

EDUCATION MATTERS ARTICLE

Internet Connectivity for BPSD

Technology has come a long way in Beautiful Plains in just a few short years. Our Division has moved forward from having a few stand alone desktop machines to having 19 complete computer labs with up to 29 machines per lab, not including those that are in use in the classroom. In all, there are 700 to 800 computers in use on a daily basis in BPSD.

Presently in BPSD, we have connectivity speeds of 12 megabits per second in the large schools and speeds of 2 megabits per second in the small schools. As band width usage is doubling every 18 months and to ensure access to the wide array of internet based teaching and management tools, an expandable system is necessary.

BPSD has entered into an agreement with Westman Communication Group to install a fibre optic system that will utilize the existing fibre optic loop between Neepawa, Carberry, Brandon and Minnedosa. This will give us connectivity speeds of 1 Gigabit per second (1000 Megabits per second) to the large schools and division office and speeds of 100 Megabits per second to the small schools with the use of towers to send the signals. This system also provides the ability for a division wide network for administration and filtering from one central location. In the future we will have the ability to utilize Interactive Television to broadcast courses between our schools and the capability of delivering courses from other educational institutions in the province.

Work on the project has begun with the installation of the necessary fibre optic cable and the construction of the project will continue as the year progresses. It is our hope that the new system will be in place and ready for use by the fall of 2012.

Submitted by:

Board of Trustees
Beautiful Plains School Division