

March 10, 2021

To: Pembina Trails School Trustees, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ward 1 - Catchment in Charleswood

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Superintendent of Education/CEO

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Dear Board of Trustees, Pembina Trails School Division, Winnipeg, MB

Subject: Please support relocating proposed Rogers cell tower at 523 Harstone Road, Winnipeg, at least 500 meters from the Ecole Dieppe elementary school and the nearby daycare: Safety Code 6 (2015) is outdated and inadequate to protect those with electrosensitives and other health conditions – due diligence required.

My name is Shelley Wright (B.A., B.Ed.). I am a retired teacher living in Ontario. My husband, Brian Durkin is a Professional Engineer (PEng).

Concerned residents of Charleswood living near Ecole Dieppe and a nearby daycare asked if I would write a letter in support of moving the proposed Rogers Communications Inc. (Rogers) cell tower at 523 Harstone Road at least 500 meters from the school. I am glad to do so.

1. Reasons for my concerns:

I am aware that there are many health related reasons for erring on the side of caution when it comes to exposures to radiofrequency/microwave radiation such as that emitted by the proposed Rogers cell tower antennas. Among these concerns include evidence that this type of radiation is a cancer initiator^{1,2} as well as a cancer promotor³. However, in this letter I would like to confine most of my comments to my own personal

¹ Miller et al. 2018. **Cancer epidemiology update, following the 2011 IARC evaluation of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (Monograph 102)**, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30196934/>

² Environmental Health Trust <https://ehtrust.org/world-health-organization-scientists-recommend-wireless-be-upgraded-for-cancer-causing-effects/>

³ Lerchl et. Al (2015). **Tumor promotion by exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields below exposure limits for humans.** <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25749340/>

experience, namely as someone with electrosensitivity, also known as electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS)⁴, a type of environmentally induced illness⁵.

Symptoms can include headaches, difficulty concentrating, memory lapses, disorientation, dizziness, vertigo, sleep disturbances (insomnia), nausea, excessive fatigue, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), irregular heartbeat/pressure in the chest, skin rashes and thyroid problems⁶. In the absence of wireless signals these symptoms disappear often within a few hours, but sometimes not for days and for those severely impacted, for weeks. The signal strength, distance (from the wireless source) and duration of the wireless exposure, have an impact on the severity and longevity of symptoms.

I was diagnosed with EHS at Women's College Hospital in Toronto⁷. Crippled by the pervasive use of wireless devices, I have become a strong advocate for accessibility in educational and health/medical facilities. I've spoken to more than 800 teachers over the last eight years at meetings of the *Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario (ETFO)* and successfully worked to have motions passed to support teachers and students who become sick around wireless signals from cell towers and hubs. I've also been a guest speaker at Women's College Hospital at two medical EMF (electromagnetic fields) Symposiums which provided continuing medical education (CME) credits for physicians⁸.

My husband and I presented our concerns about a proposed cell tower to be located in our park and beach area where families go to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Our Town Council listened to our concerns and moved the cell tower to the Water Treatment plant, 3 km away from the most densely populated area of our neighbourhood where there were daycares and schools.

Our town understood that this move would support the health and wellness of vulnerable (children) and sensitive residents and provide safer technology for all residents, and provide choices for residents who wish to live farther away from a cell tower (concerned about property value, etc.).

2. Safety Code 6 (2015):

Although the most current Safety Code 6⁹ is dated 2015, the scientific literature upon which it is based is older. There are four (4) references about EHS: one from 2005, two from 2008 and one from 2011. All of these are

⁴ Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity (EHS) is an environmental disability recognized by Ontarians For Disabilities Act and our Canadian Human Rights Commission. EHS (Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity) is also recognized under the International Code of Diseases (ICD – 10). It is recognized as a functional disability in Sweden.

⁵ Belpomme and Irigaray (2020). **Electrohypersensitivity as a Newly Identified and Characterized Neurologic Pathological Disorder: How to Diagnose, Treat, and Prevent It.** <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32168876/>

⁶ <https://phiremedical.org/>

⁷ Bray (2020). **PRELIMINARY Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Management of Electromagnetic Field Hypersensitivity (EHS)**
<https://www.womenscolleghospital.ca/assets/pdf/environmental/Preliminary%20Clinical%20Guidelines%20%20for%20EHS.pdf>.

