

# Wi-Fi Warnings: Schools and Organizations in Canada and around the Globe

## Canada

2013 Winlaw parents win lobby for no Wi-Fi in school: [http://www.safeschool.ca/uploads/Nelson\\_Star\\_-\\_Winlaw\\_parents\\_win\\_lobby\\_for\\_no\\_wifi.pdf](http://www.safeschool.ca/uploads/Nelson_Star_-_Winlaw_parents_win_lobby_for_no_wifi.pdf)

Active situations: BC, Central Okanagan School District; ON, Peel District School Board; ON, Simcoe County District School Board; ON, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board; ON, Waterloo Region District School Board: <http://www.c4st.org/school-wifi-situations>

Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association (45,000 teachers) wants all computers in the classroom to be hardwired: [http://www.safeschool.ca/Union\\_Warns\\_Against\\_WiFi.html](http://www.safeschool.ca/Union_Warns_Against_WiFi.html)

Canadian Teachers' Federation Brief on Wi-Fi exposure in Canadian classrooms: <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/BriefToExpertpanel.pdf> SEE ALSO <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Documents/Handbook/CTF-HANDBOOK-2013-2014-Action-Resolutions.pdf>

2013: Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, representing 76,000 teachers, recommends that cell phones be turned off in classrooms, and that all Wi-Fi transmitters be labeled as part of a hazard control program. <http://annualmeeting.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Session-71.pdf>

2013 BC Teachers Federation recognizes Wi-Fi as a possible cancer risk: <http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org/RESOLUTION-PASSED-AT-BCTF-Annual-General-Meeting,2,3018> SEE ALSO "Exposing children in the elementary schoolroom will add to both the amount of electromagnetic radiation exposure and the accumulated length of exposure over their lifetime that they will be exposed. No one can argue that the children of today's generation will be exposed to far greater amounts of electromagnetic radiation and will be exposed to it for a much longer period of time than any generation before. We simply don't know the consequences of this increased and cumulative exposure. And it's an experiment that we shouldn't place our children in. Why set up these networks without understanding any of the long-term consequences? Did we not learn a lesson from the tobacco and asbestos industries?": <http://www.bctf.ca/publications/NewsMagArticle.aspx?id=28160>

2012 BCCPAC- Parents Demand Choice and Precaution: <http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/BCCPAC--Parents-Demand-Choice-and-Precaution,2,2199>

2012 Dr. Magda Havas, Trent University, Canada: Open Letter to Schools: <http://www.magdahavas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Wi-Fi-Open-Letter2012.pdf> SEE ALSO [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v75sKAUFdc&list=FLI\\_8xq3QcBT\\_rnb4665kpsNA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v75sKAUFdc&list=FLI_8xq3QcBT_rnb4665kpsNA)

2011 Aurora School in Ontario, Canada removed Wi-Fi and replaced with hardwired connections to protect children's health.

2011 North Cariboo Christian School in Quesnel, B.C., Canada, removed Wi-Fi and replaced with hardwired connections to protect children's health.

2011 Saanich School District on Victoria Island, BC, Canada has passed the use of technology policy at their board meeting, which included: a. There will be no Wi-Fi in elementary schools. b. In middle and

secondary schools, managed Wi-Fi environments may be in adult workplaces including staff rooms and offices as necessary. c. Middle schools will have up to 25% coverage of student areas...

2011 Peterborough, ON, Canada. Wayside Academy removes Wi-Fi. 2011 Collingwood, ON Canada. Pretty River Academy removes Wi-Fi.

2010 Meaford, Ontario, Canada St. Vincent Euphrasia elementary school: Parents voted to turn off Wi-Fi.

2010 Surrey, BC, Canada Roots and Wings Montessori Place removed Wi-Fi Letter written by Kristin Cassie, the Principal

2010 Dr. Brian A. Kuzik, Royal Victoria Hospital of Barrie, Assistant Professor of Paediatrics (Queen's University, University of Toronto): [http://www.safeschool.ca/Doctor\\_Urges\\_Caution.html](http://www.safeschool.ca/Doctor_Urges_Caution.html)

## **International**

2014 Open letter by British medical doctors: Health and safety of Wi-Fi and mobile phones: <http://ssita.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/British-Doctors-Letter-March-2014.pdf>

2014: U.K Union for Education Professionals ("Voice"): "Do schools really need to use wi-fi, rather than cables?... In the last few years there has been a great weight of evidence from around the world which suggests that exposure to electromagnetic radiation can have long-term health impacts, particularly on children, and that exposing young children (from birth to 12) to electromagnetic radiation (EMR) can produce changes in cell formation, genetic changes, and potential cancers. Exposure levels are only half the story; length of exposure is crucial too. Long exposures at lower intensity levels may be as damaging as high exposure levels for short periods hence our concern about wireless networks in schools and nurseries." <http://blog.voicetheunion.org.uk/?p=1097>

2013 American Academy of Environmental Medicine: warns of unprecedented exposure with unknown outcome on the health and reproductive potential of a generation: <http://aaemonline.org/images/LettertoLAUSD.pdf>

2013 Blaise-Cendrars High School, Switzerland. Teachers vote to remove Wi-Fi due to health risks.

2013 French National Assembly voted to promote wired connections in schools instead of Wi-Fi.

2013 The Council of Europe produces report warning of the harmful effects of Wi-Fi and cell phones to children and babies and proposes to member states to ban their use in schools.

2013 Israel issues guidelines to limit Wi-Fi in schools

2013 Los Angeles, CA, United Teachers Union passed a resolution stating that all employees shall be notified of any potential hazards in the workplace, including electromagnetic radiation.

2013 National Education Association, U.S. passes resolution stating that all educational facilities must be free from hazardous electromagnetic fields.

2013 French Health Agency says reduce radio frequency exposure to vulnerable members of the public: [http://www.anses.fr/sites/default/files/documents/PRES2013CPA18EN\\_0.pdf](http://www.anses.fr/sites/default/files/documents/PRES2013CPA18EN_0.pdf)

2013 New Zealand, Manawatu school removes wi-fi over cancer fear:

<http://www.nbr.co.nz/article/manawatu-school-removes-wi-fi-over-cancer-fear-ck-150478>

2013: 5 major unions in France representing workers from large corporations and organizations (Bank of France; France Telecom Orange; L'Oréal; City of Paris; RATP - Autonomous Operator of Parisian Transports -; Geodis - Transport and Logistics company; National Library of France) demand the reduction of electromagnetic radiation in the work place:

<http://www.20minutes.fr/ledirect/1096131/appel-syndicalistes-reduire-ondes-travail>

Doctors for Safer Schools:

<http://doctorsforsaferschools.org/files/documents/DFSSProtectChildrensHealth.pdf>

2012 BioInitiative Report, updated in 2012 by 29 scientists, states that biological effects are clearly established and occur at very low levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields and radiofrequency radiation from just minutes of exposure to mobile phone masts (cell towers), WI-FI, and wireless utility 'smart' meters: <http://www.bioinitiative.org/conclusions>

2012 International Society (17 countries) of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) and Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA) recommendations: Avoid Wi-Fi in home or work if possible, particularly in schools or hospitals; use wired technology whenever possible: <http://www.env-health.org/news/members-news/article/isde-idea-statement-on>

2012 Medical Associations, medical doctors and leading scientists call for wired connections in schools. (See <http://wifiinschools.org.uk/resources/safeschools2012.pdf>)

2012 American Academy of Pediatrics call for safe technologies in schools:

<http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/Letter-from-the-American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-to-US-Congress,24,2818>

2012 American Academy of Environmental Medicine stated in a 2012 Position Paper that "Multiple studies correlate radiofrequency exposure with diseases such as cancer, neurological disease, reproductive disorders, immune dysfunction, and electromagnetic hypersensitivity." [See http://aaemonline.org/emf\\_rf\\_position.html](http://aaemonline.org/emf_rf_position.html)

2012 Swiss Physicians for the Environment: "the risk of cancer for this type of [wireless] radiation is similar to that of the insecticide DDT, rightfully banned... From the medical point of view, it is urgent to apply the precautionary principle for mobile telephony, WiFi, power lines, etc."

[http://www.aefu.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/aefu-data/b\\_documents/Aktuell/120316\\_Brief\\_NIS.pdf](http://www.aefu.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/aefu-data/b_documents/Aktuell/120316_Brief_NIS.pdf)

2012 Austrian Medical Association: <http://www.magdahavas.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Austrian-EMF-Guidelines-2012.pdf>

2012 Safe Schools Report lists statements by other doctors and medical associations raising concerns over children's exposure to electromagnetic fields from Wi-Fi and other wireless technology:

<http://wifiinschools.org.uk/resources/safeschools2012.pdf>

2011 Scientist Barrie Trower testifies on Wi-Fi dangers to Portland Division, District of Oregon, U.S.:

[http://www.emfanalysis.com/uploads/1/0/7/8/10781272/\\_wi-fi\\_6\\_affidavit\\_from\\_microwave\\_radiation\\_expert.pdf](http://www.emfanalysis.com/uploads/1/0/7/8/10781272/_wi-fi_6_affidavit_from_microwave_radiation_expert.pdf)

2011 Finnish health authority warns against wireless networks. The Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) has urged the public to restrict their children's mobile phone use. The authority is now also warning for the possible health effects of wireless networks, which cause exposure to potentially harmful emissions.

