

The Auditor General of Canada
Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development
240 Sparks St.
Ottawa, ON
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Attn. Petitions

Auditor General,

Health Canada's Safety Code 6 was established as a protection against thermal radiation and, therefore, is set at a dangerously high level for all who live close to transmission towers. It provides no protection whatsoever from the real danger to residents: non-thermal electromagnetic radiation. And Health Canada appears only too willing to ignore the health concerns of the residents in order to protect the interests of the telecommunication industry.

We live on the top of Triangle Mountain, in a cul-de-sac with 28 other homes, most of which were built in 1992-1994. At that time there was one small radio tower, which had been there for decades. In, addition there was an amateur radio antenna about 300 meters away on Walfred Road.

Suddenly, in 2000 this was removed and 2 new, tall towers were built and 3 FM transmitters with 2 Studio Link Transmitters (STLs) were installed, location address Fulton Road. These towers are as close as 30 meters from our homes. (Please see attached photos)

Company	Frequency	Avg. power	Peak power
CIQC-FM ROGERS	98.5 Mhz	47,000 Watts	100,000 Watts
CHTT-FM ROGERS	103.1	9,400	20,000
CFEX-FM CTV	107.3	9,700	20,000
CTV STL	955.525		
ROGERS STL	957.6875		

From the very beginning, the residents experienced harmful interference with their electronic equipment. Despite numerous complaints that continue even to this day and with an emission level in the year 2001 that is more than 11.00 times higher than is allowed under the new CPC-2-0-03 guidelines, Industry Canada is

quoted as saying: "To date...the Broadcasters have successfully remedied the issues." (letter of May 26, 2008 from Mr. Neil Allwood, A/Director, Industry Canada, Coastal District Office. To Mayor Jody Twa, Colwood)

But, as harmful as this interference is, and as irritating as Industry Canada's failure to live up to its obligation is, they are nothing, nothing, in comparison to the real harm the transmitters are causing us.

In 2000, the residents on Bexhill Place expressed concern about the possible health implications and were repeatedly assured that Safety Code 6 provides protection. In 2001, with the help of the City of Colwood, the residents were able to get Industry Canada to perform a test of emission levels, which we later learned was not done with the proper equipment or following the correct protocol. (please refer to page 23 of petition) After a few hours of testing over 2 consecutive days in August, everyone was told the emissions were under Safety Code 6 and therefore there was nothing to worry about.

Before building our home, we asked various authorities about the FM towers and any potential health implications and received repeated assurances that Industry Canada has strict guidelines which ensure that there is no danger from RF emissions. We believed them.

Neighbours soon began to complain about health problems and at a gathering in 2005 many discussed sleeping problems including insomnia and nightsweats, skin rashes, and headaches. We decided to investigate to see if proximity to the transmitters might be the cause.

We've since learned that within 1 city block of the towers we have several people with various cancers, neurological problems, multiple miscarriages, and dermatological problems. This was discovered through casual conversations; no survey of the neighbourhood has been done.

We approached Dr. Richard Stanwick, Vancouver Island Health Officer and he told us any problems were Health Canada's responsibility and he could not get involved. In numerous discussions with people at the BC Cancer and Radiation Centre, specifically Dr. Randy Ross, we have received assurance that Safety Code 6 is safe and any health problems are due to other causes. In telephone calls and letters to people at Industry Canada both in Vancouver (Mr. Bruce Drake) and Victoria (Mr. Jim Laursen) I've received the same response -- so long as the emissions are within the limits set by Safety Code 6, there is nothing that can be done. Through emails, Dr. McNamee of Health Canada assured us that Safety Code 6 is consistent with the rest of the world's guidelines and EMR at the non-thermal level is not dangerous.

Over the last year, we've learned that the scope of the problem has changed, with Industry Canada's requirement that broadcasters use existing towers

wherever possible. Now there is a cell transmitter (869.00 MHz) on the FM towers (no notice was given, so I have no information on the installation date). The tower on Walfred has been removed and new towers were installed, with no notice or consultation. There are now many transmitters of various sorts and we were told by Mr. Laursen that 2 additional cell transmitters will be installed shortly. As of today, there are 44 transmitters within 1 kilometer of our home (please see the list from Industry Canada's website).

	NO. ON WALFRED	NO. ON FULTON
1999	1	1
2000	1	5
2008	29	6

According to one of many influential studies : “During the first 3-5 years of exposure, people suffer sleep disorders, melatonin reduction which leads to immune deficiencies. From 5-7 years, neurological problems begin to become noticeable with headaches, confusion, and memory loss. After 10 years, serious disorders such as cancer occur and health damage become irreversible.” (I.S.F. Institute for Stress Research, Berlin, Biological effects of electromagnetic fields on humans in the frequency range of 1 to 3 Ghz)

Most of the people in our neighbourhood have been exposed to these FM towers for 8 years.

We all are on borrowed time and we ask for Health Canada to reduce the allowable exposure level by studying independent, non-industry funded research and heeding the recommendations of the preponderance of credible peer-reviewed international scientists.

On behalf of all Canadians, we respectfully petition:

Health Canada to explain its reliance on and association with the telecommunication industry, to the detriment of the health of the citizens by whom they are employed;

Health Canada to explain why Canadians are not granted the same level of protection that citizens of many other countries are granted;

Health Canada to revisit its decision regarding Safety Code 6 and to implement a biologically (health)-based standard for non-thermal electromagnetic radiation, patterned after those recommended by the BioInitiative Report, August

2007;

Industry Canada to ensure that all FM and cell phone transmitters presently in use be adjusted to meet this new standard;

Health Canada to remember that its mandate is to enhance and protect the health of Canadians;

Health Canada to use only scientific studies that are credible, peer-reviewed, non-industry funded that have no industry connections;

that Health Canada personnel no longer be allowed to have connections with bodies that tend to cast doubt on the impartiality of their work;

Health Canada to carryout its mandates as published on their webpages. But while doing so that it respect the concerns of those not in industry but with an interest in decisions that may impact upon them to be properly considered, informed and respected;

Health Canada and Industry Canada to ensure that all dealings with the public be fair, objective, and aboveboard.

We earnestly petition the responders for Health Canada and Industry Canada to provide honest answers that are not mere repetitions of replies that already have been given to us and to many others but which do not respond to the questions.

Petitioners:

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