

Informed Consent Agreement for the Installation of Small Cell Towers (Microcells) in Your Residential Community

The Canadian government is allowing telecommunications companies to install microcells in our neighbourhoods without our informed consent. However, if our consent was required, and if the informed-consent agreement were an honest one, it might look something like this:

Dear Resident,

Will you grant permission for my telecommunications company to install microcells - small cell towers - in your residential community, including, possibly, a tower in front of your home?

As currently planned, these transmitters will be placed on existing utility poles or lampposts. Some of the cellular equipment needed to operate them will be on these poles or posts; some may be on the ground. The determining factor for placement will be the technical ability of the tower to communicate with both sides of the road, not your wishes. Each structure may have more than one antenna at its top, to point in many directions. Once the microcells have been installed, you will not be able to have them removed. You will have no say about the cellular service providers that use them, or about what equipment these companies install.

Each microcell will emit radiofrequency radiation, specifically microwave and millimeter-wave radiation, 24 hours a day, every day, forever. That radiation is designed to penetrate into every room in your home. That radiation will strike you, everyone in your home, and all of your neighbours for several hundreds of feet around.

Thousands of international biomedical research studies have linked radiofrequency radiation to a broad range of health consequences. Some examples are sleep disruption; headaches; ringing in the ears; fatigue; loss of concentration, memory, or learning ability; and disorientation, dizziness, or loss of balance. Most recently, a huge study by the US National Institutes of Health confirmed a link between radiofrequency radiation used for cellular communications and two forms of malignant cancer: brain cancer, which is usually fatal; and nerve cancer, which can be fatal.

Everyone and every living thing is vulnerable to harm from radiofrequency radiation, including pregnant women and their unborn children, babies, teenagers, adults, seniors, the chronically ill, birds, bees, trees, and wildlife. No consideration will be given to where microcells are located relative to them. Nor will any effort be made to track any health or environmental problems that may surface in your community after the installation of these transmitters. While medical organizations like the World Health Organization cannot expose humans to toxins like radiofrequency radiation without a thorough ethics review, no similar prohibition exists for telecommunications companies.

In return for your willingness to incur this risk, you will receive the opportunity to purchase a wireless method for connecting to communications services, such as Internet, telephone, and television services. If you already have a wired connection to such services through a cable technology, like coaxial cable or optical fiber cable, the new wireless service can replace your existing cable service. Of course, your existing cable service may be safer, faster, more reliable, more cyber secure, more energy efficient, less expensive,

and less visually intrusive than the new wireless service provided by our small cell towers. But the new wireless service will offer you mobility, even if mobility is not terribly useful for services provided at home in a residential community like yours.

If you are harmed by the radiation from the new microcell transmitters, we, as the providers of that radiation, will do everything in our power to deflect liability for harming you. You will have a difficult time proving that our radiation did harm you, even if it has, because the symptoms of such harm are highly varied and differ from individual to individual. Also, you will undoubtedly be exposed to radiation from other sources too; so it will be hard for you to prove that it was our radiation that was at fault. We may also try to deflect responsibility to others, perhaps even to government agencies, and to the government officials who approved our locating small cell antennas in your community.

If you try to get insurance protection against any harm to your health from the radiation, you may be turned down because the underwriters of insurance are increasingly aware of the health risks of radiofrequency radiation and may not be willing to back the insurance carriers.

If you try to get medical care for any harm that the radiation has caused you, you will find that the medical profession is not yet trained to address this type of harm. As a result, the profession may have no remedies for you, except for the removal of the microcell transmitter from your community, which we will not do. Even if you move to avoid the radiation, you may find that the harm done to you may not be fully reversible. And, when you do move, you may find that the value of your home is less than you expected. Newcomers may prefer streets lined with trees to streets lined with small cell towers.

Given these circumstances, we are grateful to you for volunteering yourself and your family for exposure to the radiofrequency radiation from our microcells. And we are especially grateful that you agree to permit us to place one of our small cell towers in front of your home, if we so choose. Your approval will enable us to accelerate the dissemination of our wireless technology before the public's awareness of the adverse health effects of radiofrequency radiation spreads further. We can thus gain a foothold in your community that cannot be easily dislodged, and we can do so without the delays that would be caused by requirements for prior testing for safety.

We hope you will enjoy the wireless service provided by the new small cell transmitters in your community.

Please sign here to give us your approval to install.

Signature