

School Board trustee candidates in Ontario



Via email

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Oct. 14, 2014

Dear school board trustee candidate:

My name is Frank Clegg and I am the CEO of C4ST, Canadians for Safe Technology. Throughout my career as President of Microsoft Canada I was responsible for several initiatives involving child safety, as I witnessed the internet evolve more deeply into the daily lives of families and educational institutions.

I championed awareness for parental controls over the internet so that parents, teachers and school boards could censor materials deemed inappropriate for specific age groups.

I also propagated software designed for Canadian law enforcement to track and catch child predators online before they lured vulnerable children out of their homes.

Today I am appealing to our school Trustees to protect our children from a much more widespread danger, the hazards from wireless radiation as Wi-Fi evolves as the preferred way to connect to the internet in schools. Wireless internet connections are one of the most convenient technological developments designed by my colleagues in the IT industry. What they haven't told you is that the world's leading scientists and medical doctors now say that it is harming our children.

As someone seeking a position of trust to oversee your School Board, we are asking you to take a second look at internet connectivity, and consider re-opening the discussion focusing on child safety and implement the 4 point plan outlined in the [Appendix](#).

As parents, we appreciate and respect your commitment to improve our education system by offering your time, knowledge and energy as a school board trustee. C4ST supports the use of technology in our children's schools and agree there is tremendous value in providing access to the internet. We feel this can be accomplished more safely without causing unnecessary harm to our children.

Since the safer alternative is to connect to the internet with wires, it is difficult to imagine that a candidate for school trustee would not want to re-open this discussion for renewed debate. Here are some recent, significant discoveries and scientific determinations that we feel justify re-opening the Wi-Fi discussion.

- 1) In May 2011 the World Health Organization determined that wireless radiation from Wi-Fi and other sources is a possible human carcinogen and placed it on the Class 2B list with lead, DDT and Chloroform. Several of the scientists involved have since written that it should now be elevated to 2A, "probable carcinogen" on the list with PCBs, mustard gas, and ultra-violet radiation. [See 2A argument here](#).

- 2) In Oct. 2011 a peer-reviewed study published in the respected American medical journal (American Society for Reproductive Medicine, "Fertility and Sterility") concludes that the use of laptops with Wi-Fi causes decreased sperm motility and increased sperm DNA fragmentation. [See study here.](#)
- 3) In April 2013 the American Academy of Environmental Medicine wrote to Ontario school boards warning that installing a blanket Wi-Fi system will "create a public health disaster that the medical system is not yet prepared to address." and "Statistics show that you can expect to see an immediate reaction in 3% and delayed effects in 30%, including teachers." [See Peel District School Board letter here.](#)
- 4) In July 2014 over 40 Canadian doctors appealed to Health Canada to lower the "safe limits" for microwave exposure from Wi-Fi and other common wireless devices, especially in children. [Appeal](#)
- 5) In September 2014 Women's College Hospital's Environmental Health Clinic helped to organize a medical symposium in Toronto to teach Ontario's medical doctors about the symptoms caused by Wi-Fi and cell phone exposure. <http://www.c4st.org/MDSymposium>

In recent years several independent schools have removed Wi-Fi for the health of their students and teachers. Large teachers' organizations such as ETFO, OECTA and the Canadian Teacher's Federation have taken strong positions against Wi-Fi in the classroom in order to protect the health of their teachers. [CTF submission](#)

According to the world's leading scientists, the Wi-Fi in your Board's classrooms is probably going to cause cancer, symptoms of ADHD, and heart irregularities. This science is accepted at the highest level of peer reviewed publication, but has not yet filtered down into public policy in our country. Instead of waiting for a federal bureaucratic agency to tell your Board that you're harming the children in your school system, we are asking you to recognize today that this is very possible, and move toward caution on behalf of our children.

We are suggesting simple changes such as visibly posting the same warning labels that the Wi-Fi, cell phone and tablet manufacturers print in their own manuals, allowing teachers a classroom "off switch" for when they are not using the internet, and educating teachers and students about how to mindfully use internet technology safely.

If you agree, we will identify your name on our website to assist in your election campaign and send notification of our support to our list of over 10,000 members. As this is a campaign throughout Ontario, we hope to generate media coverage and promote your campaign for office.

If you would like to discuss this further and/or agree to be added to our list of trustees who are committed to re-open the Wi-Fi decision, please send me an email directly to frank@c4st.org. We hope you will accept our offer to work together to provide a safer environment for our teachers and students. I am looking forward to your response which we will post on our webpage <http://www.c4st.org/TrusteesThatCare>

Sincerely,

Frank Clegg



CEO, Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST)
frank@c4st.org

Appendix

In asking you to reconsider the Wi-Fi decision, we request you implement the following 4 actions:

1. Allow teachers to turn the Wi-Fi router off in their classroom when access to the internet is not required
2. Create an education and safety program for students and teachers on how to use this technology more safely.
3. Post the warnings contained in the product information of the Wi-Fi devices your Board has installed, cell phones and tablets used, as written by the manufacturers of the devices, so that your students and teachers are aware that the manufacturers do not deem the products to be safe in all situations.
4. In your decision to deploy Wi-Fi in your schools, you are relying on Health Canada's Safety Code 6. Invest the time to understand the significant flaws in the process Health Canada uses in its update of SC6. Here is the letter written to Health Canada Minister Ambrose outlining concerns with the process used to update Safety Code 6 including 140 studies ignored by Health Canada. <http://www.c4st.org/MOHSubmission>

On Sept. 18, 2014, The Integrated Disability Management Committee of the Los Angeles Unified School District approved the request of one of its teachers to have the Wi-Fi turned off in her classroom during the 2014-2015 school year. LAUSD is the 2nd largest school district in the US and one of the first to implement Wi-Fi in its schools.

Two other relevant scientific papers:

Why children absorb more microwave radiation than adults: The consequences. L. Lloyd Morgan, Santosh Kesari, Devra Lee Davis. **Journal of Microscopy and Ultrastructure**. DOI: 10.1016/j.jmau.2014.06.005. In press. Published online Jul 15, 2014.

Children absorb more microwave radiation (MWR) than adults because their brain tissues are more absorbent, their skulls are thinner and their relative size is smaller. A case study has shown when cell phones are placed in teenage girls' bras multiple primary breast cancer develop beneath where the phones are placed. MWR exposure limits have remained unchanged for 19 years and do not specifically protect children. All manufacturers of smartphones have warnings which describe the minimum distance at which phone must be kept away from users in order to not exceed the present legal limits for exposure to MWR. Belgium, France and India are passing laws and/or issuing warnings about children's use of wireless devices.

<http://c4st.org/news/medical-research/why-children-absorb-more-microwave-radiation-than-adults-the-consequences.html?highlight=Wyjtb3JnYW4iXQ>

Exposure limits: the underestimation of absorbed cell phone radiation, especially in children. Gandhi OP, Morgan LL, de Salles AA, Han YY, Herberman RB, Davis DL. **Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine**. 2012 Mar;31(1):34-51. doi: 10.3109/15368378.2011.622827. Epub 2011 Oct 14

"When electrical properties are considered, a child's head's absorption can be over two times greater, and absorption of the skull's bone marrow can be ten times greater than adults." Children are not "little adults".

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21999884>