



# National NGOs in Ontario & Advocacy

Barb Payne, May 31, 2019, Toronto



**Impacts of Wireless Technology on Health:**

**A Symposium for Ontario's Medical Community**

2007+

# WEEP = The Canadian Initiative to Stop Wireless, Electric, and Electromagnetic Pollution

[excerpted from [weepinitiative.org/about.html](http://weepinitiative.org/about.html)]

## ► OUR GOAL

To inform the Canadian public about the potential environmental effects associated with various forms of electric and electromagnetic emissions.

## ► HOW WE PURSUE OUR GOAL

By disseminating up-to-date scientific information on the subject of the effects of electromagnetic emissions on the human populations and ecosystems.

By encouraging a thorough implementation of the precautionary principle with respect to electromagnetic activity.

2007+

# WEEP = The Canadian Initiative to Stop Wireless, Electric, and Electromagnetic Pollution

- ▶ **For years the best source for updates (open archives)**

“WEEP News is a service provided by WEEP to keep those interested in and affected by Wireless, Electric, & Electromagnetic Pollution, informed on a daily basis, of all the current issues and initiatives in the world today.” [weepnews.blogspot.com](http://weepnews.blogspot.com)

- ▶ **Timeless information (2 examples)**

**LIVING WITH ELECTROHYPERSENSITIVITY**

***A Survival Guide*** [weepinitiative.org/livingwithEHS.html](http://weepinitiative.org/livingwithEHS.html)

**TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR**

[weepinitiative.org/talkingtoyourdoctor.pdf](http://weepinitiative.org/talkingtoyourdoctor.pdf)

2012+

# C4ST = Canadians For Safe

## Technology [excerpted from [c4st.org/about-c4st](http://c4st.org/about-c4st)]

[C4ST] is a not-for-profit, completely volunteer-based coalition of parents, citizens and experts whose mission is to educate and inform Canadians and their policy makers about the dangers of the exposures to unsafe levels of radiation from technology, and to work with all levels of government to create healthier communities for children and families across Canada.

- ▶ **It is critical that all levels of Government:**

Acknowledge that current assumptions about the safety of electromagnetic radiation are outdated and must be revised. Offer protection and choice for pregnant women, children, electrosensitive and other vulnerable individuals who are exposed to EMR in their homes, schools and places of employment.

- ▶ **Health Canada must overhaul its process for updating Safety Code 6 and update its guidelines to protect Canadians.**

- ▶ **Industry Canada needs to play a leadership role in protecting Canadians.**

2012+

## C4ST = Canadians For Safe Technology

### ➤ **Collaboration with 55 MDs in Canada**

#### **2014 Declaration: Doctors Call for Protection from Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure**

Physicians Call for Health Canada to Provide:

- (i) Wireless safety standards that are more protective of the health of Canadians; and
- (ii) Guidelines and resources to assist Canadian physicians in assessing and managing health problems related to microwave radiation.

Full text and signatories list: [c4starchives.org/images/documents/hc-resolutions/medical-doctors-submission-to-health-canada-english.pdf](http://c4starchives.org/images/documents/hc-resolutions/medical-doctors-submission-to-health-canada-english.pdf)

### ➤ **One result of work to educate our federal government**

#### **House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA, 2015) Recommendations on Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation and the Health of Canadians**

Recap & submissions: [c4st.org/hesa-2015-recommendations](http://c4st.org/hesa-2015-recommendations)

Full text: [publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2015/parl/x62-1/XC62-1-1-412-13-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/parl/x62-1/XC62-1-1-412-13-eng.pdf)

2013/4

# The Royal Society of Canada

## A Review of Safety Code 6 (2013): Health Canada's Safety Limits for Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields<sup>3</sup>

Spring 2014

**“Summary of the Panel's Recommendations”  
contains 10 recommendations.<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> Demers, Paul (chair), Richard Findlay, Kenneth R. Foster, Bryan Kolb, John Moulder, Anne-Marie Nicol, Frank Prato, Rianne Stam. (2014). Expert Panel Report on A Review of Safety Code 6 (2013): Health Canada's Safety Limits for Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields. Royal Society of Canada, Ottawa, ON. ISBN: 978-1-928140-00-9 [https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/SC6\\_Report\\_Formatted\\_1.pdf](https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/SC6_Report_Formatted_1.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pages 119–120.

