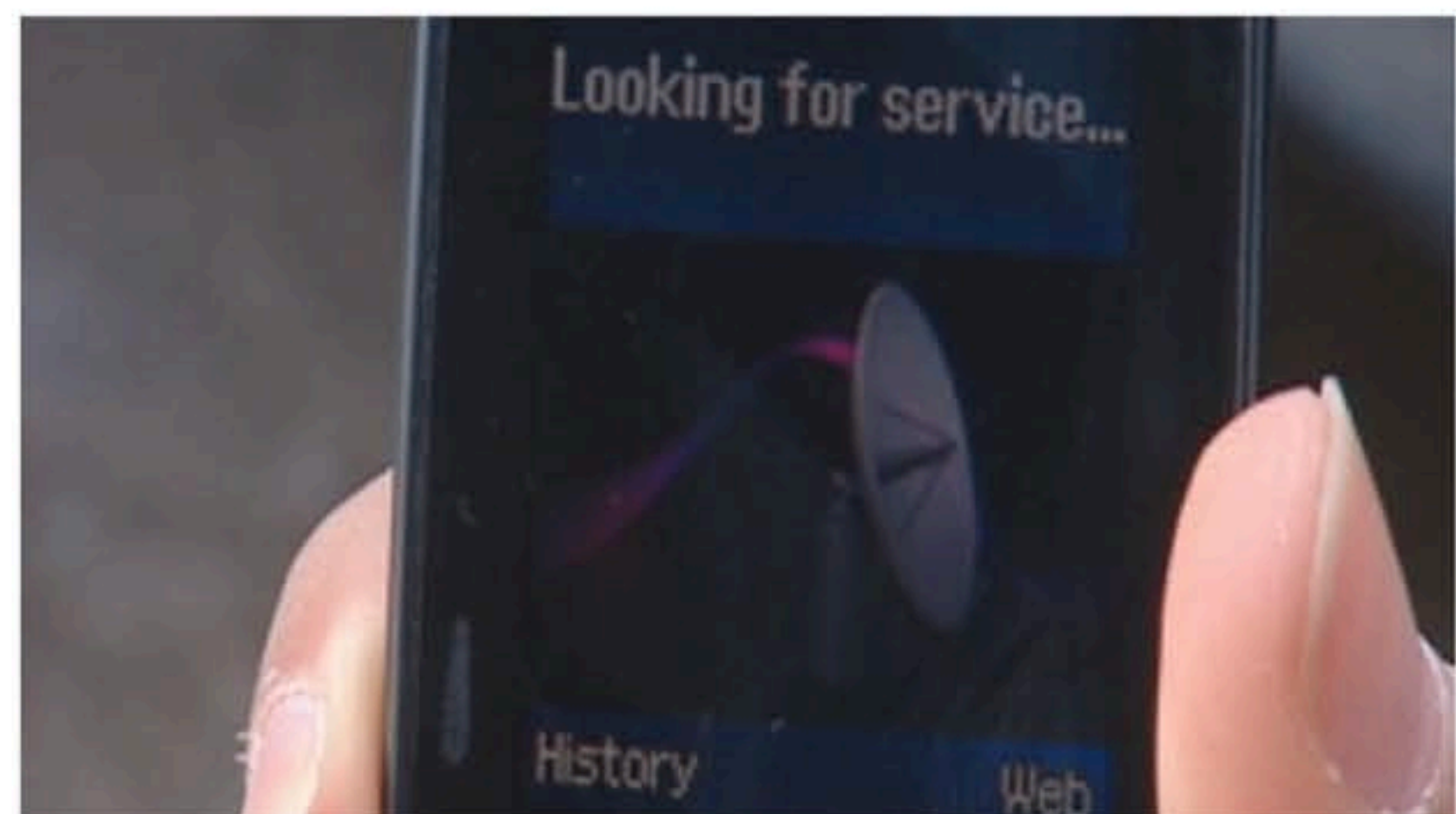
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Nunavut phone, internet blackout prompts review

CBC News Posted: Oct 8, 2011 1:56 PM CT | Last Updated: Oct 8, 2011 1:49 PM CT 12



Long distance phone, cellphone and internet service was disrupted for 12 hours Thursday in 39 communities across the north when a satellite malfunctioned. (CBC)

Officials in Nunavut will meet next week to talk about Thursday's satellite service interruption and how better prepare in case it happens again.

A technical problem with Telesat's Anik F2 satellite cut off long-distance phone and internet service to all of Nunavut and some communities in the N.W.T. and Yukon for about 12 hours Thursday, starting at 6:36 a.m. ET.

It also resulted in planes being grounded in Nunavut, as weather information could not be communicated between communities. First Air said 48 flights and about 1,000 passengers were affected. Extra flights were added Friday to get passengers to their destinations.

Iqaluit mayor Madeleine Redfern was one of those passengers stuck in Ottawa and she said it's time to do something about the technologically-disadvantaged North.



Iqaluit mayor Madeleine Redfern was stranded in Ottawa Thursday when flights were grounded in Nunavut due to a satellite malfunction cutting off communication between communities. She says the North needs more reliable technology. (CBC)

"Communications, in this day and age, is an essential service," she said. "It's not just a question of being able to check in with family and friends. It's part of business. It's also part of emergency response systems."

The RCMP lost contact with its Nunavut detachments, but used CBC radio to ask them to call headquarters with satellite phones.

"We are not looking at changing anything in particular right now, other than we are trying to beef up our sat phones, [and] get more, better technology out to the guys in the communities so they can make contact with us in the event that this happens again," said Sgt. Kevin Lewis of Nunavut RCMP.

Northwestel said it would also be holding meetings to look at how data could be transferred to another satellite if this ever happens again.

All of the company's data transmission for Nunavut goes through the Anik F2.

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NorthNorth

2011/10/10 at 12:42 PM ET

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11 0

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Living in the north takes a certain understanding and sacrifice. Your not jumping in the car and going to Timmies or the beer store. A malfunctioning Satellite is just another day in the north. Until the Feds get there act together and stat to push infrastructure up here this will continue to be just another day in the north. but unfortunately until there is a leader with some vision or oil is discoverer we will just take it in stride.

madinuk

2011/10/09 at 3:23 PM ET

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A Matter of Survival: Arctic Communications Infrastructure Report
http://www.aciareport.ca/resources/acia_full-v1.pdf

The Arctic Security Working Group looked into the communication issues that were evident in the North, and look at ways to help solve the communication problems.

Highlights from Report include:

The Arctic must have reliable communication networks to establish and maintain Canada's sovereignty, and to meet international obligations for ensuring safe passage for road, sea and air traffic... So too, is the requirement for modern communication services to Arctic communities—it is a matter of survival

The telecommunications network in the North is fragile.

Communications for maintaining emergency response is a fundamental requirement in the Arctic.

The existing network investment models in the North are not meeting the rapid pace of increasing change and convergence of communication services available in the South. There is currently no comprehensive strategy for connecting all Arctic communities to the level of service required within communities or between communities.

Military have own communications network but other first responders still have to rely on local systems to run their own communications equipment.

North is going to continue to slide backwards in its ability to communicate without immediate public investments in arctic communications.

Public investment into communications in Canada's north is a requirement.

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drwater The north is potentially Canada's biggest future and we should invest much more. Lets get the communications right