

((5G)) Winnipeg Awareness!

9 September 2020

Open letter to:

Mr. Joe Natale

President and CEO of Rogers Canada Communications Inc. (ROGERS)

c/o Mr. Colin Bartlett (Winnipeg Office)

Via post: 1600 - 330 Portage Ave.

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4

Via email: Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce website

Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

SUBJECT: Notice of objection, non-consent and questions about the installations of small 4G & 5G network antennas in residential neighbourhoods and elsewhere in Winnipeg

I am writing on behalf of 5G Winnipeg Awareness. We are a not-for-profit, non-partisan group of Winnipeg residents concerned about biological effects of radiation from wireless devices (such as cell phones, cordless phones, baby monitors, Wi-Fi routers) and the cellular and other network antennas that connect wirelessly with those devices.

According to a City of Winnipeg report, thousands of “small” cellular network antennas will be installed throughout Winnipeg, including in residential neighbourhoods close to homes. Likely installation locations will be on lamp posts, hydro poles and other “non-tower” structures (including the outer walls and rooftops of buildings and at street/sidewalk level). Initially these will emit 4G radiofrequencies. 5G and other technologies can follow. We have learned that Manitoba Hydro is allowing a telecommunications carrier to conduct a pilot project installing and testing small antennas somewhere in Winnipeg.

1. NOTICE OF OBJECTION TO THE INSTALLATION OF CELLULAR ANTENNAS CLOSE TO OUR HOMES

We object to the installation of cellular network antennas close to our homes and in other parts of Winnipeg such as in residential areas and where there are condominium, apartment or long-term care residences. Furthermore, if any cellular network antennas have been installed, we want them to be turned off and removed.

Our position is that fibre-optic cable to the premises (FTTP) is a better option. Please see the *“Urgent Appeal to the Government of Canada to Suspend the 5G Rollout and to Choose Safe and Reliable Fibre Connections”*, that our group helped develop, for details on FTTP and for some of the substantial scientific evidence upon which our concerns are based: <http://c4st.org/5Gappeal/>

2. NON-CONSENT OF EXPOSURE TO RADIOFREQUENCY EMISSIONS FROM CELLULAR NETWORK ANTENNAS

We hereby notify ROGERS that we do not consent to cellular network radiofrequency radiation emissions by network equipment that is installed, or may be installed and operated by ROGERS, close to our homes in Winnipeg. We do not consent to, in effect, involuntary exposures to the emissions. We do not give our consent to these installations, nor to any (small or large) cellular network infrastructure designed to add radiofrequency radiation emissions immediately outside or inside our homes.

3. QUESTIONS ABOUT CURRENT AND FUTURE “SMALL CELL” NETWORK ANTENNAS IN WINNIPEG

We are aware that Manitoba Hydro has an agreement with a telecommunications carrier to conduct a “pilot” project involving small cell antennas somewhere in Winnipeg. Thousands more small cell antennas, possibly operated by ROGERS and other telecommunications carriers, will follow, according to City of Winnipeg staff.

We have grave concerns about these installations and potential impacts on our health and the natural environment, and we request that you provide us with answers to the following questions by Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020:

PILOT PROJECT

- 1) Is ROGERS, or a subcontractor or third party operator under ROGERS, planning to install, or has already installed, small cell antennas (that emit radiofrequency radiation) on non-tower structures in residential areas or elsewhere in Winnipeg as part of a pilot project?
- 2) If for a pilot project, or for other reasons, what will be, or has been installed, and in which area of the City of Winnipeg?
- 3) If already installed, when did the installations occur and when did, or will, the antennas begin operating?
- 4) Will nearby residents and property owners be notified in advance of this project (or were they given notice of projects already initiated) and will they be notified of any change(s) to emissions frequency or power levels? If so, how?

POSSIBLE FUTURE CELLULAR ANTENNA INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING 5G MILLIMETRE-WAVELENGTH TECHNOLOGY

- 5) Will ROGERS be holding any public consultations about small cell antenna installations anywhere in Winnipeg?
- 6) What is the soonest that small cellular antenna installations may begin to be installed, and put into operation?
- 7) Where can Winnipeg residents find out the specific locations of future antenna installations; e.g. addresses adjacent to lamp posts where antennas would be attached?
- 8) What specific frequencies will your small cell antennas be emitting initially, and what are they capable of emitting when the system is fully deployed (operational), upgraded and activated?
- 9) How will residents and property owners be notified in advance of any change(s) or addition(s) to the frequencies, e.g. for the addition or modification or energization of equipment or operations to enable millimeter-wavelength emissions? Will residents and property owners be notified in advance of any change(s) to power levels? If so, how and when would residents and property owners be notified?
- 10) How will (has) ROGERS determine(ed) the “need for wireless service” throughout Winnipeg? How much of the “need” can be met with fibre optic cable? Where can the public find this information?

MONITORING

- 11) How will the intensity (W/m²) of radiofrequency radiation be determined and mapped? How often will intensity monitoring and reporting occur? Who receives the reports? Will you be coordinating with other carriers to ensure that Health Canada’s Safety Code 6 is not exceeded with full usage of all planned spectrum, at the design stage and with monitoring of ambient levels around-the-clock, including during peak traffic periods? When there is more than one carrier in a network coverage area, how will carriers cooperate to ensure aggregate/cumulative exposures are determined, so that Safety Code 6 limits will not be exceeded? Where can the public find this information?
- 12) How will ongoing monitoring be carried out regarding potential radiofrequency-induced effects on health of residents and in the environment (trees, birds, pollinators)? Where can the public find this information?

MEDICAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 13) Is there a mechanism for residents who have medical conditions to identify themselves so that ROGERS can make modifications to ensure “buffer zones” so that there would not be a barrier to those residents’ accessibility to their own homes and to essential services?
- 14) Who carries the legal liability in the event that injury from radiofrequency emissions is established? ROGERS, Manitoba Hydro, the City of Winnipeg, the Government of Canada or what other entity? What is the maximum coverage?

Any additional information or clarification would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your timely attention to address these questions by Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020. We are pleased to see that ROGERS is a corporation that strives to be socially responsible, and we look forward to a response from you that demonstrates such spirit, effort and goodwill.

Please feel free to contact me for clarifications and questions about the content in this letter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Friesen M.Sc.

Spokesperson, 5G Winnipeg Awareness

Email: 5G.Winnipeg.Awareness@gmail.com

<https://5gwinnipegawareness.ca>

cc.

- Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED), Honourable Navdeep Bains: navdeep.bains@parl.gc.ca
- Provincial Minister Responsible for Crown Services (includes Manitoba Hydro), Honourable Jeff Wharton: mincrown@leg.gov.mb.ca
- Provincial Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living, Honourable Cameron Friesen: minhsal@leg.gov.mb.ca
- Manitoba Hydro: President & CEO, Manitoba, Ms Jay Grewal: Hydrocustomerservice@hydro.mb.ca
- City of Winnipeg, Mayor Brian Bowman: dlorentz@winnipeg.ca
- City of Winnipeg Councillors: Councillor Markus Chambers, Councillor Ross Eadie, Councillor Scott Gillingham, Councillor Cindy Gilroy, Councillor Kevin Klein, Councillor Janice Lukes, Councillor Brian Mayes, Councillor Shawn Nason, Councillor John Orlikow, Councillor Sherri Rollins, Councillor Vivian Santos, Councillor Jason Schreyer, Councillor Devi Sharma.
For email addresses see: <https://winnipeg.ca/council/default.stm>