**STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

March 7, 2014

Shehryar Khan

FONTUR International

Fax: 866-234-7873

Email: W5053.bellmobility.info@fonturinternatinoal.com

**Attention: Tower Issue – 2312 North School Road, Selwyn, Ontario (the “Proposed Site”)**

I am writing on behalf of Stop “Bell Tower W5053” Community Association, a group of property owners and residents of a single-family residential neighbourhood in Young’s Point which is located south of the Proposed Site and nestled along the shores of Lake Katchewanooka, comprised of Katchewanooka Court, Arborview Drive, Fitzpatrick Drive, Chalmers Avenue and Wilson Lane (“Our Neighbourhood”). We are writing this letter to alert you of our serious concerns and to protest the Proposed Site and the 70-metre (229.7 ft., 21 stories) telecommunication tower proposed by Bell (the “Proposed Tower”). With six cellular suppliers who each want to establish 4G service across Canada, the installation of more and more cellular towers has become an urgent and important issue.

**We request that Bell stop pursuing the Proposed Site for the Proposed Tower and pursue another more suitable location (e.g. farther north/northeast along Hwy. 28 in a much lower-density residential area) for many reasons including but not limited to those listed below**. We request that the issues, concerns and questions summarized in this letter be addressed and satisfactorily resolved. We request that members of Our Neighbourhood be granted a public meeting with represents of Bell Canada and FONTUR International on a date within the 21-day review period we expect to be granted following receipt of written response to our letters.

This letter identifies several general headings (A-G) and contains several issues, concerns and questions that we request you address to our satisfaction (#1-27):

**A. SERIOUS NEGATIVE HEALTH EFFECTS**

The organization, Canadians for Safe Technologies advises that (supported by many other reliable sources):

“Scientists and the global medical community are becoming increasingly concerned about the health risks related to the electromagnetic radiation emitted by cellular towers. Exposure to non-ionizing radiation from cell towers can trigger or significantly accelerate progression of numerous diseases and conditions (including cancers, neurological diseases and electrosensitivity). Children, pregnant women, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems are at even greater risk.

After reviewing research into the biological effects of low intensity microwave radiation, in May 2011 the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer published a report that classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMR) as ‘possibly carcinogenic.’ The European Parliament and many countries around the world are accelerating actions to protect their citizens from this public health hazard.

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Health Canada states that more research on the health effects of EMR [Electromagnetic Radiation] is needed. However, the available research warrants taking action now. ‘Safety Code 6,’ the standard used by Health Canada and Industry Canada to determine acceptable levels of cellular tower emissions, is both inadequate and antiquated. Safety Code 6 does not properly address concerns over the risk of cancer, chromosomal damage, and other disease or adverse physical reactions related to EMR exposures. Nor does it take into account the effects of EMR exposures on children, whose developing brains and bodies are far more vulnerable. Current standards must be updated and based on the weight of biological studies available today.”

The Federal guidelines are based on an “acute thermal effect” with “acute” referring to short-term, high exposure and it is believed that adverse health effects begin at dramatically lower levels. Guidelines of some other countries are 1/100th of Canada’s current Safety Code 6.



http://www.magdahavas.com/health-canada-admits-safety-code-6-guideline-for-microwave-radiation-is-based-only-on-thermal-effects/

**We are very concerned about serious negative health effects.** Samples of websites containing studies confirming adverse health effects include [www.c4st.org](http://www.c4st.org) (Canadians for Safe Technology), [www.who.int/peh-emf](http://www.who.int/peh-emf) World Health Organization; [www.bioinitiative.org](http://www.bioinitiative.org) (incl. BioInitiativeReport2012); [www.magdahavas.com](http://www.magdahavas.com); and [www.weepinitiative.org](http://www.weepinitiative.org).

1. Could you please explain what precautionary measures you are taking in light of the mounting evidence of harmful health effects, the need for amendment and ongoing review of Safety Code 6 and growing recognition of the need for reform?
2. Please satisfy us that we will not experience harmful negative health effects from the Proposed Tower in the Proposed Location.
3. Power lines can create a humming noise which could potentially be heard for great distances in the still silence of countryside nights. There is growing awareness about the possibilities of harmful health effects of infrasound and other vibrations that are inaudible to humans. Are you aware of infrasound and other vibration issues related to harmful health effects including but not limited to insomnia, tinnitus, etc.? Please provide all research available in this area and satisfy us that we will not be harmed by infrasound.

