Proposed Motion to AKBLG: Microcell Transmitter Placement Consultation

Executive Summary

There is a coordinated move by the telecommunications industry to totally saturate the "Americas" with wireless (WiFi) technology, supporting wirelessly connected devices. All the large telecommunications corporations are stakeholders in this, and they are interested solely in the financial profits this move will achieve for them.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) developed a Cell Tower Siting Policy in 2013 (updated in 2014) which ruled that telecommunications companies must comply with regulations set out in that document before setting up cell towers over 15 metres high. But with the newly developed "microcell" or "small cell" technology, they no longer need the large cell towers and can install the small and powerful transmitters on telephone poles, or even on the sides of buildings – wherever they choose to boost their wireless signals.

Here is a direct quote taken from the Executive Summary of the Small Cell Forum's "Small cell siting: regulatory and deployment considerations," (December 2016)¹:

As traffic levels rise, and as more industries and cities become always-connected, the mobile networks will have to be designed in a new way. Notably, they will involve very large numbers of small cell base stations, which can deliver massive broadband capacity in urban areas and reach every corner of the country too.

Electromagnetic smog is the new "tobacco" crisis of the 21st Century

Notably ignored in any of their literature is the *very real* danger of all that WiFi constantly bombarding everything and everyone in its path. There have NEVER been independent studies done which *prove* that wireless devices are safe. In fact, there is a literal plethora (up to 25,000) of peer reviewed scientific studies that indicate that RF/EMF radiation is not only dangerous, it is downright harmful to *everything living* on the planet. Cell phones even carry an RF Exposure warning, cautioning users to use a hands-free option, and to carry the device at least 10mm away from the body "to ensure levels remain at or below as-tested levels." Study after study has conclusively demonstrated that there are links to increased cancers of the brain, thyroid, breast, reproductive organs, increased tumors, and a whole host of other health issues ranging from headaches and sleeplessness to dementia - from even low levels of RF radiation.

In addition, it has also long been known that the standard for setting safety levels of RF radiation for industry, Safety Code 6, is woefully outdated. Many European and Scandanavian countries have reduced their RF safety limits to 1,000 times LESS than Canada's. That should send alarm bells to any thinking person.

Municipalities must act decisively to protect their residents from insidious, harmful RF radiation through the prolific placement of these microcells by the "telecom" industries who appear not to care for the health and safety of residents, but only the "bottom line." Consulting together with the industry players, municipal governments and the public can lead to safeguarding against the inappropriate placement of microcell transmitters, thereby protecting residents' health and well-being.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverley Tripp, Grand Forks City Councillor

¹ 5Gamericas.org, Small Cell Forum.org, **Report title:** Small cell siting: regulatory and deployment considerations, Issue date: 15 December 2016, Version: 190.08.02