Dear Chairman and Members of the Board of Health:

Please find attached the latest scientific study linking damage to sperm and DNA from a wireless laptop.  This peer-reviewed, November 2011 study is contained in the official journal of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, "Fertility and Sterility", which is well-known and highly reputed.  ( <http://www.fertstert.org/article/S0015-0282(11)02678-1/abstract> ; full study attached)

It is one of the first studies to specifically target wireless laptop usage.  However, it is just the latest to be added to the list of thousands collectively done over the years on the effects of radio frequency electromagnetic radiation (rf-emr), or microwave radiation, and which suggest or conclude such exposure causes various harmful health effects.

In addition, below is a list of governments and organizations advocating at minimum, for the precautionary use of wireless technology, or an outright ban.  As you may be aware, wireless technology in the form of Wi-Fi, cordless DECT phones, baby monitors, cell phones and 'smart' meters emit microwave/rf-emf radiation.  The May 31, 2011 decision of the WHO/IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer), classified all forms of rf-emf radiation as a Class 2B - Possible Carcinogen.  It was not specifically limited to cell phones.

**GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT BAN OR WARN AGAINST WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY** \*

**1993: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** The FCC’s exposure standards are “seriously flawed.”  Official comments to the FCC on guidelines for evaluation of electromagnetic effects of radio frequency radiation, FCC Docket ET 93-62, November 9, 1993.

**1993: Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** “FCC rules do not address the issue of long-term, chronic exposure to RF fields.” Comments of the FDA to the FCC, November 10, 1993.

**1993: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH):** The FCC’s standard is inadequate because it “is based on only one dominant mechanism—adverse health effects caused by body heating.”  Comments of NIOSH to the FCC, January 11, 1994.

**1994: Amateur Radio Relay League Bio-Effects Committee:** “The FCC’s standard does not protect against non-thermal effects.” Comments of the ARRL Bio-Effects Committee to the FCC, January 7, 1994.

**2000: UK Department of Education:** Children under 16 should not use cell phones except in an emergency.  <http://www.cellular.co.za/news_2000/news-08052000_uk_schools_warned_over_radiation.htm>

**2002: Interdisciplinary Society for Environmental Medicine** (3000 physicians in Germany) recommends banning cell phone use by children and banning cell phones and cordless phones in preschools, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, events halls, public buildings and vehicles.  <http://www.powerwatch.org.uk/pdfs/20021019_englisch.pdf>

**2003: American Bird Conservancy and Forest Conservation Council:**Brought a lawsuit against the FCC because millions of migratory birds were being disoriented by microwave radiation and crashing into cell towers.  <http://www.ewire.com/display.cfm/Wire_ID/1498>

**2004: International Association of Fire Fighters** opposes communication antennas on fire stations.  <http://www.iaff.org/HS/Facts/CellTowerFinal.asp>

**2005: Salzburg, Austria’s Public Health Department** bans WLAN and DECT phones in public schools. <http://www.safeinschool.org/2011/01/wi-fi-is-removed-from-schools-and.html>

**August 2005: Austrian Medical Association:** Warns against Wi-Fi, cordless phones, and cell phone use by children.  <http://www.thepeoplesinitiative.org/Wifi_and_Schools.html>

**August 2005: Vienna Medical Association** warns against Wi-Fi, and cell phone use by children up to age 16.  <http://www.mastsanity.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=2&Itemid=64>

**2006: Frankfurt, Germany’s government** states it will not install WiFi in its schools until it has been shown to be harmless.  <http://www.icems.eu/docs/deutscher_bundestag.pdf>

**2006: UK schools** remove their wireless networks: Prebandal Preparatory School, Chichester, West Sussex; Ysgol Pantycelyn School in Carmarthenshirem, Wales; and Stowe School, in Buckinghamshire, England. London Times, November 20, 2006.  <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/article642575.ece>

