

Microcell Presentation to Council

Presentation Length: 7 Minutes

Focus on Health and Children - Edit as Needed

Hello. My name is . Thank you, Mayor and Council. I appreciate this opportunity to speak to you about the microcells being installed on neighbourhood streets across Canada/In our community.

As a parent/grandparent/teacher/auntie/uncle I was devastated to learn that the federal government is allowing these wireless transmitters to be placed on existing structures like utility poles right by our homes without our input, knowledge, or consent. Once these microcells are in place, they may easily be adapted to be used for 5G – the 5th generation of wireless communication.

Why does this concern me? 5G is a complete infrastructure overhaul designed to increase profit for the telecommunications industry. It is untested and unproven to be safe. The marketing hype says 5G will deliver ultra-fast video streaming and the Internet of Things – a world where everything is connected. But if these are indeed our societal aspirations, we don't need 5G to achieve them. Wired fiber-to-the-premises can provide much faster connectivity than 5G ever will, along with most of the smart city functions 5G promises. Community-owned wired fiber-to-the-premises networks would allow local governments to earn revenues from telecommunications, while restoring our input into what happens here at home.

The *World Health Organization* has classified the radio frequency radiation microcells emit as a 2B possible carcinogen, the same category as lead and DDT. This is scary, as we all know the dangers of those toxins. Many of us, however, don't understand the biological impacts of exposure to microwave radiation. Even less is known about the relatively untested millimeter waves used by 5G.

Many peer-reviewed studies show that exposure to cell towers - and that's what microcells are – makes us sick. Some of the things that can happen when we are exposed to the radiation they emit include:

- cancer
- infertility
- cellular, brain and nervous system dysfunction ,and
- developmental and learning disabilities

Science shows the risks from 5G include:

- Damage to the eyes
- Immune system disruption
- Metabolic disruption
- Damage to sperm, and
- Skin damage

In addition, there is convincing scientific evidence that radiofrequency radiation disrupts the bioelectrical systems of all living things, harming plants, trees, mammals, insects, bacteria, and more, prompting scientists around the world to call for a moratorium on 5G. 5G technology is complex, likely to be costly, accompanied by privacy concerns, and will also consume significant amounts of energy, contrary to global climate goals. There have been no premarket tests done that prove this technology is safe.

Those most at risk will be children, pregnant women, the elderly, and the immune compromised. Recently Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s Children's Health Defense warned that childhood cancers are increasing dramatically - with a 40% increase in the United Kingdom since the late 1990s. This increase is linked to radiofrequency radiation associated with cell phones, cellular infrastructure, and wireless technologies; and herbicides containing glyphosate (the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup). The thought of a wireless antenna being placed right by our home or my kids'/grandkids'/students'/nieces'/nephews' school really worries me. The risk of cancer is especially disturbing.

In 2018, the *U.S. Department of Health's National Toxicology Program*, or the NTP, released the findings from a 25 million dollar US-government funded study that showed that non-thermal - non-tissue heating - levels of wireless energy cause biological effects. These effects include cancer. The NTP's findings, which link cell phone radiation to cancer, were confirmed by research done by the renowned *Ramazzini Institute* in Italy.

Canada's Safety Code 6, our radiation protection guideline, was written in 1979, before the Internet even existed. It contains some of the least protective guidelines in the world and ignores the non-thermal (non tissue-heating) effects of radiofrequency radiation. Ironically, research published in 2018 highlights that 5G technology generates significant tissue-heating, and concludes that it may lead to permanent tissue damage after even short exposures, emphasizing the importance of revisiting existing exposure guidelines. Places like Belgium and parts of Italy have radiation exposure standards that are 100 times more protective than ours.

Although we are just beginning to learn about the biological effects of 5G, epidemiologists know it takes 20 or 30 years for imbalances like cancers, to develop, and it is clear today that Safety Code 6 does not adequately protect our children. In testimony before the parliamentary Health Committee in 2015, Mr. Andrew Adams of *Health Canada* admitted there are studies

that show harm below the exposure levels permitted by Safety Code 6. Why has *Health Canada* not heeded non-industry funded science and updated this guide?

The Canadian government has given \$30 million dollars of taxpayers' money to the tech company Nokia to develop and test 5G on us. Why is no federal funding being put into researching the safety of 5G?

I am here, Mayor and council, to request your help. I am asking you to keep our children safe. I understand that at this time *Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada* makes the rules regarding microcell installations. I also understand that although provincial Municipal Acts empower local governments with the responsibility to protect the health of their citizens, when it comes to microwave and millimeter wave radiation you believe you must defer to Safety Code 6, regardless of the precautionary principle, the growing consensus of harm found in independent science, or your own better judgment. However, some places in Canada like Toronto and Salt Spring Island have created radiation exposure standards for their communities that are much more protective than Safety Code 6.

Clearly, given the unknown health and environmental effects of industry and government's "race to 5G" we urgently need new policies. I request that you:

- 1) Advocate for the removal of the federal loophole that exempts antennas placed on existing structures like utility poles from local and public consultation.
- 2) Create a local Antenna Siting Protocol that clearly states that we will not permit cell antennas to be placed by our front doors.
- 3) Create a radiation protection standard for our community, like Salt Spring and Toronto have, that is more protective than Health Canada's outdated Safety Code 6.
- 4) Create a task force to investigate community-owned wired-to-the-premises fiber optics for our community.
- 5) Pass a resolution calling for a moratorium on the rollout of 5G until independent scientific research has proven it safe.
- 6) Lobby for an option to opt-out from 5G technology to be built into all devices, appliances and cars—ensuring the safety of those with electromagnetic-sensitivities, the elderly and the young.

Our children have the right to grow up in an environment that allows them to thrive. Thank you for your time, and for considering my recommendations to help promote our community's wellbeing.