

Awakening Local Governments

Presentation Format Guide

Basics

- Be very clear about how much time you have been given to present your ideas, and respect this limit.
- Be sure to share a few moments about why this issue matters to you. Personalize and contextualize it. Speak from the heart.
- Focus on a few key issues. Less is more.
- If you do not know the answer to a question you are asked - admit it, and offer to find out.
- Be prepared for strong opposing opinions. Listen calmly and find common ground. Avoid engaging in a battle of facts.
- Provide a written outline of your presentation to your elected officials.
- 2 weeks after your presentation, follow-up to see what actions your local government is committed to taking on this issue.

Presentation Scripts

Here are three ready-to-go presentation downloads. Edit as required:

- 1 [Short Presentation to Councils or the Community on Microcells and 5G - 3 minutes.](#)
- 2 [Microcell Presentation to Councils with a Focus on Health and Children - 7 Minutes.](#)
- 3 [7-Minute Presentation to Councils or the Community on 5G & Health and Fiber Optics](#)

Get Inspired!

[Here is a beautiful submission](#) made by Oona McOuat to accompany a presentation she gave to the Salt Spring Islands Trust on Salt Spring, BC in March, 2017.

[And here is the script](#) for an excellent Presentation and submission made in 2020 by Andrea Schwenke Wyle and Glenda Pavelich to the Council of Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Ready to Go Slideshow

This 40-slide presentation created by our friends at [SafeG™](#) is solutions-based, ready-to-use, and very well done.

Download it as a [PowerPoint File Here](#).

Download it as a [PDF Document Here](#).

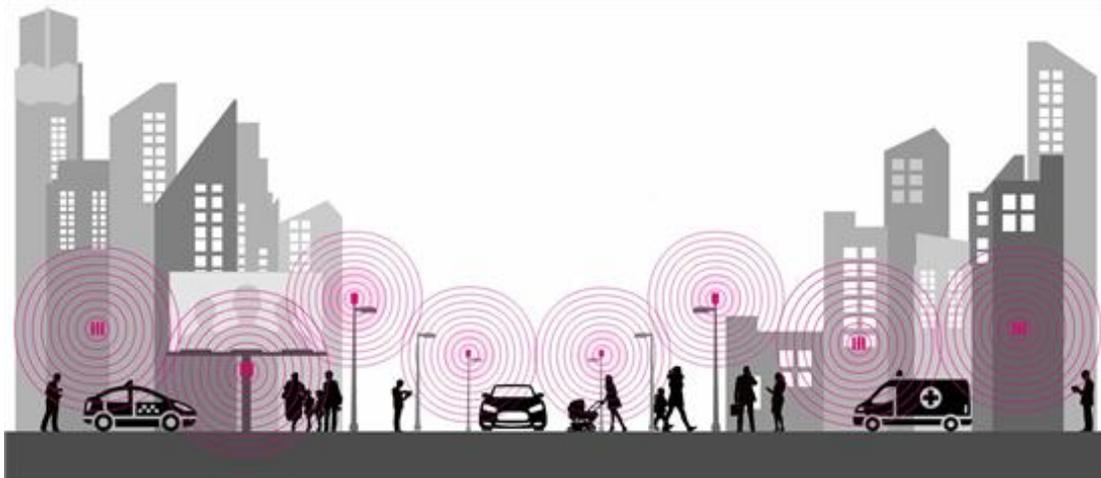
[This quick PDF tutorial](#) shows you how to loop a PDF as a slideshow with the free program *Adobe Acrobat Reader*.

