



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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MaXess to Bridge the Digital Divide For Chatham-Kent and Lambton County

The Chatham Kent Lambton Administrators Group (CKLAG) has awarded a contract to MaXess Networkx, a subsidiary of EnWin Utilities Ltd., to provide fibre network connectivity. The project will include 165 sites, for the hospitals, school boards, colleges and municipalities within Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent. MaXess was selected as the successful respondent to the Request for Proposal issued, because it achieved the highest aggregate score in the proposal evaluation using the stated selection criteria.

"In addition to connecting all of the 165 locations, we are providing internet and WAN (wide area network) services through "next generation" equipment," said **Phil Partington, Vice-President Telecom** for MaXess Networkx. *"The next generation network allows for Voice Over Internet Protocol as well as video conferencing, which is key when you consider that every school, every hospital, most libraries and municipal offices in the CKLAG area will be on our network."*

"MaXess Networkx has more than sufficient bandwidth to serve the commercial, industrial, municipal, health and education sectors throughout this region, which is a tremendous advantage for South-western Ontario," said **Margaret Nelson, CKLAG Chair**. *"There are so many opportunities for economic growth in this area, particularly now that we can compete with major cities throughout North America for high-speed Internet, voice over internet protocol and video conferencing capabilities. We now have an important gateway to communication with the rest of the world!"*

The project will benefit the local economy through the employment of local contractors for construction of the network, which is scheduled to be completed by January 2007.

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PARTICIPATING CKLAG MEMBERS

CKLAG is a consortium formed by the Chief Executive Officers or Chief Administrative Officers of the public sector organizations (colleges, school boards, hospitals and municipalities) within Lambton, Sarnia and Chatham-Kent: The following are participating in the WAN contract:

Bluewater Health	Lambton Kent District School Board	Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
Lambton College	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	
County of Lambton	Municipality of Chatham -Kent	

ABOUT MAXESS NETWORKX

MaXess Networkx is a fibre-based telecommunication carrier, owned and operated as a division of *ENWIN* Utilities Ltd. MaXess provides competitive services with other carriers, but what sets our service apart is accessibility to the "Last Mile" which provides greater economies of scale for the same services.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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BACKGROUND - CKLAG

The CKLAG consortium was initiated in 1998, following the amalgamation of the Lambton school boards with their counterparts in Chatham-Kent, providing an opportunity to merge the former Lambton Administrators Group (LAG) with the Kent Area Administrators Group (KAAG). Their combined purchasing power is used as a lever to negotiate the best prices, whether that be in consumables, services, benefit packages or banking arrangements.

Current members of CKLAG include:

- Lambton Kent District School Board
- St. Clair Catholic District School Board
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- City of Sarnia
- County of Lambton
- Bluewater Health
- Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
- St. Clair College—Chatham-Kent Campus
- Lambton College
- Sarnia-Lambton/Chatham-Kent Community Care Access Centre

Other not-for-profit, publicly funded associate members include:

- Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society
- Chatham-Kent Integrated Children's Services
- Ridgetown College
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- St. Clair Township.

In its Annual Report for 2004, the Chatham Kent Lambton Administrators Group (CKLAG) outlines collaborative efforts, which have resulted in estimated savings of over \$2.3 million dollars for the taxpayers of Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton. Since its inception in 1998, CKLAG has demonstrated a seven-year savings of over \$12 million dollars, through the sharing of resources and the combined purchasing power to negotiate best prices in consumables, services and banking arrangements.

The savings are the result of several major initiatives undertaken by CKLAG, under the direction of the CEOs and CAOs of the member organizations.

CKLAG's mandate is to improve services within each organization, to share and conserve resources and create efficiencies for the taxpayers of our district.

Margaret Nelson, Chair of CKLAG and Director of Education of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board notes that "CKLAG is a unique partnership which brings ideas and expertise to the table where they can be shared for the benefit of the entire group."