

Letter to the Editor re: Wi-Fi in Schools

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The following letter was published in the Saanich News on December 8th, 2010 (my letter appears half way down the page):

http://www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/saanichnews/opinion/letters/111539479.html

I am disappointed that the Greater Victoria School District has created a committee that will consider banning Wi-Fi technology from schools.

This is particularly frustrating because the trustees have already explored this issue. I was in attendance during the June 14 school board meeting of the Operations, Policy and Planning committee. At that meeting, a senior staff member explained to trustees that the World Health Organization (WHO) had thoroughly reviewed wireless networks and found them to be safe.

Specifically, in 2006 the WHO published a fact sheet in which the organization concluded that, "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects."

Wi-Fi networks play an important role in our schools. They aid learning by providing students with fast, secure, reliable and cost effective access to high quality educational resources.

In this context, it is clear that the school board should not have created a special committee to review wild and unsubstantiated health claims. There are genuine problems facing School District 61, but Wi-Fi access is not one of them.

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