

Cogeco Data Services announces 10-year deal with Toronto District School Board

TORONTO, ON, Monday, December 15, 2008 – Cogeco Data Services, a full service data communications provider, today announced a 10-year, \$39 million deal with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

Following TDSB's rigorous Request for Proposal process, Cogeco Data Services was selected from among other established firms. According to TDSB's Don Higgins, Executive Officer-Business Services, "Cogeco Data Services offered the most innovative and cost-effective solution to meet the fast changing technology needs of our staff, students and schools."

The agreement calls for Cogeco Data Services to provide the TDSB with a wide area network connection to nearly 600 locations, including elementary schools, secondary schools and administrative buildings serving over 300,000 learners and 30,000 educators and administrators.

"This is an important deal for us and we are pleased to be working with the TDSB," said Ian Collins, President of Cogeco Data Services. "We have the network technology and capacity to support the current learning needs of the TDSB's students and educators, and provide the flexibility and scalability to address the evolving needs of the school district well into the future."

The contract ensures a continued commitment to increase the reach and capabilities of the fibre backbone to deliver service to students, educators and administrators. Cogeco Data Services will construct additional fibre optic cable throughout the city. It will provide a substantially higher capacity connection for each location, including the TDSB Data Centre, as compared with their existing network, greatly improving their speed, security and redundancy capabilities.

The improved network will allow the TDSB to meet the changing learning needs of their students in a world where technological literacy is critical for success. With the increased bandwidth, the TDSB will be able to:

- Enrich classroom programming across the curriculum with interactive collaboration, social networking, and to build effective learning communities
- Enable a media-rich learning environment and unique specialized programs such as the cyber-arts program (<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/northviewheights/images/cyberarts.pdf>)
- Provide on-demand delivery of online resources through such innovative technologies as streamed video, school library websites, and integrated library services

The increased bandwidth will also enhance TDSB's effectiveness and accountability to their stakeholders by:

- Delivering integrated resources that meet the curricular and professional needs of staff, students, parents, and the community
- Facilitating centralized document storage, workflow, and retrieval of information
- Ensuring effective security and privacy protection

"The TDSB is committed to providing our students with the critical learning opportunities and 21st century skills they will need to be successful," said Don Higgins. "In this challenging economic climate, our agreement with Cogeco Data Services is a strategic long-term investment that makes sense for our students and schools. It brings innovative technology into the classroom, enhances our administrative capacity, and gives TDSB the flexibility we need well into the future."

About Cogeco Data Services

Cogeco Data Services is a data communications provider offering customers a suite of managed network services from connectivity, including Private Line and Ethernet MetroLAN, to value added services like Security and Storage. With its fibre optic network and operations throughout the Greater Toronto Area, Cogeco Data Services connects more than 550 commercial buildings within the city and counts many of Canada's leading businesses and institutions among its clients. For more information about Cogeco Data Services, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cogeco Cable Inc., see www.cogecodata.com.

About the Toronto District School Board

The Toronto District School Board is the largest school board in Canada. We are an award-winning urban school district that serves more than 300,000 learners from diverse backgrounds. Committed to academic excellence, equity, and inclusion, our mission is to enable all students to reach high levels of achievement and to acquire the knowledge, skills and values they need to become responsible members of a democratic society.

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