



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

JAN 19 2016

Dear |

I am pleased to respond to your e-mail of November 4, 2015, concerning radiofrequency (RF) energy exposure and cell towers, which was forwarded to me on December 7, 2015, by the Honourable Navdeep Singh Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

Health Canada is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians. The Department's mandate regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic energy from wireless devices is to carry out research into possible health effects, monitor the scientific literature related to such effects on an ongoing basis, and develop exposure guidelines such as the recently updated *Limits of Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy in the Frequency Range from 3 kHz to 300 GHz - Safety Code 6*. As you are aware, wireless communications equipment, such as cell phones, cell towers, smart meters and Wi-Fi, is regulated by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). To ensure that public exposures fall within acceptable guidelines, ISED has developed regulatory standards that require compliance with the human exposure limits outlined in Safety Code 6. Any queries regarding the regulatory rights and obligations required of tower operators such as Telus should be directed to ISED.

The Department updated Safety Code 6 to take into account recent scientific data from studies carried out worldwide. When developing the exposure limits in Safety Code 6, departmental scientists considered all peer-reviewed scientific studies, and employed a weight-of-evidence approach when evaluating possible health risks from exposure to RF energy. Health Canada's updated Safety Code 6 puts Canada's limits among the world's most stringent science-based limits.

The 2015 update to Safety Code 6, which includes more restrictive RF exposure limits, was reviewed by an Expert Panel of the Royal Society of Canada. The Society concluded in the spring of 2014 that there are no established adverse human health effects at exposure levels below those proposed limits. Also, the

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House of Commons Standing Committee on Health tabled a report on RF electromagnetic energy on June 17, 2015, and did not recommend any changes to the existing Safety Code 6 guideline.

It is Health Canada's position that the health of Canadians is protected from RF energy when the human exposure limits recommended by Safety Code 6 are respected. Safety Code 6 has always established and maintained a human exposure limit that is far below the threshold for potential adverse health effects.

I hope that my comments are helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Philpott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.