THE TRUTH ABOUT MICROCELLS & 5G

EXPLAINED:

What? Microcells are small cell transmitters that emit unproven-to-be-safe electromagnetic frequencies, 24/7.

Where? Across Canada, telecoms are installing them on utility poles by our homes, businesses, parks, hospitals, and schools.

Why? Industry's spin? They are providing the infrastructure essential to "smart" cities & fast data. The truth? Telecoms want to sell us wireless video subscriptions without connecting cable to our homes.

How? In Canada, a federal loophole allows microcells to be installed on existing structures like telephone poles without our knowledge or consent.

What are the Implications of Microcell Placement in our Communities?

- **Local Authority & Personal Privacy Undermined:** With public input denied, private telecommunications companies are mining our personal data, and shaping our technological future and our lives.
- **Public Health and Safety:** Placing transmitters in the public right-of-way affects pole integrity, creates increased distraction for drivers, and causes sidewalk and roadway crowding. The international biomedical research community links radiofrequency radiation from wireless devices to many adverse health and environmental effects.
- **Cyber & National Security:** Tech giant Huawei is a key player in building Canada's wireless grid, but the UK, the US, and Australia have banned equipment made by them due to serious concerns about cyber-espionage. All wireless networks are easily hacked, putting our data security at risk.
- **Aesthetics & Property Values:** Universal deployment of microcells degrades intentionally designed neighbourhoods and lowers property values. Concerns about the radiation microcells emit limit citizens' use and enjoyment of public rights of way.

The Right to Choose

In 2017, California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed SB649, a bill that gave telecoms free rein to install microcells on public streets. Subsequently, local governments like the council of Mill Valley, California have blocked deployment of small-cell 5G wireless towers in residential areas due to health and safety concerns. Here at home, BC's local governments have passed a resolution mandating public consultation on microcell placement. However, until we close the federal loophole, Canadians do not have the right to refuse microcell installations by our homes.

Fiber-to-the-premises is a much better way to meet connectivity needs than proprietary, telecom-controlled 5G. Wired fiber networks are always faster, safer, and more energy efficient than wireless ones. We must act quickly and decisively to secure a collaborative and life-enhancing technological future for Canada. Visit these websites to learn more, and join the safe tech movement:

thecalm.ca
connected-communities.ca
americansforresponsibletech.org

SAY YES TO WIRED FIBER OPTIC SMART CITIES
SAY NO TO 5G WIRELESS "SMART" CITIES.

MICROCELLS

MYTHS & FACTS

MYTH... 1

Microcells are small, unobtrusive, and an aesthetic improvement over large cell towers.

FACT!

A “small cell” could carry several bulky refrigerator-sized cabinets, lead acid batteries, noisy cooling fans, battery back-up systems, untidy cabling and more, resulting in a large and unappealing public eyesore.

MYTH... 2

Wireless technologies are safe, harmless, and secure.

FACT!

Thousands of peer reviewed scientific studies show that radiofrequency radiation (RFR) from wireless and cellular devices harms the health of people, plants, and wildlife. There is no science proving microcells or 5G are safe. In 2018, the US National Toxicology Program at the National Institute of Health linked the type of RFR produced by microcells and cell phones to malignant brain and nerve tumors of the heart. A 2017 Canadian study found that 558 lifetime hours of cell phone use more than doubles our chance of getting gliomas, a deadly brain cancer. As for data safety, security agencies across the globe warn that foreign-controlled wireless equipment puts our national security at risk. All wireless networks are much less secure than wired ones.

MYTH... 3

We need microcells to provide faster data for our cell phones and internet use. They are essential to building smart cities that use computing and communication technology to improve our quality of life.

FACT!

For better cell phone service we could install microcells in non-residential areas only, insuring signals do not penetrate peoples’ homes. However, optical fiber connected directly to every residence and building is the true backbone of the 21st century information highway. Communities like Olds, Alberta and Haida Gwaii, BC are creating universal, reliable, locally owned fiber systems, generating economic and social benefits for their residents. Now that’s smart!

MYTH... 4

Microcells are indispensable as they lay the groundwork for desirable technologies like 5G, smart cities, and the Internet of Things (IoT) – a network of interconnected, wireless devices at home and everywhere.

FACT!

Although 5G has not been proven reliable or safe, microcells are being densely placed on our streets in anticipation of its rollout. The promise of faster video and driverless cars is a ruse. The true motivator for 5G is profit, not progress. Wired fiber networks are capable of filling most of the digital city functions promised by 5G, bringing social and economic benefits without jeopardizing our freedom of choice, our health, security, safety, and privacy.