

**Email sent to the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Deputy Minister of ISED
Simon Kennedy, and MP Elizabeth May on July 27th 2022**

Dear Minister Champagne,

As Minister for Innovation, Science and Industry, with leadership oversight for Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), we would like to commend you for your recent efforts to hold Rogers Communications to account for their egregious service outage earlier this month. Given your important work in this regard, we wish to bring to your attention that ISED's Director, Coastal Offices, STS-Western Region Ken Pungente has ignored ISED regulations so as to assist Rogers in undertaking a cell tower construction against the wishes of the local land use authority.

We are a group of Concerned Residents on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia who have also spent considerable time and effort over the past year attempting to hold Rogers Communications to account over egregious behaviour. Rogers have proposed construction of a 40 metre, 5G cell tower in the midst of our densely populated community (42 metres from the closest home), even though there are acres and acres of open space with equal elevation adjacent to the proposed site. Rogers obtained a concurrence decision from our land use authority (Salt Spring Local Trust Committee – SS LTC) in July, 2021. In the following months, our group demonstrated to the SS LTC that Rogers had made false statements in their tower siting application, were breaking existing covenants registered on the site, and had ignored that the site had been an active First Nations settlement dating back two thousand years. As a result, and per ISED's direction, our land use authority rescinded their concurrence decision in March, 2022.

Subsequently, Michael Krenz of Rogers Communications, a former ISED employee and colleague of Mr. Pungente, sought clarification from ISED Canada. Rather than trigger the Dispute Resolution process required in the federal regulations (CPC 2-0-03 Section 5), and without undertaking a thorough review of the reasons for a rescindment, in late May, 2022 Mr. Pungente simply sent the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee a letter claiming they had no valid rationale for rescinding the concurrence decision. This action is in contravention of the regulations, and given the previous working relationship between Mr. Krenz and Mr. Pungente, could be considered a material conflict of interest.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Chair did reach out to Rogers requesting that they not begin construction of this cell tower until the Trust has had an opportunity to respond to Mr. Pungente's letter. However, Rogers are ignoring that request. Citing Mr. Pungente's letter as their authority, Rogers have now begun construction of the proposed cell tower against the wishes of both the local land use authority as well as the residents of Salt Spring Island.

As egregious as Roger's behaviour has been, we find the actions of Mr. Pungente, an ISED Director, to be equally egregious. We respectfully ask that you, or your Deputy Minister Mr. Kennedy review the actions of Mr. Pungente, and in the event you find he did not follow the proper protocol for handling an antenna siting dispute, that Rogers be instructed by ISED to immediately cease any construction activity on Salt Spring Island.

We thank you for your attention to this important and time sensitive request.

Julian Clark, (phone number), On behalf of the Concerned Residents of Canvasback Place
Salt Spring Island, BC