

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 21, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Telus Learning Connection

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Lona Ani, Randy Lyseng, Pete MacKay

INFORMATION

The Telus Learning Connection (TLC) is an educational Internet alliance that includes Alberta Learning, Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), Telus and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA). TLC is entering its sixth year of providing professional development to teachers throughout Alberta and Edmonton Public Schools has been committed to the project since its inception.

TLC hosts the 2Learn website <http://www.2learn.ca>, a valuable resource of over 8,000 Web pages, created by the TLC provincial team and by Alberta teachers. Visitors to the site will find useful resources for teachers and students of all levels, as well as resources for parents. The site is divided into five main areas: (a) Teacher Tools; (b) Professional Growth; (c) Curricular Resources; (d) Constructing Knowledge; and, (e) Project Centre.

The project centre is one of the most frequently visited parts of the site. In this section, teachers are able to register their classes and participate in telecollaborative projects with other classes throughout Alberta. Teachers are also able to create their own on-line projects and apply for Grassroots Funding. In fact, the Telus Learning Connection, through the Grassroots Funding Program, has provided Edmonton Public School teachers and schools with a total of \$189,600 in grants for the period of December 1998 through March 2001. This grant money arrives to teachers and their schools unencumbered.

However, it is the Telus Learning Connection leaders who have made it such a successful venture. In addition to a centralized core provincial team, the TLC also comprises of 260 teacher-leaders throughout the province. For the past five years, Edmonton Public Schools has been fortunate to have been allocated 20 teacher-leader positions. These individuals receive up to seven days of release time each year to assist district staff in technology integration and project development. Their release time is subsidized by Telus and by the district. Therefore, sessions are provided free of charge to district staff. Traditionally, sessions have been offered at the Centre for Education and have been very well attended. However, with the implementation of Blueprints, sessions are being

customized to meet the needs of specific schools and teachers. As a result a more diversified and flexible professional development model has emerged. Professional development opportunities that the Edmonton Public TLC teacher leaders have provided this year include:

- Presentations at district conferences, such as the *Best Practices Institute and the Blueprints Conference*
- Inservices advertised in the *Consulting Services Professional Development Calendar*
- Web site development assistance to schools, in particular to the one third of district schools that do not have Web sites
- Multimedia presentation assistance to showcase student work
- One-on-one mentorship of district staff
- Assistance with Grassroots Funding Applications
- Orientation to SmartNet (<http://smartnet.epsb.ca>), a new on-line assessment and training repository of technology resources
- Resource searches for teachers
- Orientation to E-Stat (<http://estat.epsb.ca>), Statistics Canada new interactive database
- Mentoring sessions for teachers using technology (on-site assistance to help novice to advanced teachers in technology; principals are very interested in this)
- Cutting-edge technology awareness workshops (digital editing, video-conferencing)
- Development of a centralized Web site <http://tlc.epsb.ca>

It is very evident that Edmonton Public TLC Teacher Leaders, present and past, have been instrumental in fulfilling the mission of the Telus Learning Connection, which is:

To facilitate the effective use of information and communication technology for, by and with Alberta teachers within all curricula.

The Telus Learning Connection leaders for 2001-02 are:

Elementary teacher-leaders	Secondary teacher-leaders
Andrew Lummis, Dovercourt School	Arlene Lipkewich, Westmount
Angela Carriere, Overlanders	Craig Schneider, Laurier Heights
Bill Jensen, Lorelei	Cynthia Peterson, M.E. Lazerte
Catherine Suen, Sherwood	Florence Iftody, J. Percy Page
Craig Wilson, Baturyn	Jennifer Anderson, Vernon Barford
Donna Daniel, George H. Luck	Margo Johnston, Jasper Place
Keith Kostek, Victoria	Randy Radmanovich, Kenilworth
Nurit Reshef, Talmud Torah	Valerie Rodgers, Hardisty
Pete MacKay, Lymburn	Vanessa LeCaine, Hillcrest

Richard Lowe, Mayfield	
Sandra Gluth, Academy at King Edward	

RL:rl