

((5G)) Winnipeg Awareness!

25 September 2020

OPEN LETTER TO:

Minister Jeff Wharton
Minister Crown Services

Hand delivered:

Manitoba Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Via email: mincrown@leg.gov.mb.ca

Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

SUBJECT: Notice of objection, non-consent, questions and copies of letters to major telecommunications companies in Winnipeg regarding small cellular antenna installations

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.

We object to the installations of cellular antennas close to our homes, etc. and we do not consent to being irradiated by their emissions. We also have questions about the pilot project.

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

We object to the installation of 4G and 5G 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 you that we do not consent to cellular network radiofrequency radiation emissions by network equipment that is installed, or may be installed and operated 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 – LETTERS

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 can follow.

We request notification and public consultations.

We have grave concerns about these installations and potential impacts on our health and the natural environment and we have written to four major telecommunications in Winnipeg: Bell MTS, Rogers, Shaw and TELUS (attached).

Please provide us with answers to these questions.

PILOT PROJECT

- 1) Is a telecommunications company, or a subcontractor or third party operator 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 with Manitoba Hydro?
- 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) How 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?

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

- 5) Will Manitoba Hydro 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) the “need for wireless service” throughout Winnipeg been determined? 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 Manitoba Hydro 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, or will there be, a mechanism for residents who have medical conditions to identify themselves in order that modifications and accommodations can be made to ensure “buffer zones” so there would be no barriers 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? The telecommunications company/companies, Manitoba Hydro, the City of Winnipeg, the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba or what other entity? What is the maximum coverage?
- 15) With Manitoba Hydro being the “landlord”, is there a legal obligation to ensure that complete compliance to existing standards is assured, and that Hydro will assume full legal responsibility for harmful effects e.g. to health or well-being, resulting from these installations? In other words, is injury to the health and well-being from radiofrequency emissions covered in your lease agreements?

Thank you in advance for your timely attention to address these questions by October 1st, 2020.

Any additional information or clarification would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me for clarifications and questions about the content of this letter.

Sincerely,



Margaret Friesen M.Sc.

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cc. Members of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly (53).