

30 November 2015

Dear Manitoba School Superintendent,

Subject:

- 1) Recommendation to School Trustees to investigate "Best Practices" for prudent use of Wi-Fi in schools.
- 2) "Wi-Fi in Schools - A Health and Safety Issue" Report (attached).

Please recommend to the School Trustees in your division that a committee be tasked with investigating the "Best Practices" used by other schools, for prudent use of Wi-Fi in your School Division.

Over 20 countries have taken precautionary approaches to wireless radiation in the environment, with many recommending precautionary measures for Wi-Fi in schools.

- France has legislated no Wi-Fi in daycares/nursery schools and Wi-Fi off in elementary classrooms except when being used for teaching/learning purposes.
- The Italian State Parliament of Tyrol has mandated the state government to replace existing wireless networks in schools and preschools whenever possible with safer alternatives.
- The Israeli government advises that wired computers are preferred, that overall Wi-Fi exposure be reduced for children in schools and has banned Wi-Fi in Kindergarten. The Israeli Minister of Health report states, "Precautions should be strictly enforced with regard to children, who are more sensitive to developing cancer."

These important measures are based on scientific evidence and the Precautionary Principle. The evidence has strengthened since the 2011 classification of wireless radiation, including Wi-Fi, by the **World Health Organization - International Agency for Research on Cancer** as a "Class 2B *possible* human carcinogen" (alongside engine exhaust, DDT and lead). Dr. Lennart Hardell, cancer epidemiologist whose work on brain cancer contributed to the determination of that classification, states clearly that wireless radiation now should be classified as a "Class 1 *known* human carcinogen". Also noteworthy is that over 40 Canadian MDs have written to Canada's Minister of Health asking for more protective wireless radiation guidelines. The growing scientific literature is indicating that this could be a public health catastrophe which will join the list of other public health issues that health authorities were slow to move on: asbestos, cigarette smoking, thalidomide, urea formaldehyde insulation, to name a few.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, after hearings on Health Canada's guidelines on wireless radiation (which your School Division likely uses as a "default"), recommended in its final report (June 2015) that "the Government of Canada develop an awareness campaign relating to the safe use of ... Wi-Fi in ... school." The Committee also heard from witnesses about the many studies, at Wi-Fi and other frequencies,

demonstrating adverse health effects at levels below Health Canada's safety guidelines. Fifty of those studies are detailed in my report "**Wi-Fi in Canadian Schools - A Health and Safety Issue**" (attached). Among them, eleven document DNA damage and ten provide evidence of adverse effects on behaviour and learning.

School boards need not wait for federal regulators to act. Use of the latest electronic tools for 21st Century learning can be achieved by using wired technologies. Two simple, no cost common sense measures that can be taken immediately are to turn Wi-Fi off when not needed and to turn down Wi-Fi routers so they are emitting as little as possible when in use. Other measures are outlined on page 6 of my report.

Please ensure that this request is added to the next School Board agenda meeting - or at the least that it is forwarded to School Trustees as correspondence. I would be pleased to meet with you and School Trustees to provide further information, and to provide assistance (*pro bono*) so that those responsible can make fully informed decisions about our children's health and their exposure to Wi-Fi in schools.

Please acknowledge receipt of my email and if, and how, School Trustees will be taking action in schools on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Margaret Friesen M.Sc.

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On a side note - As you may know, secondary insurers (reinsurers) such as Lloyd's and Swiss Re refuse to insure against adverse health effects caused by wireless radiation devices. Parent groups in B.C. and in Ontario are investigating the legal liability of school boards on this matter. I can forward that information when the report is completed.

From: **Wi-Fi in Canadian Schools - A Health and Safety Issue (attached)**.

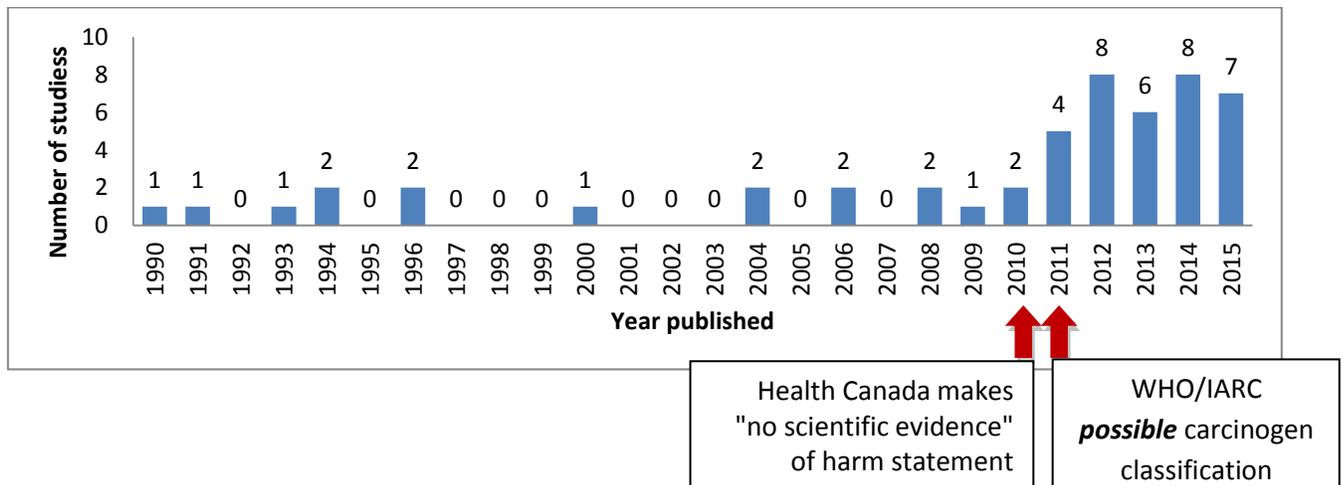


Figure 1. Number of Wi-Fi exposure studies published annually from 1990 to the end of September 2015 showing potentially harmful biological effects of Wi-Fi exposure at levels at or below Safety Code 6. Health Canada's Wi-Fi related statement in the Global News program was made in October, 2010. The World Health Organization-International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO-IARC) Class 2B *possible* human carcinogen classification for radiofrequency/microwave radiation (radiofrequency electromagnetic fields) was announced in May 2011.