



C4ST's Reply to WRDSB "Response to Commonly Asked Questions"

WRDSB: Is wireless technology safe?

C4ST: No. Parents, teachers, and students have not been adequately informed that Wi-Fi and all radiofrequency radiation has been on the World Health Organization's Class 2b List of Possible Carcinogens for more than two years (since May 2011). Lead and DDT are also included on this list.

WRDSB: Is the Wi-Fi Technology being used in Waterloo Region District School Board Schools the same as what is being used in most homes today?

C4ST: No. Blanket Wi-Fi systems in other school districts such as Simcoe County have been measured to exceed Health Canada's safety limits for human exposure to microwave radiation. This may be because the school systems are designed to operate hundreds of computers simultaneously, unlike home based consumer systems which only operate a handful of computers. Once many computers are tuned on, the microwave radiation becomes unbearable for some. This may be the reason why school children have been so severely affected in other Boards. It is scientifically accepted that children are more vulnerable to the biological effects of microwave exposure than adults.

WRDSB: What is Safety Code 6?

C4ST: Safety Code 6 is Canada's limit for 'safe' cumulative exposure from all sources of RF emitting devices. Health Canada has not updated its' guideline since the 1979. It is based on tests performed on a 220 lb. mannequin with six minutes exposure. China, Russia, Italy and Switzerland have safety limits 100 times lower than Canada's. Some schools and libraries in France and Switzerland are removing Wi-Fi due to the harmful health effects. Our guideline, Safety Code 6, is currently being reviewed by a panel that is significantly conflicted through its connections to the wireless industry, in C4ST's view.

WRDSB: Hasn't the World Health Organization recently raised concerns regarding the use of wireless technology?

C4ST: Yes. **Wi-Fi is 100%** part of the WHO possible cancer warning list. In May, 2011 the World Health Organization classified radiofrequency radiation as "Class 2B possibly carcinogenic". This was confirmed by the Chair of the International Agency for Research on Cancer Dr. Jonathon Samet, who made the recommendation.

To understand the level of caution required, it is important to note that the Class 2b List identifies emerging hazards that are not yet fully understood. For example the Class 2b List of possible carcinogens also includes Lead, DDT and car exhaust. These are potentially harmful substances and agents that we now limit in the presence of children which is one of the purposes of the Class 2b List.



This fact was further re-confirmed by Dr. Robert Baan, a member of the IARC committee. Dr. Baan has stated that the “Possibly Carcinogenic” classification is not limited to cell phone radiation. In fact, says Dr. Baan, it “**holds for all types of radiation** within the radiofrequency part of the electromagnetic spectrum, **including** the radiation emitted by base-station antennas, radio/TV towers, radar, **Wi-Fi**, smart meters, etc.”

WRDSB: Is it possible to have a Wi-Fi free area in a school?

C4ST: Yes. Similar to accommodating allergies in school, it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure the safety of students and teachers. The policy to deny accommodation to children affected by microwave radiation contravenes the human rights of children in Canada. The WDSB policies and actions could be viewed as being negligent with respect to the health risks of its students. Electro sensitivity exists. Based on the American Academy of Environmental Medicine’s prediction as many as 3,000 students in WDSB region may show an immediate reaction to Wi-Fi technology. Furthermore, it is not reasonable to deny the existence of the World Health Organization classification of Wi-Fi as possibly carcinogenic. Moreover, it is misleading to refer to a 2006 WHO document to refute the 2011 Class 2b classification. It is unfair to pretend there is no risk when the highest authority in the world reports there is a risk.

Health Canada: In October, 2011, Health Canada issued a cell phone use warning for children under 18 years of age. “Health Canada “encourages parents to reduce children's RF (radiofrequency radiation) exposure from cell phones since children are typically more sensitive to a variety of environmental agents.” Wi-Fi is the same type of radiation as cell phones.

C4ST supports the use of technology in the classroom and applauds the creative use of digital resources, safely. The use of technology and access to the internet does not require the constant bombardment of children to microwave radiation.

Hard wired cables are the safe option for internet access