**2007: Ballinderry Primary School, Ireland:** Removed Wi-Fi to protect young children.  <http://www.safeinschool.org/2011/01/wi-fi-is-removed-from-schools-and.html>

**2007 Bavaria, Germany’s Parliament** recommends against Wi-Fi in schools.  <http://www.icems.eu/docs/deutscher_bundestag.pdf>

**2007 Australian Democrats:** The “explosion in wireless communications technology” is causing widespread illness.  <http://www.democrats.org.au/docs/2007/Joining_the_Dots_ExecSummary.pdf>

**2007: European Environmental Agency**, Europe’s top environmental watchdog, calls for immediate action to reduce exposure to radiation from Wi-Fi, mobile phones and their masts.  <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10463870>

**2008: International Commission on Electromagnetic Safety**(comprised of scientists from 16 nations): Recommends limiting cell phone use by children, teenagers, pregnant women and the elderly.  <http://www.icems.eu/resolution.htm>

**2007: Therold, Ontario** closes down its citywide Wi-Fi pilot scheme.  <http://www.glastonburynaturalhealth.co.uk/WhyWi-Fi.html>

**2008: Madhya Pradesh, India:** Bans cell phones in schools by both students and teachers.  <http://www.indiaedunews.net/Madhya_Pradesh/Teachers,students_unhappy_with_mobile_phone_ban_in_schools_5241/>

**2008: National Library of France:** Removes Wi-Fi because of health concerns and limits installation to cable connections.

<http://www.next-up.org/pdf/FranceNationalLibraryGivesUpWiFi07042008.pdf>

**2008: Paris, France** removes Wi-Fi from four public libraries because of health concerns.  <http://www.accessmylibrary.com/coms2/summary_0286-35451555_ITM>

**2008 Sainte-Geneviève University, Paris:** Removes Wi-Fi from its library because of health concerns.  <http://www.next-up.org/pdf/AnalysisWiFiHotSpotsDeactivationSainteGenevieveLibraryParis24052008.pdf>

**2008: Progressive Librarians Guild** recommends against wireless technology in libraries.  <http://libr.org/plg/wifiresolution.php>

**2008: Russian National Committee for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection** warns that cell phones are unsafe even for short conversations. Children under 16, pregnant women, epileptics, and people with memory loss, sleep disorders and neurological diseases should never use cell phones.  <http://www.radiationresearch.org/pdfs/rncnirp_children.pdf>

**2008 Sebastopol, California:** Reneges on its contract to install citywide Wi-Fi.  <http://www.boingboing.net/2008/03/24/town-of-sebastopol-c.html>

**2008: University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute:** Children should never use a cell phone except in an emergency.  <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08205/898803-114.stm>

**2008: Voice (UK Teachers Union)** calls for a ban on Wi-Fi in schools.  <http://www.voicetheunion.org.uk/index.cfm/page/_sections.content.cfm/cid/1326/navid/434/parentid/330>

**2009: Hérouville Saint-Clair, France:** Bans Wi-Fi in public schools.  <http://www.wifiinschools.org.uk/4.html>

**2009: Irish Doctors Environmental Association:** Warns that current safety guidelines are “not appropriate.” <http://www.ideaireland.org/>

**2009: Karnataka State, India:** Bans cell phones in all schools and pre-university colleges.  <http://www.hindu.com/2009/09/14/stories/2009091454460500.htm>

**May 2009: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** urges Congress to focus on the potential connection between electromagnetic fields and “Bee Colony Collapse”.  <http://electromagnetichealth.org/electromagnetic-health-blog/emf-and-warnke-report-on-bees-birds-and-mankind/>

**December, 2010: French Parliament** passes a law prohibiting advertising cell phones to children under 14; prohibits children up to age 14 from using cell phones in pre-schools and public schools; requires cell phones to be labeled with SAR values and a recommendation to use headsets.  <http://www.enviroblog.org/2010/12/french-cell-phone-radiation-disclosure-at-point-of-sale.html>

**May 27, 2011: Council of Europe** passes a resolution recommending wired Internet connections in schools, and the creation of radiation-free zones to protect electrosensitive people.  <http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta11/eRES1815.htm>.

