



## High Prairie School Division students reaping the benefits of 'wireless network' technology

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*HIGH PRAIRIE, AB* - High Prairie School Division No. 48 (HPSD) students will soon be tapping into an advanced form of learning, thanks to the addition of wireless Internet network technology at a number of schools.

A total of four high schools within the division, including Georges P. Vanier in Donnelly, E.W. Pratt in High Prairie, Roland Michener Secondary in Slave Lake and Kinuso, will directly benefit from the introduction of the cutting-edge wireless technology made possible last spring by infrastructure funding through Alberta Education.

"Our portion of the provincial funding is being utilized as a starting point to build internal support capacity for a wireless network infrastructure," says Treva Emter, HPSD's Technology Coordinator.

"We view the addition of this technology as an effective learning tool to help strengthen and enhance the ability of our students' to access learning solutions within our high schools," she adds, noting that the ultimate objective is to make "students feel as comfortable and confident as possible with the use of modern technology in our classroom and school environments."

Alberta's Minister of Education, the Honorable Dave Hancock agrees, indicating that technology makes learning a richer and more exciting experience for students and teachers alike.

"These technology projects will provide valuable insight into innovative teaching and learning approaches that will benefit the education system."

High Prairie School Division intends to maximize the infrastructure dollars by tying it in with the province's Supporting Innovative Classrooms funding project - an initiative which supports innovative and effective practices in the area of technology leadership and technology management.

HPSD's goal is to use Supporting Innovative Classrooms (SIP) funding for professional development in support of the infrastructure grant funding allocated towards the wireless network project.

SIP funding in the amount of \$6.8 million supports the province's Innovative Classrooms Technology Funding allocation of \$56 million announced in Budget 2008. A call for proposals by the province was made in June of 2008 to all publicly funded school jurisdictions and charter schools. The government approved 26 project proposals maintaining a focus on the following five essential themes:

- Enhancing educational technology leadership capacity;
- Enhancing information technology leadership capacity;
- Software as a service;
- Innovative technology management solutions; and
- Shared services solutions.

Theme five, “shared services solutions,” involves a northern consortium comprised of four school jurisdictions, including Fort Vermilion School Division No. 52, High Prairie School Division No. 48, Northland School Division No. 61 and Peace Wapiti School Division No. 76.

The intent of the project is to encourage rural jurisdictions to share technical services in identified areas of expertise through professional development and the implementation of technology.

HPSD's wireless network installation process at the four HPSD high schools began back in December of 2008 and is expected to be completed by August of 2009.

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***For further information, contact or HPSD No. 48 Technology Coordinator Treva Emter at 780-523-2828 ext. 175 or Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-837-2114.***