

Citizens for Safe Technology

*20065 Fernridge Crescent
Langley, B.C. V2X 1X5*

August 4, 2009

REGISTERED MAIL

The Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid
P.O. Box 9045
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Dr. MacDiarmid, Minister of Education:

Re: Emerging Public Health Concern – Children’s Exposure to Non-thermal non-Ionizing Microwave Radiation in Schools from Wireless Internet (Wi-Fi)

Congratulations on your recent appointment. I wish you all the best as you work to support young people attain their highest potential in the education system.

I was encouraged to read your platform statement in which you stated your desire to listen. As a relationship communications counselor, I spend many hours supporting couples and families learning to listen. It can take tremendous courage and humility to listen, and a willingness to understand the concerns or needs of the other, whether or not that meets with one’s own beliefs.

The issue at hand for a growing number of concerned parents and grandparents across British Columbia and Canada is the involuntary exposure of their children to low intensity microwave radiation in British Columbia schools (Wi-Fi). As I am sure you are aware, there has been no pre-market testing of this pulsed, low intensity cellular/wireless technology which was introduced in 1997, and specifically no testing on the biological effects of Wi-Fi on growing, vulnerable children. It is no secret that the rapid deployment of wireless technologies has outstripped the scientific ability to quantify risk. As parents, we should not have to prove this new technology is dangerous through the ill health (present and future) of our children. The onus should be on the wireless industry to prove it is safe, which it cannot and will not be able to do. At present, our children are involuntary participants in a human science experiment without any controls. This is truly a public health scandal.

We are very aware of the action being taken in Europe to protect children by enacting the precautionary principle in this regard, and further applaud the Los Angeles Board of Education for unanimously passing a resolution in May 2009 limiting cellular antennae on school properties for health reasons and further resolving to hardwire computer installations for reasons of security and health. This School District has approximately 600 schools in its mandate. Parliaments, local governments, schools, libraries, and others taking preventative action have reviewed the full BioInitiative Report, which we would encourage you to do also. See <http://www.bioinitiative.org>

A petition started within the last two months advocating for hard wiring of schools and restriction of cellular antennae on school properties currently has over 300 signatures (real, not internet), and those numbers are increasing steadily. I represent many parents who wish to see schools opt for the complete safety of hard wired connections, as is happening in a growing number of schools, libraries and universities in Europe. It is encouraging to see different Parliaments

(European, French, German, Liechtenstein to name a few) take action to protect their citizens. It is also notable that Toronto Department of Public Health issued a warning regarding young people's use of cellular technology.

I am attaching a small sampling of information for your review. On behalf of many concerned parents, I, along with a small group of parents, request a personal meeting with you to discuss the tremendous challenges facing parents who have informed themselves on this emerging public health issue. There is growing despair among these parents who believe very strongly that the future health of their children is at risk from the involuntary exposure they must sustain each day to gain an education. We believe that Health Canada's Safety Code 6 is inadequate and obsolete – it only addresses thermal exposure, is not biologically based, and does not address pulsed/modulated ICRW at 2.45 Ghz frequency.

At this time in history, when many credible and highly placed world wide scientists and medical doctors (including Dr. Elizabeth Cardis) are calling for caution and protection of children from exposure to wireless technologies, the educated and knowledgeable course of action would appear to be one of investigation, open discussion and opting for the safest possible actions. When analyzing a risk/benefit scenario, it would appear to informed parents that the common sense approach would be to choose hard wiring of school computers given the ongoing biology vs physics scientific debate. The only reason hard wiring is not being installed in schools is for the reasons of cost and convenience. Is this the best we can do for our children?

We sincerely request that you hear the deep disquiet surrounding this issue, and meet with a group of concerned parents for open discussion of this issue. We believe there is a profound urgency to protect our children from the biological effects of low intensity non-thermal non-ionizing microwave radiation, and that the emerging science demonstrating harm needs to be taken into careful and immediate consideration by those charged with the protection of our youth.

Sincerely,

Una St.Clair-Moniz
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Certified Imago Relationship & Communication Educator
Executive Director, Citizens for Safe Technology
<http://www.citizensforsafetechnology.org>
Associated websites:
<http://www.weepinitiative.org>
<http://www.wiredchild.org>
<http://www.bioinitiative.org>
<http://www.wifiinschools.org.uk>

Attachments:

1. Submission to Langley School District dated May 9, 2009
2. Letter to Langley School District dated May 9, 2009
3. Public Health Implications of Wireless Technologies, Sage/Carpenter
4. Genotoxic Effects, BioInitiative Report – Dr. Henry Lai, PhD
5. Studies Showing Adverse Biological Effects – compiled by Dr. Henry Lai, PhD
6. Electromagnetic Fields and DNA Damage – Lai, Singh,
7. Mayor of City of Colwood, Electrosensitivity Proclamation
8. Registered letter to Langley School District dated August 3, 2004
9. Late Lessons from Early Warnings

Cc

Minister of Health Services

Minister of Children and Family Development

Minister of Healthy Living

Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Mayor Rick Green

Mayor Peter Fassbender

MP Rick Warawa

MLA Robin Austin

MLA Adrian Dix

MLA Mabel Elmore

MLA Mike Farnworth

MLA Jagrut Brar

Eco Justice (formerly Sierra Legal Defense)

Environmental Working Group

Council of Canadians

Canadian Institute of Wellness

Langley Teachers' Association

Professional Association for School Principals

BCPVPA

CUPE BC

DASH BC

DPAC

BCTF

BCCPAC