



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

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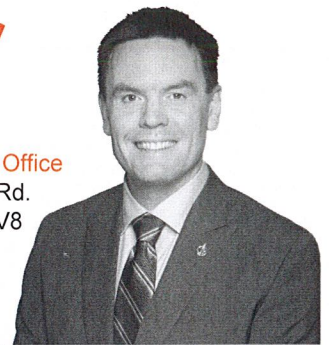
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May 29, 2018

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Petitpas Taylor,

I am writing on behalf of constituents who have concerns with the future rollout of Canada's 5G wireless network, and who would appreciate further research into the possible effects the continuous exposure might pose to human health.

As you may be aware, the 5G network will employ the so-called millimetre-wave spectrum, which has wavelengths so small they are measured in millimetres. These radio waves can carry huge amounts of data but don't travel far, which means network builders need to place many small cells close together to use this spectrum. These networks will include a mix of traditional cell-phone towers and antennas on rooftops, plus a web of small cells at lower heights to support bandwidth use over a range of distances. What this effectively means is that people walking down the streets of urban centers will be constantly exposed to wireless radiation at distances that are much closer than our traditional cell tower placements.

On December 2, 2010, the Standing Committee on Health presented its tenth report to the House of Commons, entitled *Impact of Microwaves on Human Health*. Among the recommendations of that report was that Health Canada and Industry Canada develop a comprehensive risk awareness program for exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation, which would include Health Canada making public all the studies and analyses undertaken on the impact of this radiation on human health. As a part of that report, the NDP provided its complimentary report, which acknowledged the rapidly evolving technology and the need for precautions to ensure no adverse biological effects.

In June 2015, the Standing Committee on Health revisited the issue with its thirteenth report to the House of Commons, entitled *Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation and the Health of Canadians*. Among the recommendations of that report was that the Government of Canada consider providing funding to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in support of long-term studies examining the potential health impacts of exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation and develop a comprehensive risk awareness program for exposure to this radiation.


Prior to this most recent report, the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel reviewed the issue and Safety Code 6 in 2016 in response to Health Canada's request. As you are aware, the purpose of Safety Code 6 is to establish safety limits for human exposure to RF fields in the frequency range from 3 kHz to 300 GHz. The safety limits in this code apply to all individuals working at, or visiting, federally regulated sites.

Minister, it is quite apparent that the issue of wireless radiation has attracted much study, and deservedly so. Despite Health Canada's defence of Safety Code 6, the Royal Society of Canada's Expert panel noted in its report that the measurement, calculation and assessment of the ionizing radiation dose absorbed by the human body in the 6 GHz to 300 GHz frequency range is still developing and further research is required to examine the effects of exposure to new and emerging technologies. There are multiple peer-reviewed journal articles that exist which point to real concerns with Safety Code 6. The 5G network rollout will essentially introduce a new spectrum and will "blanket" urban spaces with wireless radiation because of the close proximity of the new cells on telephone poles and the sides of buildings.

I am bringing this issue to your attention for your review and comment. As the Royal Society's Expert Panel noted, we need further research to examine the effect the effects of exposure to the new and emerging technology of the 5G wireless network. It is often the case that we discover harms of a product well after its introduction to, and use by, the public. I hope that your government will very much use the precautionary principle prior to the widespread rollout of the 5G wireless network.

I thank you on behalf of my concerned constituents for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford.

Cc: Constituents

AM/am