

## **IMAGINE CHAPLEAU....**

Mr. Mayor, Members of the media and Guests.

There is an old African proverb that tells us that it takes a whole village to educate a child. The Chapleau Community has always supported the education of our children in elementary and secondary schools. In fact, Chapleau has always been a leader in making its resources available to prepare our students for the future.

What is exciting for us in education is that because of this partnership of the Chapleau community with Nortel and Bell our students will not only continue to have access to the educational resources of our village but will have access to the educational resources of our province, our country and indeed the world. Some would call that accessing the global village.

This partnership which will provide access to Broadband technology will raise the learning of our students and provide new learning opportunities.

Access to this Broadband means more access to the latest technology. It's about connecting students and teachers. And when students and teachers are connected to other students and teachers in other parts of the Board, the province, and the world, it opens the way to enhance the learning experience and open the way to innovation.

Used properly, access to Broadband technology will provide students and teachers to interactive, multimedia videoconferencing resources. It will make it possible for teachers and students to share course material, specialized instruction and be connected to the best learning practices.

Imagine a classroom where the teacher uses a variety of multimedia to engage the student and enrich the curriculum.

Imagine students being connected to a university professor, a famous Canadian author, an astronaut via videoconferencing or an interactive chat line discussing a variety of topics world issues ... or a class sharing their field trip experience with another class from a geographically distant school by creating a virtual learning community that allows them to share knowledge and experience that would lead to new discoveries and enhanced learning.

Imagine students taking a course not available in their school through video telecast or taking a university or college course while still in High School.

Imagine parents having access to their child's daily learning assignments and access to their learning progress.

Well we do not have to imagine any more because that is what already possible in other parts of the province, the country, the world. Through this partnership, there is no reason why this can't be possible to our students in Chapleau.

The possibilities on how this new technology can improve student success is limited by our imagination and our financial resources.

As a Board we have already made some inquiries and have made contacts with the York District School Board who has been in partnership with York University to learn from their experience how this type of technology is enhancing and improving student learning in their area. We are in discussion now with York to see about the cost of accessing a project called Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning or ABEL for short for our students.

The following short video clip gives us a glimpse on how this partnership can enhance our student learning experience in preparing them for their future.

We look forward to working with this Chapleau partnership and on behalf of our students we thank the community of Chapleau, Nortel and Bell for allowing us to be part of this exciting opportunity.