

Video surveillance expands in P.E.I. schools

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[CBC News](#)

The Eastern School District has begun to install surveillance cameras in all its schools, following the lead of the Western School Board, which put them in its high schools three years ago.

The cameras are meant to make the schools more secure. They are going inside and out, into high traffic areas and secluded corners. By September, they will be installed in high schools, junior highs and at Glen Stewart Elementary in Stratford. The rest of the schools will get their cameras the following year.

'We're not out there in the business of spying.'

— John Miodowski, Eastern School District

District property manager John Miodowski told CBC News Wednesday the main purpose of the cameras is to give authorities a way to track a possible intruder, part of new measures that included implementing lockdown drills in schools last year. They could also be used to keep on eye on students.

"If there's incidents of vandalism going on or bullying, you know, they might be able to pick up on this and stop the situation as quick as possible," said Miodowski.

"We're not out there in the business of spying, but we have to know in this day and age what's happening within our buildings."

Western School Board superintendent Dale Sabean said the cameras in his high schools have reduced vandalism and helped enforce the law.

"Perhaps there's an altercation in the hallways; perhaps there's an accusation of a theft," said Sabean.

"We're able to use those cameras and see if there's things going on there that we can either use ourselves or pass along to the police."

The western board doesn't plan to set up surveillance in elementary and intermediate schools, but it does have portable cameras it uses where they're needed.

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[Ben Aroudo](#) wrote: Posted 2009/08/04

at 1:05 AM ET This is akin to drugging them to have them behave. They do that to old people don't they?

This way the staff can enjoy their day without any awful incidents. We don't want these fine, boring, prim teachers to get upset right?

Kids will not be relaxed and themselves. What long term damage will that do?

Does clinical paranoia come to mind? How about "The Stepford Wives".

Needed future social skills like conflict interaction will not be learned. This is the real imperfect world not Disneyland.

Is this to prepare them for the future when "Big Brother" will keep them controlled, passified, neutered and under surveillance.

Bring on the bow ties, blue pants and white shoes LOL.

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[MarkRehaluk](#) wrote: Posted 2009/08/03

at 7:56 PM ET "You can't feel like a free human being with video cameras all around you monitoring your behavior."

What? It's a public building. By definition, people can already see what you are doing. The fact that it's a camera instead of the eyes of a nearby human should be irrelevant. If this makes you uncomfortable, then you shouldn't leave your home.

As for how it affects children, I'm not sure. I'm guessing it will encourage them to behave themselves in public and that shenanigans are to be done in private which is an appropriate lesson in my opinion.

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[scrabbleman](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/31

at 7:53 PM ET This is a good idea, The reality is that vandalism costs the Eastern School District, and you the tax payer, many thousands of dollars every year. Yes cameras are invasive. But, to think that junior and senior high schools are better off without them is just unrealistic. Cameras are in bank machines and shopping malls for very good reasons which also apply to schools. Cameras may also serve to protect students and teachers from people who have no business being there. People have no right to walk into a school, by-pass the office and wander the corridors. They would not be permitted to do so in an office building or workplace. They cannot do the same in a school.

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[Social Programming](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/31

at 7:11 PM ET This is exactly the kind thing that I hate about our society. We are on a path that is going to turn our country in a place like the UK. Video cameras on every street corner tracking your every move.

I wouldn't want my kids to go to a school with video cameras all over the place. I could maybe understand if it were a in a high crime area in Toronto with lots of minority gangs but by and large this kind of surveillance is unacceptable.

I can only imagine how being recorded all day would affect a young person. You can't feel like a free human being with video cameras all around you monitoring your behavior.

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[One realist](#) wrote: Posted 2009/07/30

at 10:28 PM ET To everyone that supports the conversion of our children's educational facilities into a prison state:

It never ceases to amaze me; never...

The willingness of people to not only give away their OWN freedoms because they don't know any better, but to now be so detached from the well-being of their own CHILDREN is disgusting and is the reason our society has fallen a long way and will continue to because of YOU.

Instead of teaching your children morals, values, fears, responsibility and life in general, you depend on the state to do it for you.

Handing over your parental obligations, that extend far beyond this "little example"; teaching your children that big brother will take care of everything is the EXACT same thing to be learned from watching those b&w videos from the early 40's. They were shot in Germany. Hitler's rise did not take place in a vacuum like I'm sure many of you believe. He was a master manipulator of public opinion through the media. These points are lost on you, I'm sure.

I truly feel sorry for your children, and I would highly recommend not having any more. Either that or start opening your eyes to the fact that you're giving your children's freedoms away, day after clueless day, and start re-educating yourselves about what Freedom and Liberty actually mean.

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