Ocean Networks Canada has established itself as a world leader in underwater cabled networks for scientific observation. The community-based observatory was developed through years of technological experience. It is a smaller-scale version of proven technologies from the larger NEPTUNE and VENUS observatories that allow real-time underwater observations to become community based.

Coastal communities are facing a wide range of rapid ocean changes due to a collapsing natural environment. Lack of information prevents stakeholders from making informed decisions. Ocean Networks Canada offers a unique solution to bridge the gaps in knowledge through environmental monitoring, community involvement and scholastic outreach.

For more information
If you are interested in purchasing a community-based observatory or supporting one for your local community or school, please contact Ocean Networks Canada and we can discuss various options.

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“We applaud Ocean Networks Canada for providing Canadians across the country with the opportunity to participate first-hand in ocean observations. The discoveries people will make while investigating the online data, images, video and acoustics will be a tremendous benefit to ocean science.”

- John Nightingale, President, Vancouver Aquarium

Discover the Ocean. Understand the Planet.

The students from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut surround their community-based observatory before installation. The underwater lab now continuously collects oceanographic data and delivers it to their school, and the rest of the world for free.

The Internet Connected Ocean.
Community-based observatories are made up of four on-site components: an underwater instrument platform, an armored underwater cable, a shore station, and a server station. The information retrieved is sent to the University of Victoria where it is managed, archived and made freely available over the internet to scientists, citizens and students alike.

A World-Leading Undersea Research Laboratory.
A laboratory of instruments creates the observatory.
- Water quality sensors
- Hydrophone for underwater sound
- Underwater camera
- Stationary shore camera
- Weather station
- Ice profiler (optional)

Local Observations. Global Connections.
Local schools are invited to participate in a novel educational program based on analyzing, understanding and sharing ocean data collected by cabled observatories. Students and teachers access educational material and data through a web portal, and use video conferencing and social media tools to communicate their findings.

A community-based observatory links your community to others around the world, allowing for scientists, citizens and students to engage, observe and share their own underwater natural environment. By supporting one in your community you will offer a legacy of environmental and educational stewardship.