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**B. TOWER SPECIFICATIONS – OUTPUT LEVELS, NUMBER OF CO-LOCATION**

**DEVICES, CURRENT AND FUTURE LIMITS**

We are **very concerned** about the initial number of devices and output levels and **even more concerned about the future number of co-location devices and future expansion of transmission frequencies and transmission power**. We believe that the Proposed Tower with its height and significant broadcast-level capacities should not be located so close to a high-density, single-family home residential community.

1. Why is the Proposed Tower designed to be so tall?
2. Please state the geographic boundaries of the telecommunications cell for Bell’s proposed current and future uses for the Proposed Tower.
3. What is the approximate km2 of the area the Proposed Tower will service immediately following installation?
4. Could that service area be expanded for Bell’s uses in the future with corresponding increases in frequency ranges and transmission-power/radiation levels without notice?
5. Please provide the current proposed frequencies, frequency ranges and transmission-power/radiation levels.
6. Have limits been set on the maximum number of devices, number/ranges of frequencies and range of transmission-power/radiation levels? If so, please provide. If not, we request that **very conservative, cautious restriction levels be set for the long term, well below Safety Code 6, to allow for prudent avoidance**, in light of grave concerns about Safety Code 6.
7. When Bell allows other devices to be co-located on the Proposed Tower, will the same current and future geographic boundaries of the cell apply or could they be expanded to much largerer geographic boundaries? What are the maximum proposed future geographic transmission/service boundaries for this Tower during the term of Bell’s contract(s) with the property owner, Industry Canada and any other parties having jurisdiction, and any renewals thereof?
8. When Bell allows other devices to be co-located on the Proposed Tower, can the number of co-located devices, number and ranges of frequencies and transmission-power/radiation levels be increased in the future without notice? What are the number of co-located devices, number and ranges of frequencies and transmission-power/radiation levels for the Proposed Tower during the term of Bell’s contract(s) with the property owner, Industry Canada and any other parties having jurisdiction, and any renewals thereof? Would Bell agree to establish long-term restrictions now to our satisfaction, recognizing again the close proximity of such a large tower to one of the highest-density, single family residential neighbourhoods in the rural Kawarthas?
9. Could you please provide us with technical information on noise/vibration levels we might expect from the tower, including infrasound?

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**C. REDUCED PROPERTY VALUES**

**We are very concerned that the Proposed Tower in the Proposed Location could reduce the value of our properties for several major reasons**: (a) current awareness and even greater knowledge in the future about serious health risks, similar to what has happened to residential properties backing on hydro corridors where those homes are becoming less and less desirable as more conclusive research emerges about the harmful effects of living in close proximity to EMR ElectroMagnetic Radiation, (b) Unattractive appearance detracting from lakeside community in nature atmosphere and (c) disruption of beautiful night sky for local residents (and tourists who see very few stars from their city homes).

1. Please satisfy us that our property values will not be reduced by the Proposed Tower on the Proposed Site.

**D. TOWER SPECIFICATIONS – PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

**We are very concerned that the tall height and potential high number of devices will have a very unattractive appearance and detract from the beautiful, natural setting of Our Neighbourhood**. With the large number of more outlying farms available, we believe there are other locations which would have a much less negative impact on such a relatively high density of local residents. We would request that any tower installed in anywhere near Our Neighbourhood blend as much with the natural surroundings as possible (recognizing safety requirements) including avoidance of brightly painted, highly-lit tower.

1. Please provide us with a physical description of the tower, including surface colours, lighting and extent of support cables.
2. Wherever the Proposed Tower is eventually relocated, we request that, safety permitting, it (a) not be painted in bright colours (e.g. red/white striping) and instead have a plain metal surface, (b) be covered with as little lighting as possible. We are strongly opposed to the types of tower construction which require extensive support cables spanning much of the property. If the design specifications for the Proposed Tower conflict, please explain the extent of flexibility proposed.

**E. TOO CLOSE TO HIGHEST-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY**

**IN A VERY BROAD GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

**We are very concerned about the proximity being too close to Our Neighbourhood**. We believe that the proposed Telecommunications Tower should be located as far away as possible from Our Neighbourhood, which is one of the highest-density single-family residential neighbourhoods in the rural Kawarthas. There is so much Rural Agricultural farmland in the area with so many fewer homes that we believe a more rural location would be much more suitable. When homeowners choose to invest in a home in a residential neighbourhood subdivision area, they are making a lifestyle choice and it should be very reasonable to assume that they will be surrounded by compatible uses.

