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## **Peterborough region students plug in to super-fast global networks**

PETERBOROUGH – Peterborough area students and teachers will soon have access to the global grid of advanced research and education networks when they return to class next month, as the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB) connects to the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION).

ORION currently connects approximately 960,000 elementary and secondary school students across the province. By connecting, schools can enjoy enhanced quality videoconferencing when participating in the many distance learning programs offered by Canada's leading cultural and educational organizations, such as the Virtual Researcher on Call (VROC) program, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the Canadian Space Agency.

"We are very excited at the prospect of connecting our students to the ORION network," said Sean Heuchert, Manager of Information Technology at Peterborough's Catholic school board. "This resource will put our students at the cutting edge and give them access to learning opportunities never before possible."

With nearly 15,000 students at 38 schools, the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board is the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ontario school board to connect to ORION.

"We welcome PVNCCDSB to ORION and look forward to seeing more students access the rich educational resources available over the network," says Phil Baker, ORION President and CEO. "With each board, we move closer to our goal of providing all of Ontario's K-12 students with access to ORION and the advanced resources and capabilities it enables."

The Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board joins Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, Trent University and Fleming College as the fourth institution in the region to connect to ORION.

### About ORION

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION), a not-for-profit organization, is Ontario's ultra high-speed research and education network. It connects all of Ontario's universities, most colleges, several medical and other public research facilities and a growing number of school boards to one another, as well as to CANARIE, Canada's advanced network organization, and to the global grid of research and education networks. Stretching 5,800 kilometres over 21 communities throughout Ontario, ORION connects over 1.3 million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff to critical infrastructure for research, education and innovation. Learn more at [www.orion.on.ca](http://www.orion.on.ca).

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