## RECOMMENDATIONS *(emphases added)*

1. Studies **investigating the characterization of skin conductivity and the variability of the internal electric field strength in different human anatomical models**, from exposure to external magnetic and electric fields, should be carried out in the near future to further test the suitability of the SC6 (2013) reference levels for the 3KHz to 10 MHz frequency range.
2. The effectiveness of the **SC6 (2013) reference levels should be examined against a larger number of new dosimetry studies than those specified in the SC6 (2013) Rationale. Additional data should be collected on child exposure, postured adult and postured child exposure, pregnant female and newborn exposure under grounded and isolated conditions.**
3. Dosimetry 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.**
4. Health Canada should **aggressively pursue scientific research aimed at clarifying the RF-cancer issue**, which would allow the government to develop protective measures if the risk were substantiated.
5. Health Canada is urged to **investigate the problems of IEI-EMF individuals** with the aim of ***understanding the etiology of their condition, developing criteria for differential diagnosis of the condition, and finding ways to provide effective treatment for such individuals.***

## RECOMMENDATIONS (cont'd)

6. Health Canada should **develop a procedure for the public to report suspected disease clusters and a protocol for investigating them**. This could be based on the US Centers for Disease Control protocol or on the 2011 Alberta protocol.
7. Health Canada should **expand their existing risk communication strategy to address consumer need for more information** around RF energy, the types of devices that use RF technologies and the levels emitted. In addition, Health Canada **should incorporate additional suggestions into their recommendations on practical measures that Canadians can take to reduce their exposure** around cell phone use (for example, limiting use in areas with low signal strength, and using an earpiece).
8. Health Canada should **encourage inclusion of basic education on non-ionizing radiation in the curriculum of Canadian Medical Schools**.
9. Health Canada should **pursue research to expand our current understanding of possible effects of exposure** to RF energy at levels below SC6 (2013).
10. Health Canada should **evaluate the need for a document to encompass all aspects of MRI safety**.



2015

# House of Commons Canada

## **RADIOFREQUENCY ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION AND THE HEALTH OF CANADIANS<sup>1</sup>**

**Report of the Standing Committee on Health**

**June 2015**

**41<sup>st</sup> Parliament, Second Session**

**The report made 12 recommendations.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/41-2/HESA/report-13/>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*; pages 25–26

## “LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS” (emphases added)

1. That the Government of Canada, in collaboration with the health departments of the provinces and territories, examine existing cancer data collection methods to **improve the collection of information relating to wireless device use and cancer.**
2. That Statistics Canada consider including questions related to **electromagnetic hypersensitivity in the Canadian Community Health Survey.**
3. That the Government of Canada, through the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**, consider funding research into **electromagnetic hypersensitivity testing, diagnosis and treatment**, and its possible impacts on health in the workplace.
4. That the ***Canadian Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the World Health Organization*** consider **updating their guidelines and continuing education materials regarding the diagnosis and treatment of electromagnetic hypersensitivity** to ensure they are based on the latest scientific evidence and reflect the symptoms of affected Canadians.
5. That the Government of Canada continue to **provide reasonable accommodations for environmental sensitivities, including electromagnetic hypersensitivity**, as required under the Canadian Human Rights Act.
6. That **Health Canada ensure the openness and transparency of its processes** for the review of Safety Code 6, so that all Canadians have an opportunity to be informed about the evidence considered or excluded in such reviews, that outside experts are provided full information when doing independent reviews, and that the scientific rationale for any change is clearly communicated.