When others choose to invest in farmland in outlying Rural Agricultural land, they are choosing a different lifestyle and risk profile for neighbouring uses. These types of properties face a higher risk of industrial/commercial, aggregates and other more disruptive uses. As confirmation, there are already a number of high towers popping up on these types of properties throughout the Kawarthas and especially along major roads and highways. We believe that the Proposed Site and the enormous size of the proposed Cell Tower are not suitable for such close proximity to single-family residential neighbourhoods and are more suitably located along major roads/highways and in Rural Areas.

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We recognize that cellular service is demanded throughout the Kawarthas, however **every effort should be made to install Cell Towers along major roads/highways and lower-density residential areas instead of impacting so negatively on such a large number of existing higher-density single-family neighbourhoods**.

1. The properties on the south side of 13th Line represent the northern boundary of the current Official Plan RU (Residential) development boundary and the Proposed Tower appears to be less than 400 metres north of that boundary. Properties to the north of 13th Line are Rural Agricultural. Could you please let us know what efforts were made to place the Proposed Tower in a location which is farther away from our neighbourhood, e.g. farther north/northeast and closer to Hwy. 28, where one would again expect to find cell towers, farms, aggregates, industrial, commercial, etc.?
2. Were any other alternative sites pursued as possibilities and if so, please list addresses and reasons for rejections?

1. Are there any other possible sites previously in discussion which could be reactivated, subject to not being even more undesirable to Our Neighbourhood?
2. **We request that the current Proposed Site be rejected and a new site be pursued farther away from Our Neighbourhood.** **We request that a moratorium be placed on the Proposed Tower and Proposed Site and that our Community Association be granted time to identify and propose a more suitable site. Please provide your agreement or state the reasons for rejecting this request.**

**F. LIGHTNING STRIKES & FOREST FIRE HAZARDS**

Vast portions of the Kawarthas are characterized by cleared farmland. The lands around the Proposed Site and Proposed Tower contain very significant natural forests, an increasingly rare natural resource. Cell towers attract lightning and should not be located so close to forests, whenever possible. **With so many farms, there are few forests remaining, especially privately-owned, natural (versus planted) forests, and the small number of forest remaining should be protected and not put at risk**.

1. What would be the amount of increased lightning strikes the Proposed Tower would attract?
2. What are the risks of forest fire related to lightning strikes and other causes due to the presence of the Proposed Tower and/or electrical malfunctions?
3. What are your preventive measures for monitoring the Proposed Site for fires and providing rapid fire-fighting response, including recognizing that the Proposed Tower could fall and start fires on neighbouring properties?
4. What are your liability insurance coverages for any damage to neighbouring properties and homes arising from fires which spread from the Proposed Tower due to lightning strike, malfunction, etc.
5. What preventative measures do you have in place should equipment malfunction lead to fire which spreads through the proposed location to neighbouring forests. Who will know the fire has started, how long will it take to respond, who will put the fires out and who will be liable for property damages in the event a fire from your Tower spreads to our forests and homes? What liability insurance do you carry and does it extend beyond your property in the event you cause fire on our properties?

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**G. NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTALLY-SIGNIFICANT LANDS & WILDLIFE**

**Environmentally-sensitive watercourse lands are recognized in the Official Plan, located immediately southwest of the proposed location**. We believe that the Proposed Tower is far too close to those officially-recognized environmentally-sensitive lands but that the entire forests to the north of Our Neighbourhood are now quite rare, environmentally significant and should be left as a wildlife retreat, undisturbed by such massive and invasive technologies. Dogs hear dog whistles, we don’t. It is quite possible that the EMR and radio-frequencies are disturbing wildlife much more than we realize. Concerns about disruptions to wildlife are being raised by various interest groups. Instances of cattle being disturbed and literally dancing around due to stray current under cell towers have also been reported. Our area has recently been celebrating the arrival of bald eagles. We are also concerned about negative impacts on such important new birds to this locale.

1. Are you able to confirm that there will be no stray current entering the ground or other negative impacts to the local power grid due to the Proposed Tower?
2. What information are you able to provide to satisfy our concerns about negative impact on environmentally-significant lands and wildlife?
3. Are you able to confirm that there will be no harm to nearby farm cattle as a food-source of beef and dairy due to the cows’ constant exposure to radiation. In essence, a food source will be irradiated for constant, prolonged periods prior to market.

