

PARENT ACTIONS

2013 [The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils \(BCCPAC\)](http://www.safeinschool.org/2013/05/new-wifi-resolution-adopted-by-bccpac.html) of 821 Advisory Councils representing over 500,000 parents in British Columbia passed two resolutions.
<http://www.safeinschool.org/2013/05/new-wifi-resolution-adopted-by-bccpac.html>

- Resolution 17 “calls on each Board of Education to have one public school at each education level that is free of Wi-Fi, cordless phones and cell phones. This school will only be equipped with wired computers and wired telephones for personal, educational and administrative purposes.”
- Resolution 18 calls on Boards of Education to “cease to install Wi-Fi and other wireless networks in schools where other networking technology is feasible.” passed with a clear majority.

2015 Alberta Parent Resolutions - To be Voted on in April 2015

Motion

WE Request that Alberta Education provide a copy of the Canadian Teacher's Federation Brief “The Use of Wi-Fi in Schools” (2014) to School Boards advising they implement a prudent approach to the use of Wi-Fi and that a “Best Practices” method be explored to ensure that students are as safe as possible when exposed to Wi-Fi at school.

WE support the ASCA partnering with ASBA and the ATA to organize a Provincial Symposium regarding the safe use of Wi-Fi in Schools.

Rational

Background Information

With electronic devices becoming increasingly important tools in education and social culture, educational stakeholders need to become informed about the potential health risks and to take steps to minimize the danger. In 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a division of the World Health Organization, reclassified the microwave radiation emitted from Wi-Fi and wireless devices as Class 2B “possible” carcinogen, in the same category as lead and DDT. Parents were never informed. Currently, levels of radiation in our classrooms are comparable to standing 100m from a large cell tower. In order to ensure students are as safe as possible at school, Alberta Education should examine a “Best Practices” approach to reduce radiation in schools, based on the key messages outlined in the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) Brief “The Use of Wi-Fi in Schools” (2014).

The CTF recommend the prudent use of Wi-Fi, such as turning off routers when not in use urging that “teachers and school communities have not been informed regarding the implementation of Wi-Fi and any inherent hazards.” School boards rely on Health Canada’s standards to assure the safety of students however the Brief points out that current guidelines do not consider biological effects, which many scientists say puts the health of our students at risk. The American Academy of Pediatrics agrees that there is cause for concern, warning that current

radiation guidelines do not protect vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women and are advocating for updated standards to protect the public.

Surprisingly, the dangers are no longer opinion but part of accepted medical education offered as Continuing Education Credits that Physicians may take as part of licensing. In June, 2012, *Women's College Hospital* in Toronto stated that family doctors must learn to detect symptoms of exposure to radiation from wireless devices--including disrupted sleep, headaches, nausea, dizziness, heart palpitations, memory problems and rashes. In 2014, a Physician call to Health Canada asks them to reduce exposure in schools, and to provide Physicians with resources to recognize health related problems related to microwave radiation exposure.

With the WHO cancer warning in mind, along with the fact that doctors are now treating patients for adverse effects, Teachers' unions in Canada, USA, Germany and the UK, BCCPAC Parent Council, and countries such as France, Germany and Europe have already taken action to minimize exposure to microwave radiation in order to protect the health of their members and citizens. In Canada, MP Terence Young recently introduced Private Members Bill C-648 that would require cancer warnings on cell phones, Ipads and other wireless devices such as home cordless phones and baby monitors.

Rational for a motion passed by Edmonton Catholic Schools calling for a Provincial Symposium to give scholarly consideration to this issue (2014), proposed by Trustee John Acheson states: "because of the growing body of information on the matter that raises questions as to possible health concerns of Radio Frequency Radiation it is deemed to be prudent that the trustees of the province {ASBA}, the teachers {ATA} and the parents councils {ASCA} exercise their due diligence on the matter."

References Retrieved from:

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3. Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST) (www.c4st.org) Declaration: Doctors Call for Protection from Radiofrequency Radiation (2014) Retrieved from: <http://www.c4st.org/images/documents/hc-resolutions/medical-doctors-submission-to-health-canada-english.pdf>
3. Canadian Teacher Magazine "Canadian Teachers' Federation Sounds the Alarm on Wi-Fi" Retrieved from (p.46) http://www.canadianteachermagazine.com/issues/2015/CTM_JanFeb15/index.html
4. Letter to Minister Ambrose Summarizing Public Input re SC6 (2014) Retrieved from: <http://www.c4st.org/MOHSubmission>
5. MP Terence Young's Bill C-648 (2014) Retrieved from: www.c4st.org/PMB
6. Edmonton Catholic Schools Motion Passed. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.c4st.org/news/wifi-in-schools/motion-radio-frequency-electromagnetic-radiation.html>