⁸ Women's College Hospital, Toronto. (2019, May 31). **Impacts of Wireless Technology on Health: A symposium for Ontario's medical community - Video of symposium, 31 May 2019:** <https://www.womenscolleghospital.ca/programs-and-services/environmental-health-clinic/June-2019-Conference-Videos>. Retrieved August 14, 2019, from <https://www.womenscolleghospital.ca/programs-and-services/environmental-health-clinic/June-2019-Conference-Videos>

⁹ Health Canada. (2015). **Limits of human exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic energy in the frequency range from 3 KHz to 300 GHz. Safety Code 6 (2015)**, 24. Retrieved from http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/alt_formats/pdf/consult/_2014/safety_code_6-code_securite_6/final-finale-eng.pdf

review papers and so the literature upon which those reviews are based would be mostly even older. The “fact sheet” from the World Health Organization is from 2005¹⁰.

The knowledge about EHS has advanced considerably and there is much evidence that precaution and preventative measures are appropriate. Some recent papers in peer-reviewed journals and other sources, include:

- Belpomme, D., & Irigaray, P. (2020a). **Electrohypersensitivity as a Newly Identified and Characterized Neurologic Pathological Disorder: How to Diagnose, Treat, and Prevent It.** *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 21(6), 1915. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21061915>
- Belyaev, I., Dean, A., Eger, H., Hubmann, G., Jandrisovits, R., Kern, M., ... Thill, R. (2016). **EUROPAEM EMF Guideline 2016 for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of EMF-related health problems and illnesses.** *Reviews on Environmental Health*, 31(3). <https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2016-0011>
- Bray, Riina. (2020). **Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Management of Electromagnetic Field Hypersensitivity (EHS) -PRELIMINARY Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Diagnosis and Management of Electromagnetic Field Hypersensitivity**, 14. Retrieved from <https://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/assets/pdf/environmental/Preliminary%20Clinical%20Guidelines%20%20of%20EHS.pdf>
- Carpenter, David, Hardell, Lennart, & Belpomme, Dominique. (2015). **Press Release: 2015 Brussels International Scientific Declaration on Electrohypersensitivity and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity** **Press-Release-EN1.pdf**. Retrieved from <http://appel-de-paris.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Press-Release-EN1.pdf>
- Environmental Health Clinic, Women’s College Hospital, Toronto. (2019, May 30). **Ontario Doctors Warn of Rising Health Care Costs after 5G Roll Out.** <https://www.newswire.ca/News-Releases/Ontario-Doctors-Warn-of-Rising-Health-Care-Costs-after-5g-Roll-out--845905505.html>. Retrieved from <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/ontario-doctors-warn-of-rising-health-care-costs-after-5g-roll-out--845905505.html>
- Havas, M. (2019). **Electrohypersensitivity (EHS) is an Environmentally-Induced Disability that Requires Immediate Attentions.** *J. Sci. Discov.*, 3(1), 20. <https://doi.org/jsd18020>
- Heuser, G., & Heuser, S. A. (2017). **Functional brain MRI in patients complaining of electrohypersensitivity after long term exposure to electromagnetic fields.** *Reviews on Environmental Health*, 32(3), 291–299. <https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2017-0014>
- Panagopoulos, D. J. (2019). **Comparing DNA damage induced by mobile telephony and other types of man-made electromagnetic fields.** *Mutation Research/Reviews in Mutation Research*, 781, 53–62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mrrev.2019.03.003>
- Physicians’ Health Initiative for Radiation and Environment and British Society for Ecological Medicine et al. (2020, October 11). **2020 Consensus Statement of UK and International Medical and Scientific Experts and Practitioners on Health Effects of Non-Ionising Radiation (NIR).** Retrieved November 12, 2020, from <https://phiremedical.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-Non-Ionising-Radiation-Consensus-Statement.pdf>
- Stein, Y., & Udasin, I. G. (2020). **Electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS, microwave syndrome) - Review of mechanisms.** *Environmental Research*, 186, 109445. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2020.109445>
- Wireless Education. (2016, May 18). **French courts rule for the removal cell tower near homes/schools.** Retrieved March 8, 2021, from <https://www.wirelesseducation.org/courts-france-remove-cell-towers-high-risk-areas/>
- Zothansiana, -, Zosangzuali, M., Lalramdinpuui, M., & Jagetia, G. C. (2017). **Impact of radiofrequency radiation on DNA damage and antioxidants in peripheral blood lymphocytes of humans residing in the vicinity of mobile phone base stations.** *Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine*, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15368378.2017.1350584>

3. Moving the proposed Harstone Road cell tower to 500 meters (or more) from Ecole Dieppe would achieve a number of health, wellness and accessibility goals for your community:

- Reduce potential injury, create accessibility and reduce costly trial and error (remember asbestos?).

