

Wireless Technology Safety in Alberta Public Schools – Fact Sheet

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a division of the World Health Organization (WHO), (*Press Release 2011* http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf) classified the microwave radiation from wireless devices as a Class 2B “possible” human carcinogen in the same category as lead, DDT and diesel exhaust, and advised “it is pragmatic to take measures to reduce exposure”

Members from the International Agency for Research on Cancer panel involved with the previous WHO classification now share that new research (*Pathophysiology, 2013*, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23664410>) highlight the fact that the dangers are greater than originally thought, and that a higher risk classification 2A “probable” human carcinogen category is warranted (*Dr. Anthony Miller, 2013* <http://www.c4st.org/dr-anthony-miller?highlight=WyJhbnRob255liwibWlsbGVyYXliYXV5OaG9ueSBtaWxsZXliXQ==>)

The dangers of Wi-Fi and wireless technologies are now a part of accepted Medical Education offered as Continuing Education (CE) credits Physicians may take as part of licensing (*Integrative Health Forum, 2014* http://www.ihfglobal.com/emf_education.html) and hospitals are treating patients from adverse effects (*Ontario Women’s College Hospital, 2014* <http://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/programs-and-services/environmental-health-clinic/>)

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Health, a body appointed to oversee Health Canada, examined the potential health effects of wireless technologies (“*An Examination of the Potential Health Impacts of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation*”, 2010, p.11, <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/403/HESA/Reports/RP4834477/hesarp10/hesarp10-e.pdf>), and acknowledged that some studies reported negative health effects and recommended a “comprehensive risk awareness program” and the “provision of information promoting the safe use of wireless technologies”

The Canadian Teachers’ Federation (*The Use of Wi-Fi in Schools*, 2014, <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/wifi-final-2014-ENG.pdf>) warned that Health Canada’s current guidelines on microwave radiation (Safety Code 6), do not include biological effects, and recommended on/off switches along with resources for the public regarding strategies to reduce exposure;

Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST) www.c4st.org, led by former President of Microsoft Canada, have expressed alarm that Safety Code 6 (SC6), has not kept up with the science and does not provide Canadians adequate protection (*C4ST Letter To Minister Ambrose Summarizing Public Input Re:SC6*, 2014, <http://www.c4st.org/MOHSubmission>)

A recent Physicians Call to Health Canada urges them to update their outdated 40 year old standards on microwave radiation, to reduce exposure in schools, and to provide Physicians with resources to recognize health related problems related to microwave radiation exposure (*Declaration: Doctors Call for Protection from Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure, 2014*,

<http://www.c4st.org/images/documents/hc-resolutions/medical-doctors-submission-to-health-canada-english.pdf>);

The Bioinitiative Working Group 2012, prepared by 29 authors from 10 countries, published 1800 new studies which demonstrated serious multigenerational health effects such as DNA damage, genetic and neurological effects, childhood cancers, breast cancer, Alzheimer's, fetal effects, autism among others, and recommended "wireless laptops and other wireless devices should be strongly discouraged in schools for children of all areas" (*Bioinitiative Report, 2012*, <http://www.bioinitiative.org/conclusions/>);

Over 1000 peer reviewed studies document serious adverse effects from RF exposure below current Canadian guidelines (*Parent for Safe Schools, Collection on Studies, Videos and News Releases, 2013*, <http://parentsforasafeschool.blogspot.ca/2014/01/2013-collection-of-studies-videos-and.html>, *Citizens for Safe Technology, Electrosmog Bibliography Collections, 2014*, <http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/Electrosmog-Bibliography-COLLECTIONS,28,3376>)

A growing number of governments and organizations (*Cell Phone Task Force, 2015, Governments and Organizations that Ban or Warn against Wireless Technologies* http://www.cellphonetaskforce.org/?page_id=128), Teachers' Unions (*Safe in Schools, 2014, Teacher's Unions in UK, Germany, UK, USA, and Canada Who Have Done Their Homework Do Not Support the Use of Wi-Fi in Schools* <http://www.safeinschool.org/2013/03/why-teachers-unions-dont-support-wifi.html>), Schools and Organizations (*Wi-Fi in Schools, 2015, A List of Schools and Organizations That Have Taken Action Regarding Wireless Technology* http://wifiinschools.com/uploads/3/0/4/2/3042232/schools_and_organizations_wifi.pdf), around the world are taking action to ban and remove Wi-Fi and wireless devices due to the growing body of evidence that calls for precaution

The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC), representing 500 000 parents across BC, due to health concerns, <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/> has passed resolutions calling on boards of education to:

- Stop installing Wi-Fi and other wireless networks in schools where other networking technology is feasible
- Have one school at each education level (elementary, middle and secondary) free of Wi-Fi, cordless phones and cell phones to give parents options. Those schools would only be equipped with wired computers and wired telephones for personal, educational and administrative use
- Ensure wireless routers have on-off switches, develop protocol to ensure they are turned on only when needed, and ensure schools follow safety instructions in the user manual of iPads

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Health Complimentary NDP Report (*"An Examination of the Potential Health Impacts of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation"*, 2010, p.23, <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/403/HESA/Reports/RP4834477/hesarp10/hesarp10-e.pdf>), shared "Concerned parents who fear their children are being exposed in classrooms to a dangerous technology, when less-contentious options exist that can deliver the same benefit, must have public options available to them";

Electrohypersensitivity (EHS) is recognized as a disability according to the Canadian Human Right Commission (*The Medical Perspective on Environmental Sensitivities*, 2007, http://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/envsensitivity_en_1.pdf), *Policy on Environmental Sensitivities*, 2007, <http://www.aseg-ehaq-en.ca/policy-doc.html%20>), and students are entitled to have their medical needs accommodated at school

Anything that might negatively affect student health and safety is a priority for school boards in Alberta (Dr. Mallery-Blythe-Electromagnetic Radiation, Health and Children, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNFdZVeXw7M>, On Our Watch, 2014, <http://www.spin37.com/admin/ul/On%20Our%20Watch%20-%20Kliparchuk%20%28final%20new%29.pdf> Our Children, Our Future, Our Responsibility, 2014, <http://c4st.org/news/item/educate-yourself/our-children-our-future-our-responsibility.html> ;