

School board 'following Health Canada Wi-Fi rules'

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research shows it is safe.

They produce correspondence from board officials saying, "neither regional, provincial, nor national governments in Canada, nor the World Health Organization, share

the view that wireless Internet in school is dangerous to students" and question if the board is relying on outdated information.

Last spring, the WHO classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" and warranted further study. The warning prompted private schools in Peterborough and Collingwood to

replace their Wi-Fi with hard-wired Internet systems.

The Elementary Teachers Federation is investigating if wireless technology is safe in the classroom.

York Region District School Board spokesperson Licinio Miguelo argues his board's information is not out of date, but rather, follows Health Canada regulations. Tests show levels of radiofrequency energy emitted from wireless equipment in the region's schools fall within the governing body's health code limits, he said.



'Our children are being exposed to low level, potentially cancer-causing microwave pulses for six hours a day, five days a week.'

"If Health Canada changes its advice, we will look at what's happening in our schools," he said. "But, at the same time, we need to look at the learning opportunities this technology provides to students."

More than 80 people attended an information session in Newmarket last month to hear Trent University professor and outspoken Wi-Fi critic Magda Havas weigh in on the subject.

Christine Marrin, a parent and former teacher in Holland Landing, was there.

"We are gravely concerned," she said. "Our children are being exposed to low level, potentially cancer-causing microwave pulses for six hours a day, five days a week."

"Whether the children are using a computer or not, they continue to be inundated with this possible carcinogen ... There is science on both sides of this issue. Does it not behoove us to exercise the precautionary principle?"

The parents group hopes to form a coalition to have Wi-Fi removed from York schools. The group meets Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in the second floor classroom at The Great Canadian Superstore, 18120 Yonge St. in Newmarket.

For more information, e-mail wifihazards@hotmail.ca or visit safeschools.ca

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/radiation/wireless_safe-securit_sansfil-eng.php

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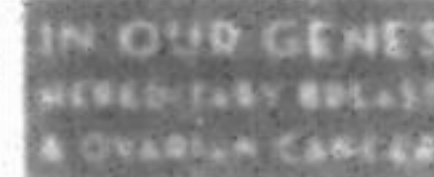
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