

Below is what I sent to the Editor of Tri-City News.

Mr. Dal Monte,

Please accept this *letter to the editor* regarding Stefan Labbé's article that appeared May 7th 2020 in Tri-City News.

<https://www.tricitynews.com/news/coquitlam-poco-mp-sponsors-petition-that-says-cell-towers-could-hurt-children-trigger-cancer-1.24131653>

I am a retired professor and I have done research on the biological effects of electromagnetic fields for the past 25 years. I send this letter because I am concerned about the integrity of your reporter and his lack of appreciation of the existing science in this area. While I realize that reporters can not delve deeply into a subject, they can—at least—provide a balanced perspective and not one that is as deeply biased as this article on the Petition sponsored by MP Ron McKinnon.

Please confirm receipt and please let me know if you plan to publish my letter.

Thanks,

-magda havas

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Letter to the Editor, Tri-City News

Date: May 8, 2020.

Re: Response to [Stefan Labbé's article in Tri-City News, May 7, 2020](#).

From: Dr. Magda Havas, B.Sc., Ph.D., Professor Emerita

A good reporter sets the stage for an article, interviews appropriate people, challenges experts and provides multiple perspectives. Stefan Labbé did none of these things in his article, which appeared in Tri-City News May 7, 2020.

Not only did Labbé not provide multiple perspectives, he didn't even interview appropriate experts. Labbé interviewed Steven Salzberg—a computer scientist who does no research on the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation and who is known to debunk research that he disagrees with by labelling it “poorly conducted”.

Why weren't scientists or medical doctors who work in this field interviewed? Why did Labbé not interview the [authors of the paper](#) that became a target of Salzberg's attack?

Why was the term “conspiracy” used six times in this article? Whenever I see that word, I wonder who is being marginalized and if the “label” is appropriate? In this case ... it isn't appropriate!

MP McKinnon sponsored a [petition](#) to the Canadian Government on behalf of his constituency regarding the distance between cell towers and schools. This is perfectly normal as one of the jobs of elected officials is to represent their community.

What was so “unacceptable” about this petition that warrant labeling people who support it as being “conspiracy theorists”?

This is what the petition requested:

We, the undersigned, Citizens (or residents) of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to:

- 1. Update Safety Code 6 to restrict the installation of cellular towers/ antennas within 305m of all schools and playgrounds; and*
- 2. Request a buffer zone for playgrounds and schools.*

How outrageous that anyone would want to protect children in schools or in playgrounds! Don't these people realize that the government is protecting them and they have nothing to worry about!

Well ... let's look at some of the facts.

First of all the government is NOT protecting us against radio frequency radiation. Health Canada's Safety Code 6 guideline is grossly outdated, much less protective than guidelines in many other countries, and based on a false premise that if it doesn't heat your body during a 6-minute period it is safe! Also, Safety Code 6 applies only to federal government buildings. It does not apply to schools, homes or other buildings!

If we are using the term "evidence-based policy-making" then let's look at some of this evidence.

In 2011 the [International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) (IARC) classified radio frequency Radiation (RFR) as a possible human carcinogen.

In 2018, the U.S. [National Toxicology Program](#) (NTP) and the [Ramazzini Institute](#) in Italy reported that rodents exposed to microwave radiation develop cancer and some of the cancers are identical to those associated with human use of cell phones.

We have hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific papers documenting an increased risk of cancers, reproductive problems, and neurological damage that is associated with microwave exposure from mobile

phones and from people living near cell phone base stations or antennas.

In 2015, an International group of [Scientists](#), from 40 countries who do research in this area, signed an appeal sent to the WHO and the UN asking, among other things, to protect children and pregnant women against electromagnetic pollution because the current levels are proving to be harmful and causing injury.

Medical associations like the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) are speaking out about the harmful effects of radio frequency radiation, especially to children.

Manufacturers of [cell phones](#) and [tablets](#) are telling their customers to keep these devices at least 2.5 and 20 cm (respectively) away from the body.

In 2015, [Lloyd's of London](#) excluded coverage for RF/EMR claims. They compared it to asbestos, which is another product they do not insure.

Are all of these organizations conspiracy theorists because they believe that radio frequency and microwave radiation are harmful at levels to which we are currently exposed.

In [2010](#) and again in [2015](#), the Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) examined the health impacts of radio frequency radiation and came up with a number of recommendations that the Government of Canada simply ignored.

I am going to mention only one of the 12 recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 8 (HESA 2015), which reads:

That an independent scientific body recognized by Health Canada examine whether measures taken and guidelines provided in other countries, such as France and Israel, to limit the exposure of vulnerable

populations, including infants, and young children in the school environment, to radiofrequencies should be adopted in Canada.

It is appropriate and necessary for the Chair of the HESA Committee, who just happens to be MP McKinnon, to encourage the government to act responsibly. That is what a politician should do. We need more politicians who listen to their constituents, speak out on their behalf and act with integrity.

The fact that this petition has gathered nearly 4000 signatures tells me that a lot of people are concerned about the health of students at school. Time for the Government of Canada to listen and respond to those concerns is long overdue.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Magda Havas