¹⁰ World Health Organization. 2005. Backgrounder. Electromagnetic fields and public health- Electromagnetic hypersensitivity. <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/radiation-and-health/electromagnetic-fields-and-public-health--electromagnetic-hypersensitivity>

- Support the Precautionary Principle. There are more than 6,000 studies that indicate pervasive, less than 24/7 exposures to electromagnetic signals in the radiofrequency/microwave range can cause injury (leukemia, brain tumours, infertility, heart arrhythmia/failure, debilitating migraines, vertigo, etc.). Cardiologist, Dr. Stephan Sinatra claims these signals can cause heart failure in some children.
- Reduce health risks of the potential impacts of long term, cumulative exposure for students and staff.
- Likely avoid cluster cancers (500 meters may be even too close to children who are more vulnerable).
- By just doubling the distance from Ecole Dieppe, the signal strength will be reduced by 4 times! This is known as the “square of the distance”.
- Protect children and pregnant staff (unborn children) who are more sensitive to wireless signals because these cumulative 24/7 signals penetrate more deeply in their rapidly growing brains. According to Devra Davis Ph.D., signals can have a significant impact on the development of thinking and memory cells in the fetal brain (causing “Environmental Autism”, ADHD, etc.). Brain studies reveal that radiofrequency exposures can spike glucose levels in the brain leading to ADHD, addictive behaviour, or other hormone disruptions which amplify mental health issues¹¹. (Dr. Davis was one of the main scientists responsible for having lead removed from gasoline and smoking banned from airplanes.)
- The American Academy of Pediatrics¹², the largest US medical association of pediatricians and pediatric specialists (over 60,000 members) state, “Children are disproportionately affected by environmental exposures, including cell phone radiation. The differences in bone density and the amount of fluid in a child’s brain compared to an adult’s brain could allow children to absorb greater quantities of RF (radiofrequency) energy deeper into their brains than adults.”
- Support Health Canada guidelines for young children; According to Health Canada “Children are more sensitive to environmental agents” (Health Canada, May 2019).
- Support the ALARA Principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable); providing students and staff with the signals needed to operate devices efficiently, while minimizing signal strength. (Following the BioInitiative Report¹³ limits whenever possible.)
- Support students and staff who are more sensitive to cell tower signals (electromagnetic hypersensitivity – EHS) and or those who can experience amplified injury; residents living with Lyme disease, Autism, MS, Parkinson’s, diabetes, and other neurodegenerative diseases, or others who experienced over-exposure to chemical/electrical signals and cannot tolerate additional signals which trigger debilitating symptoms.
- Support children who are healing from cancer (there is evidence that radiofrequency radiation can act as a cancer promotor even if it is not the initiator).

Moving the proposed cell tower to more than 500 meters from Ecole Dieppe will greatly reduce risk of short term and long term injury to students and staff.

Please err on the side of caution to protect the health of children and staff and support the movement of the proposed cell tower to at least 500 meters from Ecole Dieppe. I encourage you to practise due diligence. As Frank Clegg, former president of Microsoft Canada and current CEO of Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST)¹⁴ is quoted as saying in a newspaper article when cell towers were removed close to a school in Etobicoke, Ontario: “There is harm to the students, for sure...we don’t know how much because nobody is really measuring the effect.”¹⁵

¹¹ Environmental Health Trusts. <https://ehtrust.org/?s=adhd>

¹² American Academy of Pediatrics <https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/AAP-Recommendations-Fact-Sheet-3.pdf>

¹³ BioInitiative Report. <https://bioinitiative.org/conclusions/>

¹⁴ Canadians for Safe Technology. <https://c4st.org/>

¹⁵ Appia. (2019). Etobicoke parents outraged by telecom towers near elementary school | Toronto.com. *Toronto.Com*

Please urge Rogers to relocate this proposed cell tower.

Thank you kindly for considering my request to express concerns which will serve to protect students in one of your school communities.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like to share with me your plans to support this initiative. I hope the students, parents and this school community can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Shelley Wright, B.A., B.Ed. , Email: shelwright@gmail.com

cc:

- Lori Bettig, lori.bettig@gmail.com
- Marg Friesen, Manitobans for Safe Technology, Email: manitobans4st@gmail.com



At home where wireless electromagnetic radiation levels are low,
I am free of symptoms.

<https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9666161-etobicoke-parents-outraged-by-telecom-towers-near-elementary-school/>. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/9666161-etobicoke-parents-outraged-by-telecom-towers-near-elementary-school/>