

April 2012

Dear Manitoba School Trustee,

Wireless technology, commonly called Wi-Fi, is being widely installed in schools across Manitoba. Health Canada advises that the levels used in schools are “safe” but the information emerging from many scientific publications and symptoms reported by students and teachers indicate otherwise. Dr. Magda Havas, Associate Professor of Environmental and Resource Studies at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, estimates from 3 to 30% of our population could be adversely affected. Children are more vulnerable because of softer bones and relatively higher water content. Earlier this year, the **World Health Organization (WHO) classified microwave radiation from Wi-Fi, and other wireless devices, as a "possible carcinogen"**. It is my hope that you will review the information I've included here and begin implementing a precautionary approach to installations of wireless technology in your school Division.

This a case where it would be wise to implement the Precautionary Principle (where decisions are made to err on the side of caution) until this issue is fully explored. At the very least, ongoing reporting and monitoring should be conducted to determine whether there have been increases of adverse symptoms after introduction of wireless routers in schools. Reported health conditions include headaches, anxiety, heart irregularities, poor concentration and thyroid disorders.

It is important to note that children’s education need not suffer without Wi-Fi. Many parents and school trustees may think that Wi-Fi is necessary when, as I understand, the only major advantage is portability. The advantages of wired computers and devices are that they are more secure (cannot be hacked as easily), are faster and, in some cases, can carry more data.

I would appreciate a response from you as to whether, after reviewing this material, you have concerns and what measures are being taken to ensure that this issue is fully investigated so that our school children and staff are not unnecessarily exposed to possibly harmful radio frequency radiation.

Please contact me for more information or to borrow a radio frequency meter for short term use at no cost.

Sincerely,

Marg Friesen B.Sc. (Honours-Zoology), M.Sc. (Entomology/Toxicology)

Email: [electrosmog.manitoba@gmail.com](mailto:electrosmog.manitoba@gmail.com) Phone: [1-204-261-8591](tel:1-204-261-8591)

**Attachment:**

1. *Wi-Fi Report* by Safe In Schools. Click on page # to open documents.

**Link to Original Documents:** <http://www.safeinschool.org/p/scientific-studies.html>

2. *Scientists, Physicians and Oncologists from Several Nations Criticize The Economist’s Inaccurate Coverage of Cell Phone and Wireless Risks, Calling for Retraction*

3. The critique itself; this is a good overview of both sides of the wireless/health controversy.

### **Further information:**

#### **1. Schools are removing Wi-Fi and returning to the hardwire system while some parents are removing their children from schools with Wi-Fi**

##### 1) Ontario

*Second Ontario School Removes Wifi Due to Health Concerns.* PETERBOROUGH, ON, Oct. 11, 2011 /CNW/ - "A Peterborough school has removed its WiFi and replaced it with a hard-wired internet system due to health warnings.... In September another school in Collingwood removed its WiFi, and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario is investigating whether Wi-Fi is safe for Ontario classrooms." <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/448529>

*York Region:* <http://www.yorkregion.com/news/article/1241107--parents-pull-kids-from-schools>

*Ontario Catholic teachers union issues Wi-Fi warning.*

<http://www.ottawasun.com/2012/02/13/ontario-catholic-teachers-union-issues-wi-fi-warning>

##### 2) British Columbia

*North Cariboo Christian School in Quesnel, B.C.* has removed all wireless internet routers (Wi-Fi) and completely hardwired all classrooms. John Hengen, Principal, stated that the Technology Committee made the decision for two reasons: 1. Reliability of wired system over wireless 2. Unknown health concerns associated with wireless modems and wise to err on the side of safety for our children and families. Contact: John Hengen, Principal, [250-747-4417](tel:250-747-4417).

<http://quesnelcariboosentinel.com/north-cariboo-christian-school-removes-wireless-protect-children>

Also, the *Saanich School District* has removed Wi-Fi from elementary schools.

<http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org/Saanich-School-Districts-Revised-Computer-Policies-as-of-April-2011,19,854>

#### **2. TV newscast (about 2 and a half minutes - older but a good overview of the issue)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEEnDwOjc7E>

**3. Wi-Fi health hazard for students:** Rodney Palmer (parent) outlines his experiences; Dr. Magda Havas presents the science behind how wireless radiation can adversely affect human health (about 1 hr, 20 minutes).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwmfKoUMEk&mid=5166>

#### **4. Example: Symptoms and adverse effect on thyroid**

One example of a recently published scientific study: *Pulse modulated 900 MHz radiation induces hypothyroidism and apoptosis in thyroid cells: a light, electron microscopy and immunohistochemical study.* <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20807179>

Note: Some types of unexplained weight gain, depression, fatigue, and poor concentration may be linked to hypothyroidism. Thyroid cancer is rapidly increasing among younger people; Statistics Canada reported increases of 9.5 % per year in females and 6.8% per year in males since 1998.

<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/Health/20101109/thyroid-cancer-101109/#ixzz1dAFKZtNK>

## 5. More information

<http://www.safeschool.ca/>

<http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/WiFi-Brochure,72,728>

<http://wifiinschools.org.uk/resources/wireless+technologies+and+young+people+Jan2011.pdf>

TV program Panorama from the UK. RF radiation higher in some classrooms than under a mast (cell tower). Be sure to watch after 4:30 minute segment (about 10 minutes).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rOkB3as-Xs>

Article in medical journal: *Radiation fears prompt possible restrictions on wi-fi and mobile phone use in schools.*

<http://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.d3428.full.pdf>

*Dangers of Wi-Fi in Schools – Wi-Fi should be considered as an impediment rather than an aid to learning and may be particularly hazardous for pregnant teachers:” Dr. A. Goldsworthy, Nov. 2011*

<http://www.teamaroundthechild.com/allnews/researchsurveys/467-dangers-of-wi>

*Wi-Fi in Schools -Civil Action: Morrison v. Portland Public Schools.* Jan. 13, 2012

<http://www.magdahavas.com/wi-fi-in-schools-civil-action-united-states-district-court-district-of-oregon-portland-division-civil-action-no-311-cv-00739->

## 3 attachments — [Download all attachments](#)

 **Wifi Report SafeInSchools.pdf**  
77K [View](#) [Download](#)

 **PDF (3) Final Press Release Economist Critique.pdf**  
137K [View](#) [Download](#)

 **PDF 12-28-11 Economist Critique.pdf**  
193K [View](#) [Download](#)