

**August 22, 2011**

The following letter was sent to Diane Lloyd mid-summer. It is from Dr. Richard Nahas, from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa:

*Dear Ms Lloyd,*

*I am writing to express my concern about the use of wireless internet technology in the schools in your district board. As a medical doctor specializing in environmental and integrative medicine, I belong to a network of healthcare professionals in Canada, the US and Europe who integrate non-pharmaceutical approaches to improve our treatment of chronic diseases.*

*Reducing patients' exposure to potentially harmful, electromagnetic fields (EMF), including those that come from Wi-Fi routers, has been commonly reported as a very effective way to help them return to health. Many of us have case reports of major improvements in health problems that have occurred when people make an effort to reduce their EMF exposure. These include common childhood symptoms like asthma, eczema, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, asperger's syndrome and autism spectrum disorders.*

*They also include fatigue, muscle and joint pain, headaches, poor memory and concentration and other symptoms that are becoming more and more common in adults.*

*While some studies have demonstrated a potential link to cancer, the truth is that there has been very little research documenting the overall safety of long-term EMF exposure. This technology has become widespread based on consumer demand, convenience and economic interests. While many concerned citizens trust our government's judgment on issues that are difficult for the layperson to understand, the key problem is this: safety guidelines have been set based on the levels of EMF exposure that create thermal effects in cells (i.e. raise their temperature). This means that our guidelines are not designed to protect us from the potential impact of EMF exposure on the function of cells; just from their impact on our cells' temperature.*

*Germany and other European countries have set much stricter safety guidelines for the telecommunications than Canada has. This has been based on the concerns of committed individuals. It is up to us as community leaders to protect our children, so I urge you to share my concerns with the other trustees. Based on my experience with the effect of wireless technology on my patients, I am certain that its harmful effects will someday be clearly proven. Your board now has the opportunity to demonstrate that they have the wisdom to wait until the potential risks of this technology become more clear before exposing your community's children to these risks.*

*Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Sincerely,  
Richard Nahas*

Richard Nahas MD CCFP Director, Seekers Centre for Integrative Medicine Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa Undergraduate Unit Director, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa