The Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne is located on the international border between Canada and the United States. It has been the home of Mohawks and other Haudenosaunee (Iroquois tribes) of the St. Lawrence for thousands of years. The Mohawks settled in the Akwesasne region in 1755, near a Catholic mission named St. Regis. The Tribe resides on both sides of the Canadian and United States border (referred to as the —north|| or —south|| reserve.) The Canadian Mohawk reserve is 11,711 acres and the United States Mohawk reservation is 14,648 acres. The total territory is about 21 square miles.

There are approximately 1500 households in the New York Mohawk community, served by approximately 1600 residential and business lines.

The Mohawk Tribe is a rural and poor community. Nearly 20 percent of Mohawk families live below the poverty line. A third of families with children under 5 years of age live in poverty. 30 percent of families are headed by a woman with no husband present. Unemployment is nearly 35% among residents aged 19 years or older.

Yet the Mohawk community places a high value on education. Nearly 200 Akwesasne youth are enrolled in universities and colleges, the highest number among the Confederacy tribes. The Tribe also has a rapidly growing youth population. The Tribe has nearly 1465 students between pre-school and high school ages. sends nearly 800 students to Salmon River public school off reservation. It also has an elementary school on the reserve where 500 students attend. However, due to the rapid increase of the student population, the Tribe anticipates a population growth of 900 grade-school children and has begun building a new elementary school to house them.

The Tribe also holds a strong tradition of entrepreneurship, with nearly 300 businesses in the combined community and 180 in the U.S. side. Entrepreneurs are eager to learn new ways of doing business and last year 35 businesses attended a small business workshop on cyber business strategies.

While the Tribe is proposing a middle-mile infrastructure proposal, a question must be asked: what if we bring broadband capacity to the Tribe and people can't afford to pay for residential broadband? It is out of that concern, and the desire to create new educational, new employment, new training, new cultural preservation, and new community quality of life opportunity that the Tribe seeks to put as many computers in public access facilities as possible.

The Tribe will seeking funding for 5 public computer laboratories. At: 1) the AkwesasneBoys and Girls Club; 2) the Akwesasne Library/museum; 3) the St. Regis Mohawk Senior Center; 4) the Akwesasne Employment Services Center; and, 5) The Akwesasne Human Resources Training Center. The total amount of the request includes $571,826 for equipment, and $54,000 for light renovation to prepare the computer laboratories or to make them safer and more habitable.

The Tribe will also be applying for sustainable adoption funding to create new ways of educating the community about the tools and resources that broadband can bring. A highlight of the Tribe's proposal is the creation of a voluntary Akwesasne Technology Corps that will recruit youth and seniors to provide help at each of these public computer access points. These
volunteers will engage in a wide range of adoption strategies, including providing assistance with computers, with digital literacy programs, including learning how to use applications on computers, with participation in web-based and other cyber based learning and teaching programs, and with producing website design and web-based content.

The Tribe envisions the computer laboratories as future technology village greens in the community where community residents come to the public resource centers for a wide range of use, including working on resumes, applying for jobs, learning xcel or wordprocessing skills, learning how to bank or manage taxes online, taking continuing education or professional certification courses and examinations, and learning how to gather information and to communicate more efficiently with each other.

The Computer grant being sought is for $625,586 for computer equipment, wiring, light renovation of facilities to make the laboratories more habitable and safer.