In conclusion, we are strongly opposed to the Proposed Tower ***and*** the Proposed Site. We request that Bell stop pursuing the Proposed Site and pursue another more suitable location (e.g. farther north/northeast along Hwy. 28 in a much lower-density residential area farther north of the RU Residential Use boundary along 13th Line or other more suitable location away from Our Neighbourhood) for many reasons, including but not limited to those listed herein.

Please note that our Community Association’s founders only became aware of the Proposed Tower and Proposed Site on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 when Nancy Searchfield discovered the Community Notification in her rural route postal box. She contacted your office and requested an extension of the March 12 due date to allow our Community Association and herself sufficient time to respond. Our request was denied. We have used our best efforts to respond in the very short timeframe permitted and advise that we may identify further issues and elect to provide further letters with respect to this matter in the future.

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We request to receive written response from FORTRUM/Bell to address, resolve and satisfy each of our issues, concerns and questions summarized in this letter.

We request that members of Our Neighbourhood be granted a public meeting with represents of Bell Canada and FONTUR International on a date within the 21-day review period we expect to be granted following receipt of written response to our letters.

Sincerely,

Nancy Searchfield on behalf of

STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

nsearchfield@gmail.com

For more information, visit *Citizens for Safe Technology’s* website at [www.c4st.org](http://www.c4st.org). C4ST is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based coalition of parents, citizens and experts whose mission is to educate and inform Canadians and their policy makers about the dangers of exposure to unsafe levels of radiation from technology, and to work with all levels of government to create healthier communities for children and families from coast to coast.

cc.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry

C.D. Howe Building, East Tower, 11th Floor
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

E-Mail: ministre.industrie@ic.gc.ca

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, 16th Floor
70 Colombine Driveway
Tunney’s Pasture
Mail Stop: 0916A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

E-Mail: Minister\_Ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mayor Mary Smith: msmith@selwyntownship.ca

Sherry Senis (Smith Ward councillor): ssenis@selwyntownship.ca

Jeanette Thompson, Township Planner: jthompson@nexicom.net

**STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

March 12, 2014

**ADDENDUM TO LETTER DATED MARCH 7, 2012**

Shehryar Khan

FONTUR International

Fax: 866-234-7873

Email: W5053.bellmobility.info@fonturinternatinoal.com

**Attention: Tower Issue – 2312 North School Road, Selwyn, Ontario (the “Proposed Site”)**

This letter is an Addendum to our letter dated March 7, 2014 from Stop “Bell Tower W5053” Community Association, a group of property owners and residents of a single-family residential neighbourhood in Young’s Point which is located south of the Proposed Site and nestled along the shores of Lake Katchewanooka, comprised of Katchewanooka Court, Arborview Drive, Fitzpatrick Drive, Chalmers Avenue and Wilson Lane (“Our Neighbourhood”). We have alerted you about our serious concerns and our formal protest of the Proposed Site and the 70-metre (229.7 ft., 21 stories) telecommunication tower proposed by Bell (the “Proposed Tower”).

The founding members of our Community Association only learned of the Proposed Tower on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. We rapidly formed and grew our Community Association and, in that short time frame, have already obtained 34 signatures on our Petition protesting the Proposed Tower on the Proposed Site, as follows:

**Petition: “We protest the proposed Telecommunication Tower at 2123 North School Road, Selwyn, Ontario. Due to its significant height and current/future output capacity, potential health risks, negative impacts on our natural village setting, the environment, wildlife, property values and the large number of nearby residents, we believe the Tower should be situated farther away from our community.”**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Address** | **Phone** |
| Joan Brak | 2625 Graham Road | Deleted for privacy |
| Edward Brak | 2625 Graham Road |  |
| Judy Ussher | 2157 Katchewanooka Road |  |
| Clare Hartleib | 2117 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Robert Crawford | 2362 North School Road |  |
| Patricia Crawford | 2362 North School Road |  |
| Ron Russell | 2630 Graham Road |  |
| Linda Caldwell | 2756 Chalmers Avenue |  |
| John B. Coop | 2149 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Evelyn Coop | 2149 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Linda Caldwell | 2172 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Douglas Walker | 2133 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Dianne Blasco | 1723 Young’s Point Road |  |

