

# Telecom expert, HBC join forces

**For Immediate Release (Tuesday, September 2)**

Well-known Minnesota consultant on broadband telecommunications, Milda K. Hedblom, St. Paul, has become associated with Hiawatha Broadband Communications, Inc. (HBC), Winona, Minn., where she will consult in the Community Connectivity Division.

The announcement of the association was made by Gary W. Evans, HBC president and CEO.

“Obviously we are delighted to have someone of Dr. Hedblom’s knowledge and repute more closely involved with HBC,” said Evans. “We expect her affiliation to help us significantly in our mission to improve telecommunications connectivity in rural America.”

As a consultant to HBC, Hedblom will work with clients and communities that have contacted HBC for help in developing telecommunications projects.

Hedblom is well known for her work that offers services as a consultant, lawyer, and policy expert through Dain International Consulting and Legal Services. In that capacity, she has worked with public and private clients with telecommunications and information services needs.

She has worked on broadband issues in both fiber and wireless, including community broadband development, entry of new services, and negotiation of multi-party network agreements.

As a policy expert, she is director of the Telecommunications and Information Society Policy Forum (TISP Forum) at the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. Recent policy involvements include development of the Regional Broadband Task Force, a five-county Minnesota collaboration on broadband development, and membership on the Broadband Advisory Council for the City of St. Paul.

She has considerable experience at the national level, including as a policy analyst in the Office of Plans and Policy at the FCC and as a senior fellow in international telecommunications at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. In 2001 and 2002 she held a position as executive coordinator of the World Summit on the Information Society, a United Nations project based in Geneva, Switzerland.

She is a professor of politics and communications at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and visiting professor of telecommunications policy at the University of Minnesota.

She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Macalester College, St. Paul, and doctoral and law degrees from the University of Minnesota.

“It is exciting for all of us at HBC to know that Dr. Hedblom’s wonderful experience will be used to continue helping communities achieve their connectivity dreams,” said Evans. “And we are also very pleased to have these talents available to us as well.”

Hedblom began her new affiliation on Sept. 1.