

What? - Microcells are transmitters which, like cell towers, emit electromagnetic frequencies 24/7.

Where? - Across Canada, telecoms are installing them by our homes, businesses, parks, hospitals, and schools.



Why? -To sell us faster data and establish the infrastructure for unproven-to-be-safe technologies like 5G.

How? - Industry Canada allows microcells to be installed without public consultation. Local governments have no prerogative over the placement of small cell antennas on their streets.

Microcells & the Lack of Local Authority over the Public Right-of-way

Why must municipal governments have a say in microcell placement in our communities?

- **Local Authority Overruled:** Control of public property has been put in the hands of private telecommunications companies.
- **Public Health and Safety:** Placing transmitters in the public right of way affects pole integrity, creates increased distraction for drivers, and causes sidewalk and roadway crowding. The international biomedical research community is increasingly linking radiofrequency radiation from wireless devices to adverse health effects.
- **Urban Planning:** There is no limit to the number of small cells allowed per property, and no consideration for competing demands, noise, lighting, design, or fiscal impacts.
- **Aesthetics & Property Values:** Universal deployment of microcells degrades intentionally designed neighborhoods and historic buildings and negatively affects property values.



Regaining the Right to Choose

Municipal governments in the United States are rallying to keep their right to be consulted on the placement of microcells in their communities. In March 2017, 80 cities in Ohio filed a lawsuit against legislation that takes away local authority on small cells. Massachusetts legislators have introduced five bills in the 2016-2017 session to address public exposure to wireless radiation. On May 15, 2017, a key California Senate Committee put Bill 649 - which was designed to limit local governments' ability to use zoning laws to block the proliferation of small cells near schools, hospitals and residential areas - on hold.

Here at home, at the April 2017 AKBLG conference, BC's Kootenay Boundary area governments passed a resolution towards achieving public consultation on microcell placement. This resolution will be voted on at the UBCM convention this September. Canadian municipalities must now act quickly and decisively to regain the right to oversee the placement of microcells on their streets, **shaping a collaborative and life-enhancing technological future for Canada.**

Microcells – Myths & Facts

Myth: Microcells are small, unobtrusive, and an aesthetic improvement over large cell towers.



Fact: A “small cell” could carry several bulky refrigerator-sized cabinets, lead acid batteries, noisy cooling fans, battery back-up systems, untidy cabling and more, resulting in a large and unappealing public eyesore.

Myth: Microcell networks are essential to providing faster data for our cell phones and internet use.

Fact: For mobile connectivity we could emulate France’s pilot project and install small cells with signals that are adequate for mobile use but do not penetrate peoples’ homes. For home and business internet access, a wired network of ***fiber optic and ethernet cables*** is the safe, fast, reliable, cyber-secure way to connect, and it will not blemish or obstruct local rights of way. Communities like Longmont, Colorado and Chattanooga Tennessee have created universal, affordable municipal fiber systems.

Myth: Wireless technologies and microcells are safe, harmless, and secure.

Fact: Thousands of peer reviewed scientific studies link radiofrequency radiation from wireless devices to adverse effects on the health of people, plants, pollinators and more. Among the devices of concern are cell towers and cell phones. In 2016, the US National Toxicology Program at the National Institutes of Health linked cellular radiofrequency radiation to malignant brain and nerve tumors of the heart in rats. A Canadian study published on May 23, 2017 reports that 558 lifetime hours of cell phone use more than doubles the chance of getting gliomas, a deadly brain cancer, in humans. Wireless networks are also easily hacked, putting our personal data at risk.

Myth: Microcells are indispensable as they lay the groundwork for desirable technologies like 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT) – a network of interconnected, wireless devices at home and everywhere.

Fact: 5G frequencies cover short distances only and are blocked by buildings, foliage, and bodies. To counter this, a network of radiation-emitting 5G transmitters - microcells - must be densely placed on residential and business streets. Although the 5G frequency spectrum has not been proven reliable or safe, telecoms are pushing for its accelerated implementation. Why? 5G provides the backbone of the Internet of Things and there is big money in Big Data. The IoT leaves us vulnerable to security breaches, data theft, and data mining. Microcells, 5G, and the IoT are a threat to health, aesthetics, and cyber security.