Creating Your Own Content

Suggested Structure

1. Show a quick slide or two that demonstrate what 5G is

Here are some examples:







2. Provide a brief summary of the issues and concerns

If time is short, choose two or three issues to focus on. Use the **Overview of Key Issues** on the following page or the three printable resources listed below to guide you. The **Primer** features short digestible overviews of a number of significant issues as well as links to more resources:

1 Talking Points for 5G

<https://thecalm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Talking-Points-for-5G.pdf>

2 The Truth about Microcells & 5G Flyer <http://thecalm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TruthAboutMicrocells5GFlyer.pdf>

3 Primer ~ 5G and Microcells in Canada

https://thecalm.ca/primer-microcells-and-5g-in-canada_january-1_2021

Script: “Independent science shows we are at a crossroads. If we allow microcells and 5G to become the new norm, this is what is at stake:”

A Brief Overview of Key Issues

Privacy & Cyber Security

- Wireless networks jeopardize data privacy and national security.
- Several western nations including the US and Australia have banned Huawei from their wireless networks due to serious concerns about cyber-espionage. As of January, 2021, Canada had yet to follow suit.

Wireless Networks and Climate Change

- Despite the misconception that wireless tech is “Green”, wireless networks are huge energy guzzlers. It takes an estimated 10 times more energy to send data wirelessly than through wires. The manufacturing of the devices supported by 5G will be a significant contributor to global climate change.

Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation (RFR) on Human, Wildlife and Environmental Health

- 5G has not safety tested before being unleashed. Preliminary science shows the millimeter waves some 5G antennas will employ damage skin, eyes and more. RFR is linked to DNA damage, cancer, Alzheimer’s, & more.
- Wireless radiation has proven biological effects on humans, wildlife, plants eco-systems and insects, including pollinators.
- The constant access to video streaming and screens promised by 5G will heighten the tech addiction, fragmenting our relationships and mental health.

Urban Design & Public Safety - There Goes the Neighbourhood!

- Placing cell towers by homes lowers property values and is aesthetically displeasing. Heavy small cell equipment in public rights-of-way endangers public safety and utility workers.
- Most major insurers won't cover wireless harm. Will the city be liable for claims resulting from 5G transmitters being placed on city property by people's homes?

3. Focus on opportunities and solutions

Script: “Given all of these proven concerns – let’s do this a better way.”

Wired Fiber-to-the-Premises Networks

Community-owned wired fiber-to-the-premises provides the safest, fastest internet available, and *truly* smart city applications. ([Learn more here](#)). It is a misconception that 5G is needed to build “smart” cities. New inroads in fiber optic technology make [fiber wired to the premises 20 times faster than the fastest speeds promised by wireless 5G](#).

Wired fiber optics can provide most of the smart city functions we are being told we need wireless for, and it offers greater data speed and protection.

- Existing cell transmitters are generally sufficient for current mobile needs. If not, put a few select micro-transmitters in commercial districts only – never by people’s homes, schools, or hospitals.
- At this time, 5G is for cellular service only. As 80% of cellular data is consumed indoors, it makes more sense for cell users to use their internet plans to connect and reserve expensive data packages for necessary communication when they are mobile. All devices - even smart phones - can be wired to a router for increased safety, speed, and privacy.
- Communities like Olds Alberta and Coquitlam, BC have built their own fiber networks and are now generating revenue from them. Any network owned by a telecommunications company uses proprietary equipment and allows the telecom to control the type of equipment used, the cost of service, and the flow of information, putting net neutrality at risk.
- Fiber is the backbone of 5G and all networks. Connecting it directly to each premise and forgoing microcell transmitters - in residential neighbourhoods especially - allows for the fastest, safest, most energy efficient and affordable connectivity possible. There is funding and assistance available for building municipally-owned fiber-to-the -premises networks. Connected Communities’ for [Local Governments](#) page is an excellent place to start exploring this option.

4. Ask THEM What You Need to Know

1. Given the many health concerns linked to 5G by independent science, and the lack of any long-term human health safety testing of 5G, what is your position on:

- the rollout of 5G?, and
- the installation of microcell antennas (some presently emit 4G) in residential areas close to homes and schools?

2. At what stage is the 5G rollout in our town?

3. Do you agree that we, the residents, have a “right to know” and be fully informed about the installation of 4G and 5G transmitters by our homes and schools?

