Catholic board goes hi-tech with new fibre-optic network

Implementation of the Halton Catholic District School Board's Inew fibre-optic based Wide Area Network (WAN) has begun.

This network will replace the current system with a more reliable, high-bandwidth service. The board's current WAN provides some schools with faster, more reliable service than others because of their proximity to Bell Canada locations. The new network will connect all schools with the same high-speed, reliable service.

"The Halton Catholic District School Board will be one of the first in North America to provide this type of high-speed fibre-optic connection to every school," said Director of Education Fred Sweeney.

Schools that are now not served as well by the current network will be the first to be connected to the new WAN. This is expected to happen by March 1, 2000. All remaining schools should be connected by mid-May, 2000 at the latest.

Wayne Elshof, the board's administrator, computer echnology, said "This network will address many of the problems with the board's cur-

rent network, including providing improved student access to the Internet, public libraries, other schools, etc. as well as the addition of more reliable connections for applications such as e-mail, purchase order entry and IEP processing."

The network will provide opportunities to link board schools to a network that enables students, teachers, support staff and administrators to access information in ways that will change the ways teachers teach, students learn, and schools are managed, he said.

purchase.