**August 30, 2011: The Israeli Ministry of Education** publishes guidelines strictly limiting the use of mobile phones on all school grounds, citing children’s and youths’ increased risk of malignant tumors and the “passive exposure” experienced by children who do not use phones.  <http://norad4u.blogspot.com/2011/09/israeli-ministry-of-education-is-going.html>

**September 8, 2011: Pretty River Academy in Collingwood, Ontario**removes WiFi from campus as a precaution, joining Roots and Wings Montessori school in Surrey, British Columbia.  <http://www.safeschool.ca/uploads/CTV_School_cuts_WiFi.pdf>;<http://www.safeschool.ca/School_Bans_WiFi.html>

**DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS CALLING FOR STRICTER REGULATION AND/OR A MORATORIUM ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY**

**Vienna Resolution 1998**(any of the following can be googled)

**Salzburg Resolution 2000**

**Declaration of Alcalá 2002**

**Catania Resolution 2002**

**Freiburger Appeal 2002**

**Bamberger Appeal 2004**

**Coburger Appeal 2005**

**Oberammergauer Appeal 2005**

**Haibacher Appeal 2005**

**Pfarrkirchener Appeal 2005**

**Freienbacher Appeal 2005**

**Lichtenfelser Appeal 2005**

**Hofer Appeal 2005**

**Helsinki Appeal 2005**

**Parish Kirchner Appeal 2005**

**Saarlander Appeal 2005**

**Stockacher Appeal 2005**

**Benevento Resolution 2006**

**Allgäuer Appeal 2006**

**WiMax Appeal 2006**

**Schlüchterner appeal**

**Brussels Appeal 2007**

**Venice Resolution 2008**

**Berlin Appeal 2008**

**Paris Appeal 2009**

**London Resolution 2009**

**Porto Alegre Resolution 2009**

**European Parliament**

**EMF Resolution 2009**

**Dutch Appeal 2009**

**Int’l Appeal of Würzburg 2010**

**Copenhagen Resolution 2010**

**Seletun Consensus Statement 2010**

It is clear that the world-wide message urging caution against the unrestrained use of wireless technology is growing stronger.  On the other hand, it is also clear that the wireless technology 'train' has started rolling down the tracks of our schools and our cities, and will continue to do so at our possible peril, unless we apply the brakes.  (Case in point:  our local School Board's relentless push to implement wireless in schools despite all of the above, and despite long-standing public opposition to its unnecessary use).

At this critical juncture, it is imperative that leadership measures be taken now, regardless of the outdated, minimal safety standards of Health Canada, which are based solely on the thermal effects of microwave radiation.  It behooves us as adults and you as our trusted health representatives, to prioritize the health and well-being of our children, first and foremost, as well as that of all citizens.

**The Kawartha Safe Technology Initiative respectfully requests the Board of Health** to adopt the 'precautionary principle' with respect to the use of wireless technology, and to provide sage and timely advice to the community in the following ways:

1.  Advise School Boards to continue with hard-wired internet connections in all schools, and desist from the use of wireless technology, until such time as radio-frequency electromagnetic radiation has been reclassified by the World Health Organization and IARC as "Class 4 - Probably not Carcinogenic", to safeguard the health of our students and teachers.

2.  Advise the general public through an education campaign about the precautionary use of wireless devices to minimize microwave radiation exposure; for instance, beginning by issuing a public precaution that wireless laptops not be placed on laps during operation.

3.  Advise the City and County of Peterborough member municipalities, school boards and hospitals to adopt a precautionary approach with respect to the use of wireless technology, and reconsider its use in the context of all public places.

We hope you will prioritize and act on this issue with urgency.

Sincerely,