Proposal for Mini TV Broadcasting Station

Dear Sirs:

The Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories is planning to start a video tape recording unit to work on programming with native people in isolated settlements in the Northwest Territories...

Mini T.V. Station
I'm enclosing some material on information on a proposal by Mr. Dick Hill of Inuvik to place mini T.V. transmitters in small settlements that are not reached by television now.

At present, the small settlements have to rely on monitors and playback units to view T.V. and, if there could be a mini T.V. transmitter in each settlement it would give many people access to television programming instead of forcing everybody to come to one central spot at a certain time to view tapes. The mini T.V. station would mean that only one playback unit would be necessary in each community...

Yours truly,

Brian Thompson,
Communications Consultant.

Proposal for Mini TV Broadcasting Station for Remote Settlements

Small self-contained TV broadcasting stations are proposed for installation in northern communities to facilitate communication, stimulate cultural development and encourage involvement and inter-community participation. The mini-T.V. stations have the advantages of low cost and simplicity. Also by virtue of remoteness and low power these stations would be free of the complexities of channel allotment and interference.

The mini-T.V. units are made up of a standard broadcasting unit costing $2,000 with an input from a video camera, microphone, or microphone relay. Back up equipment of the Sony 1/2" format would include a camera, video-recorder, and miscellaneous gear costing around $2,500. The system has an effective FM radio broadcast which can be used independently with a bonus of the video picture. Allowing $500 for installation and training the total package amounts to $5,000 per unit.

Probably the mini-T.V. stations would be operated by volunteer local groups to optimize community participation. Effective communication would be encouraged through the establishment of a mini-T.V. network. The mini-T.V. stations could operate independently or be part of a mini-T.V. network. The format of the Alberta Native Communications Society is suggested as this group operates independently but has representation from all social and ethnic groups. With a mini-T.V. network programs can be bicycled and repaired facilitated by the direct exchange of faulty components.

A demonstration Mini-T.V. unit is now underway under the authority of the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission. This demonstration is being carried out by the University of Alaska's Division of Media Services utilizing the small village of Anaktuvuk Pass as the test site.

It is proposed that a similar demonstration unit be set up in the Canadian North. The facilities of the Mackenzie Institute in Inuvik are available for this demonstration. Since the Mackenzie Institute has a complete Sony 1/2" TV production studio, there is a close association with the Inuvik CBC station, and as most Inuvik residents have TV receivers, the mechanics of operating a demonstration are simple and relatively inexpensive.

The Mackenzie Institute has been operating in Inuvik since 1967 along the lines of a community college and has been active in educational television since 1969.

The minimum cost of a mini-T.V. demonstration would be $2,500 to cover the cost of purchasing a 10-watt TV/FM broadcast unit plus $500 for travel, supplies, videotapes and the production of a report. If additional funds are available it is suggested that a local student or group of students be hired through the coming summer to staff the mini-T.V. demonstration. A further $1,000-$2,000 would be required for this aspect.

Richard M. Hill

For information on how the program is progressing write to: Brian Thompson, Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, P.O. Box 2338, Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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