## “LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS” (cont’d)

7. That the Government of Canada establish **a system for Canadians to report potential adverse reactions to radiofrequency fields.**
8. 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.
9. That the Government of Canada **develop an awareness campaign relating to the safe use of wireless technologies, such as cell phones and Wi-Fi, in key environments such as the school and home** to ensure that Canadian families and children are reducing risks related to radiofrequency exposure.
10. That Health Canada conduct a **comprehensive review of all existing literature** relating to radiofrequency fields and carcinogenicity based on international best practices.
11. That the Government of Canada, through the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**, consider funding **research into the link between radiofrequency fields and potential health effects such as cancer, genetic damage, infertility, impairment to development and behaviour, harmful effects to eyes and on the brain, cardiovascular, biological and biochemical effects.**
12. That the Government of Canada and manufacturers **consider policy measures regarding the marketing of radiation emitting devices to children under the age of 14**, in order to ensure they are aware of the health risks and how they can be avoided.

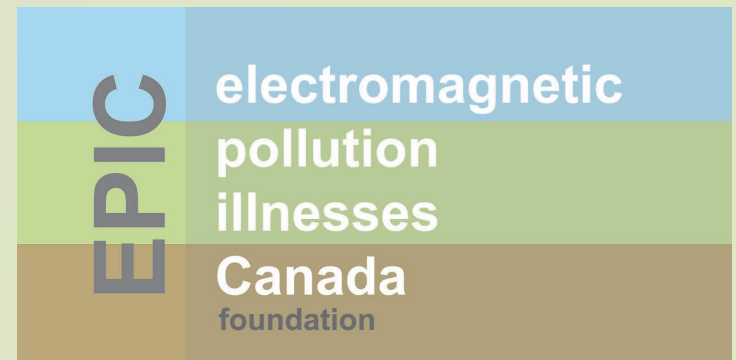
2016+

# EPIC = Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation

[excerpted from [iexistworld.org](http://iexistworld.org)]

## As a volunteer-based not-for-profit EPIC...

- ▶ provides support and services to persons affected by electromagnetic pollution
- ▶ provides info to the public about electromagnetic pollution and its impacts on health and wellbeing
- ▶ promotes the creation of healthy environments



2016+

# EPIC = Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation

## Raising public awareness

- #PracticeSafeTech
- WiresRock.org
- Electrosmog & You
- Top 5+2 e-Hygiene Tips

## Submissions to federal government (2 examples)

- **Petition to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (2017)**

referenced full text: [c4st.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AGP-number-406-Electromagnetic-hypersensitivity-EHS\\_June-16-2017.pdf](http://c4st.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AGP-number-406-Electromagnetic-hypersensitivity-EHS_June-16-2017.pdf)

- **Bill C-81 An Act to ensure a barrier-free Canada (2019)** About inclusion of electromagnetic (hyper)sensitivity (EHS) considerations in proposed legislation

[www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/HUMA/related-document/10271429](http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/HUMA/related-document/10271429)

# Chapters in my advocacy story

2008+

- realization of moderate-to-severe illness; learned how to practice prudent avoidance; current status on “good days” may be mild-to-moderate yet easily exacerbated, requiring continuous practice of prudent avoidance, quality of life is severely impaired
- protecting-people-from-electrosmog email forum (environmental)
- graphic design volunteer on Briefing Book in support of proposed cellphone warning label legislation in Maine
- re-injured accidentally
- The Electrosensitive Society, Citizens For Safe Technology, EHT, C4ST
- **founded EPIC to fill a specific gap:** it must become easier and quicker for anyone ill or prevention-minded, and caregivers, to interact with people/places/information/solutions, heal, and prevent EPIs (electromagnetic pollution illnesses) in caring for oneself and all persons and environments, and to have decent quality of life and opportunities to survive and thrive
- always involved in information gathering, various aspects of knowledge transfer, and catalyzing ideas in collaboration with other advocates, NGOs, scientists, and healthcare professionals in North America and elsewhere

**... To be continued. Whatever it takes!**