

April 22, 2026, marks the

# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

of the announcement of the  
creation of Contact North.

From the April 22, 1986,  
Speech from the Throne:

**"A major project in northern Ontario will be undertaken to expand the use of new technologies in delivering distance education to remote communities. This project will also build on the clear potential for developing these technologies locally."**

## 1986

Speech from the Throne announces the creation of Contact North to support access to education in Northern Ontario

## 1987

Full operation starts hosted by Confederation College, Cambrian College, Laurentian University and Lakehead University with audioconferencing

## 1988

Audiographics introduced

## 1996

- Contact North becomes independent not-for-profit corporation
- Videoconferencing introduced
- Internet makes its debut at Contact North, starting with dial-up

## 2003

Web conferencing introduced with Saba Centra

## 2007

Contact North sets up elearnnetwork.ca to serve southern Ontario

## 2011

elearnnetwork.ca phased out in favour of Contact North province-wide

## 2019

Saba Centra replaced by Adobe Connect

## 2020

Contact North pivots to virtual support services during the COVID-19 pandemic

## 2021

Extended Reality (XR) introduced

## 2022

Moodle / BigBlueButton introduced

## 2024

Contact North goes fully virtual