4. What are you prepared to do about this issue?

5. Be clear about what YOU are asking for

Some Actions Local Governments May Take

A. Microcell-Siting Related Actions that fall within local jurisdiction

If your local government has not yet signed contracts allowing microcells to be installed:

- Will you represent me by writing a letter of non-concurrence to any telecom wanting to install 4G and 5G cell antennas in residential areas in our town?

If Contracts Have Been Signed or Not:

- **Will you ensure the public will be informed** when macro sites are being upgraded to 5G or when 5G antennas are co-located at existing sites?
- **Will you create an Antenna Siting Protocol** that is as protective as current federal laws allow? This will show you how:
[Creating a Proactive Antenna Siting Protocol & Small Cell Licensing Agreement](#)
- **Will you insist on full and well-publicized community consultations** hosted by the City prior to making any decision on the rollout of 4G/5G microcells? (**Hint:** The City must have an antenna siting policy and must amend it to include the requirement of having public consultations for the installation of cellular antennas of “non-tower structures” within City limits.)

- Will you **explore creating a community-owned wired fiber optics** to the premises network? [This site is a great place to start.](#)
- Will you **pass a moratorium on wireless expansion and 5G until proven safe?***
 - [Here is a list](#) of some of the governments worldwide who have done this.
 - [Here is an editable Petition](#) citizens may use to mobilize around this request.
 - [Here is a draft Resolution](#) for your local government to consider

* Proven safe by a panel of medical doctors and scientists recommended by the Environmental Health Clinic at Women’s College Hospital in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

B. Actions Local Governments may take to affect change on a Federal Level

- Will you challenge [the Innovation, Science, and Industry Canada loophole](#) that takes away Canadians’ right to be consulted before microcells are placed on existing structures by our homes?
- Will you **impel Health Canada** to invest in research, educate the public, and update their archaic **radiation exposure guideline** Safety Code 6?
 - [This review of 78 studies](#) shows the health effects of cell transmitter radio frequency radiation

6. How will your Presentation be Received? (And how to respond to feedback)

Be Prepared for Apathy and/or Antagonism

The primary concerns of most local governments on *any* issue are:

1. How do we get this done with minimal effort on our part?
2. How much will it cost and where will the money come from?

Here is a common response local governments give to this issue:

“This is interesting, but given that telecommunications is a federal issue, and that ISED is approving this technology and Health Canada says it is safe, this is out of our hands.”

Your job is to help your local representatives realize that their engagement on this issue is crucial and timely. High-speed internet access is now mandated an essential service by the Canadian government, and should be considered a critical part of infrastructure, just like roads and water pipes. Communities *must* have the right to make sure it is provided in safe and healthy ways. [Governments across the globe are banning 5G.](#)

Your local government has the exciting opportunity to offer innovative and cutting-edge technological leadership. Tell them what they can do.

- Draft protective protocols. [This detailed document](#) shows how to do this.
- Establish a revenue-generating community-owned fiber-to-the-premises network. Find tips on how to do this here: connected-communities.ca
- Follow the example set by other Canadian government bodies. Voice their concerns about 5G and Canadian radiation exposure guidelines, and mobilize with others to lobby for changes in federal telecommunication policy:
 - [See this letter](#) written by the elected leaders of Pitt Meadows, BC.
 - [This resolution passed unanimously](#) in December 2019 by the Council of Sutton, Quebec:” TO REQUEST the federal government, following the precautionary principle, to decree a moratorium on the deployment of the 5G cellular network, until the various studies reach a consensus on the absence of risk and impact of 5G cell technology on health and the environment.”
 - In October 2019 The Bloc Quebecois voted "in favour of a moratorium on the establishment of the 5G network ... that scientific studies be entrusted to an independent and autonomous commission ... respecting the precautionary principle."
 - In their 2019 platform, the Green Party of Canada stated, “A green government will strike a parliamentary committee to examine the implications of introducing 5G technologies...”

Responses & Questions you might Receive

1. How do we most easily serve our constituents' perceived need for faster download speeds, greater bandwidth, lower fees, and improved internet access?

Community-owned fiber networks is your answer.