2011 Council of Europe has called for member states to take measures to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields and give preference to wired internet connections for children, particularly in schools and classrooms:

<http://assembly.coe.int/mainf.asp?link=/documents/adoptedtext/ta11/eres1815.htm>

2011 The Israeli Ministry of Education. Published guidelines strictly limiting the use of mobile phones on all school grounds, citing children's increased risk of malignant tumors.

2011 Russian National Committee on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (RNCNIRP) warned about the serious and irreparable consequences of electromagnetic radiation especially for children and recommended Wi-Fi not be used in schools.

2010 Parliament of HESSE (Germany) Ruling: "88% Wired Internet Access... To reduce the exposure to electrosmog but also to provide the computers with faster access to the school network, a wired connection should be given preference wherever possible. For this, however, school authorities need to lay the necessary groundwork. Classrooms must be fitted with many, easily accessible network ports. Desks must be arranged in such a way that cluttered network cables do not pose a risk to students."

2010 Switzerland: Swiss Government and Swisscom, its largest telecom provider, offered fibre-optic wiring to schools for free for conversion from Wi-Fi to hardwiring networks.

2010 New Zealand: decision to install Wi-Fi rests with the individual school principal and school board.

2009 Hérouville Saint-Clair, France: Banned Wi-Fi in public schools.

2009 Karnataka State, India. Bans cell phones in all schools and pre-university colleges.

2009 European Parliament resolution on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields. (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P6-TA-2009-0216>).

2009: U.K. Association of Teachers and Lecturers states that schools should use wired connections until there is proof that Wi-Fi does not cause cancer or sterility: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/5125161/Wifi-in-school-should-be-stopped-say-teachers.html>

2009: U.K. Professional Association of Teachers expresses concerns that Wi-Fi may become the next asbestos: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/5125161/Wifi-in-school-should-be-stopped-say-teachers.html>

2008 UK: Placed the responsibility on individual schools to decide whether to install Wi-Fi technology.

2008 U.S. Progressive Librarians Guild: Recommended no wireless technology in libraries & schools

2008 Sainte-Geneviève University, Paris: Removed Wi-Fi from library.

2008-2010 National Library of France and four public libraries in France: Removed Wi- Fi .

2008 Ballinderry Primary School, Ireland: Removed Wi-Fi 2008 Sebastapol, CA, U.S. Reneges on its contract to install citywide Wi-Fi.

2008 Voice (UK Teachers Union): Called for a ban on Wi-Fi in schools. 2007 Therold, Ontario, Canada closes down its citywide Wi-Fi pilot scheme.

2007 Ballinderry Primary School, Ireland. Removed WiFi.

2007 Germany's Federal Government's national warning: Avoid exposure to radiation emanating from Wi-Fi in cafés, schools, public "hot spots", and private homes. Recommended that people should keep their exposure to radiation from Wi-Fi "as low as possible".

2007 Bavaria, Germany: Recommended no Wi-Fi in schools.

2007 European Environmental Agency, Europe's top environmental watchdog, calls for immediate action to reduce exposure to radiation from Wi-Fi, cell phones, and cell towers.

2006 Ysgol Pantycelyn School, Wales: Removed Wi-Fi from campus.

2006 Stowe School, England: Removed Wi-Fi from campus.

2006 Prebandal Preparatory School, England: Removed Wi-Fi from its campus.

2006 Frankfurt, Germany: Recommends the ban of Wi-Fi in public schools.

2005 Salzburg, Austria's Public Health Department banned Wi-Fi in schools and nurseries.

2005 Vienna Medical Association warns against Wi-Fi and cell phone use by children.

2004 International Association of Fire Fighters: Opposes communication antennas on fire stations.

2002. Interdisciplinary Society for Environmental Medicine (3000 physicians in Germany), recommends banning cell phones and cordless phones in schools, nursing homes, preschools, hospitals, and other public buildings.

1993 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH): The U.S. federal standard is inadequate because it is based solely on one dominant mechanism – adverse health effects are caused by body heating.

1993 U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) "FCC rules do not address the issue of long- term, chronic exposure to RF fields. Comments from the FDA to the FCC.

1993 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): The FCC's exposure guidelines are "seriously flawed". Official Comments to the FCC on guidelines for evaluation of electromagnetic effects of radiofrequency radiation.