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I had the opportunity to meet with Ken Engelhart, of Rogers Cantel, for a considerable amount of time to discuss the Rogers Cantel Learning Plan related to the 2.5 GHz spectrum license. We discussed the benefits of the plan to the educational community, specifically the Toronto District School Board and more generally to the Ontario area.

We, in the TDSB, could certainly benefit from a wireless, high speed Internet/Intranet service, especially for two of our clients. As our portable classrooms do not and cannot have network cable to the door, the cost being prohibitive, the concept of wireless communication would be received with considerable interest. An even greater need would be served if this service could be provided to our remote sites, the outdoor education centres and the special education classrooms and schools housed in non-TDSB buildings.

I can see the benefits of this wireless network, also, for many of Ontario’s rural areas. With the infrastructure of the cellular network already in place for business and personal use, it would seem only natural to take advantage of it in the educational arena.

I am pleased to see that Rogers Cantel is planning on a long range commitment to their plan. It is especially exciting to see that the partnerships they are suggesting include the development of education strategies, on-line learning material, courseware and the provision of training. Hopefully, educators would play a major role in this work.

Rogers Cantel has also covered all of the educational bodies by offering all of its fixed wireless services, utilizing the 2.5 GHz spectrum, to schools, colleges, universities, libraries and CAP sites.

An opportunity to form a partnership with education and business for the purpose of increasing the learning possibilities of our students has to be considered a positive step forward.

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