

## **Press Release**

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### **Alberta Parents Vote Wi-Fi Resolutions Based on Canadian Teachers' Federation Recommendations - Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) AGM April 26**

Parents in Alberta will vote at the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) AGM on April 26, for resolutions based on recommendations from a Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) Brief "The Use of Wi-Fi in Schools"(2014), which call for the prudent use of Wi-Fi and for Alberta Education to examine a "Best Practices" approach. As well, they suggest the ASCA partnering with the Alberta School Board Association and the ATA to organize a Provincial Symposium regarding the safe use of Wi-Fi in Schools, as proposed by a motion passed by Edmonton Catholic Schools (Oct. 2014).

In 2011 Wi-Fi and other wireless technologies, were classified as a class 2B human carcinogen, in the same category as lead, DDT and engine exhaust. Scientist involved with this classification, now share there is new information that the dangers are more harmful than originally thought. Though many people believe there are no studies that demonstrate harm from this type of radiation, there are actually thousands of scientific studies that demonstrate effects. According to data compiled by Henry Lai, approximately 70% of independently funded studies show health effects, and 30% of industry funded studies show health effects. Effects of concern. Studies show that wireless radiation can cause double-stranded DNA breaks, neurological injury, and infertility.

The CTF Brief warns that "Teachers are rightly concerned about their personal safety and that of their students" and call for the prudent use of Wi-Fi such as turning off Wi-Fi when not in use and measures to reduce exposure such as using laptops on carts. Currently, schools use industrial strength Wi-Fi with levels of radiation comparable to standing 100m from a large cell tower. Turning off Wi-Fi when not in use would prevent 1400 of exposure to low level microwave radiation in schools. The BCTF calls for resources to educate the public on how to reduce exposure to microwave radiation emitted from Wi-Fi routers and wireless devices. Currently students are unaware of important safety information in user manuals such as ensuring to keep wireless devices a certain distance from the users body.

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.

Teachers' unions in Canada, USA, Germany and the UK 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. The Alberta Teachers' Association local 37 passed a local resolution to allow teachers to turn off Wi-Fi when not in use, and the BC Confederation Parent Advisory Council, representing 500 000 parents, voted to support similar measures to protect their children. Private Members Bill, C-648 has been introduced into the House of Commons with cross party support and would require health warnings on cell phones and other wireless devices such as Ipad's and baby monitors.

Though Health Canada assures us that Canadian guidelines protect the public, the Department of Interior recently stated "the electromagnetic radiation standards used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to be based on thermal heating, a criterion now nearly 30 years out of date and inapplicable today." The CTF Brief points out that Canadian guidelines, unlike many other countries, do not include biological effects and the American Academy of Pediatrics urges for updated standards to protect children.

With the dangers no longer opinion, but part of accepted medical education and with the World Health Organization cancer warning, we have a responsibility to ensure that we take precautions in order to be proactive with our students' health and their futures. Parents can attend their next school council meeting, or call for an emergency meeting in order to consider voting in support of these resolutions and to make sure that our schools are as safe as possible for our children. School Councils can choose to send a representative to vote on behalf of the school, or individual parents can buy an ASCA membership and vote themselves on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **References**

The 1500 page Bioinitiative Report on RF/MW health effects, published in 2012. The authors, 29 scientists from ten countries, reviewed thousands of studies implicating RF/MW in a wide range of extremely alarming effects including, cancer, genetic damage, immune dysfunction, infertility, and neurological injury. The report can be found at (<http://www.bioinitiative.org/conclusions/>).

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a committee of the World Health Organization, classified RF radiation, including that emitted by Wi-Fi and wireless technology, as a Group 2B carcinogen. ([http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208\\_E.pdf](http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf))

Canadian Teachers' Federation Brief "The Use of Wi-Fi in Schools" <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/wifi-final-2014-ENG.pdf>

MP Terence Young's Bill C-648 [www.c4st.org/PMB](http://www.c4st.org/PMB)

Edmonton Catholic Schools Motion Passed <http://www.c4st.org/news/wifi-in-schools/motion-radio-frequency-electromagnetic-radiation.html>

Physicians Call to Health Canada <http://www.c4st.org/images/documents/hc-resolutions/medical-doctors-submission-to-health-canada-english.pdf>

Ontario Womens College Hospital [www.womenscollegehospital.ca/news-and-events/connect/the-effects-of-invisible-waves](http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/news-and-events/connect/the-effects-of-invisible-waves)