2. In remote communities - how do we get better cell coverage?

5G is not the answer. It is unlikely telecoms will bring fiber and small cells to most rural areas. Plus, so far, the 5G cellular experience in places like the [US](#), [Korea](#) and [China](#) has been disappointing. 5G's high-speed millimetre wave bands lack the reach to connect to your phone all the time. Other frequencies being coined 5G ([learn more about that here](#)) have a long reach and stable connectivity but offer speeds that aren't much faster than 4G LTE.

Costly 5G satellite service is possible, but it will likely be unstable, and emits harmful radiofrequency radiation. Rural communities should focus on crossing the digital divide by building their own fiber networks, thus insuring high-speed internet access. They should also focus on keeping landlines in place so citizens are not reliant on cell phones as their primary form of communication. Cellular connectivity is not a replacement for wireline connections.

3. People do not want to be tethered to their devices, they want mobility, they want to use their Smart Phones, and they want fast connection speeds. How is fiber-to-the-premises going to help with that?

Due to the limitations of cell networks, traffic is constantly re-routed from 4G or 5G to Wi-Fi. [This 2017 study](#) estimates Wi-Fi will offload more than \$80 billion USD worth of traffic each year from 5G. 80% of cellular use happens indoors. We do not need microcell antennas placed by our homes to provide cell service for the 20% of our time when our usage is mobile. For the vast majority of our connection needs, fiber connected directly to the premises, with the option of using a home Wi-Fi network or better yet, wiring our devices to our router, is the fastest and most secure way to go.

(Yes, [you can connect your iPhone to a wired network through Ethernet!](#))

4. Until Health Canada concludes that wireless technology is unsafe, the issue of the safety of wireless technology is out of our hands.

- *Scientific consensus shows that exposure to wireless radiation is harmful.*
- **The New Hampshire Example**
[These hard questions were asked by the state of New Hampshire about 5G](#) and they came to this conclusion. Even though telecommunications and radiofrequency exposure guidelines also fall under federal jurisdiction in the United States, the New Hampshire Commission issued a [landmark report](#)

discussing 5G Health Risks, showing that local and provincial governments can and must take a proactive and precautionary position on microwave radiation and 5G.

- *Just like big tobacco and asbestos, [there is ample evidence](#) that the wireless industry is influencing regulatory bodies to keep their profits growing.*
- *Canada's Safety Code 6 is [one of the least protective in the world](#). If Safety Code 6 were a speed limit, it would be 4,800 Km per hour. If the standards recommended by the European Academy for Environmental Medicine were a speed limit, it would be 15 Km per hour.*
- *Switzerland protects its citizens 100 times more from microwave radiation than our government does; **200 times more** when Swiss citizens are at hospitals and schools.*

5. We have already signed contracts with telecoms. We will let them take care of this and trust they are adhering to federal safety and exposure standards.

See responses to Question 4 above.

OR

We see the benefits of finding an alternate way of meeting telecommunication needs. Our contracts with _____ Telecom Company are not exclusive. Let's build our own co-existing fiber network. How do we do this?

Refer them to www.connected-communities.ca

6. We have not signed any contracts yet - or telecoms won't serve us because we are too remote and they won't make enough money here. If telecoms don't fulfill our communication needs, who will? Can we have an easy guide to how we can build our own fiber network?

Refer them to www.connected-communities.ca

7. Yes, we know the wave is to move towards smart city applications, but frankly all of this is over our heads. We will let our tech department sort this out in time.

Although the articles below are US-based, they show why all local leaders must be informed and proactive when it comes to making technological infrastructure decisions.

What Municipal Managers Should Know About 5G

<http://www.themunicipal.com/2018/12/what-municipal-managers-should-know-about-5g/>

Handcuffing Cities to Help Telecom Giants

<https://www.wired.com/2017/03/handcuffing-cities-to-help-telecom-giants/>

OR

8. Wow! Community-owned fiber to the premises seems do-able - and we can actually earn revenue from it. Let's get started.

Refer them to www.connected-communities.ca