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Address** | **Phone** |
| Jack Blasco | 1723 Young’s Point Road | Deleted for privacy |
| Carrie McInnes | 2680 Graham Road |  |
| Bruce McInnes | 2860 Graham Road |  |
| Diane Caldwell | 2156 Katchewanooka Road |  |
| Mary Ferguson-Pare | 2700 Graham Road |  |
| Edward Wroblewski | 2700 Graham Road |  |
| Ronnie Otten | 2600 Graham Road |  |
| Ivana Kadlec | 2600 Graham Road |  |
| B. W. Wilton | 2173 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| B. Godfrey | 2776 Bullock Road |  |
| Arti Joshi | 2125 Katchewanooka Road |  |
| Carl Bolton | 3983 Country 32 |  |
| Bryan & Louise Pavy | 2139 Arbourview Drive |  |
| Nancy Searchfield | 2145 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Yasmin Zand | 2101 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Gwen Walker | 2165 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Kathy Ferguson | 2151 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Carol Wilton | 2173 Katchewanooka Court |  |
| Linda Walker | 2133 Katchewanooka Court  |  |
| Michael Battaglia | 2109 Katchweanooka Court |  |
| Stu McAllen | 2738 Lakefield |  |

We reserve the right to add further signatures to this petition as this process evolves.

Thank you very much for your ongoing consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Searchfield on behalf of

STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

nsearchfield@gmail.com

Please see attached Page 3 for cc notations.cc.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry

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The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canada
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Mail Stop: 0916A
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E-Mail: Minister\_Ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mayor Mary Smith: msmith@selwyntownship.ca

Sherry Senis (Smith Ward councillor): ssenis@selwyntownship.ca

Jeanette Thompson, Township Planner: jthompson@nexicom.net

**STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

March 12, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

**2nd ADDENDUM TO LETTER DATED MARCH 7, 2012**

Shehryar Khan

FONTUR International

Fax: 866-234-7873

Email: W5053.bellmobility.info@fonturinternatinoal.com

**Attention: Tower Issue – 2312 North School Road, Selwyn, Ontario (the “Proposed Site”)**

Further to our letter dated March 7, 2014 and our first Addendum submitted earlier today dated March 12, 2014, we wish to add the following request be added to our list of issues:

Under Heading A: Serious Negative Health Effects, please add new Question 2(a): We request that the installation of the Proposed Tower on the Proposed Site (and any sites within 5 km of Our Neighbourhood) be postponed until the ongoing review of Safety Code 6 has been completed, its reports and recommendations studied by appropriate government bodies including but not limited to Health Canada and Industry Canada, and the resulting governmental decisions implemented. Please confirm that Bell is agreeable to this request, in the interest of prudence given the widespread recognition that Safety Code 6 is outdated and obsolete, with the large number of studies confirming serious adverse health effects of wireless telecommunications.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Searchfield on behalf of

STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

nsearchfield@gmail.com

cc.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry

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E-Mail: ministre.industrie@ic.gc.ca

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, 16th Floor
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E-Mail: Minister\_Ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mayor Mary Smith: msmith@selwyntownship.ca

Sherry Senis (Smith Ward councillor): ssenis@selwyntownship.ca

Jeanette Thompson, Township Planner: jthompson@nexicom.net

**STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

March 12, 2014, 2:30 p.m.



**3rd ADDENDUM TO LETTER DATED MARCH 7, 2012**

Shehryar Khan

FONTUR International

Fax: 866-234-7873

Email: W5053.bellmobility.info@fonturinternatinoal.com

**Attention: Tower Issue – 2312 North School Road, Selwyn, Ontario (the “Proposed Site”)**

Further to our letter dated March 7, 2014 and two previous Addendum Letters submitted earlier today dated March 12, 2014, we wish to add the following request be added to our list of issues:

Under Heading A: Serious Negative Health Effects, please add new Question 2(b):

**What is Bell’s liability insurance coverage with respect to (a) individual lawsuits and (b) class-action lawsuits seeking damages related to adverse health effects, reduction in property value or any other claims related to damages caused by the Proposed Tower on the Proposed Site?**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Searchfield on behalf of

STOP “BELL TOWER W5053” NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

nsearchfield@gmail.com

cc.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry

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Mail Stop: 0916A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

E-Mail: Minister\_Ministre@hc-sc.gc.ca

Mayor Mary Smith: msmith@selwyntownship.ca

Sherry Senis (Smith Ward councillor): ssenis@selwyntownship.ca

Jeanette Thompson, Township Planner: jthompson@nexicom.net