



September 8, 2011

Ref: 147898

**To: Superintendents
Independent School Principals**

The Ministry of Education has received numerous inquiries from the general public and special interest groups regarding the amount of radiation emitted from cellular phones and wireless (Wi-Fi) in schools. Staff in your school district and schools may be receiving similar questions.

British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Dr. Perry Kendall, is responsible for reviewing the latest scientific evidence and reporting to British Columbians on population health concerns. We direct our inquiries to the PHO and their website and encourage you to do the same.

On the PHO website there is an FAQ page that addresses the latest findings associated with cellular phones and Wi-Fi (www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/issues.html). The site shares some practical measures on how to reduce cellular phone radiation by spending less time on the phone, using earpieces or texting. The site reiterates that there is no convincing evidence that Wi-Fi exposure constitutes a threat to the health of BC residents. More detailed information is available on this site, and I encourage you to read and share with your school communities.

We will continue to share the most up-to-date information from public health authorities to ensure that students, parents and educators are aware of any potential risks to health.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Gorman".

James Gorman
Deputy Minister