

Frank Clegg – CEO C4ST, Canadians for Safe Technology

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- Thank you for taking the time to join us
- I am joined by Dr. Martin Blank, Veronique Riopel who will be speaking in a few minutes and Marg Humphrey, an RN who is available to answer any questions you may have.
- We are here to discuss our concerns over Health Canada's current safety standards for cell phones and towers, portable phones, smart metres, Wi-Fi in schools, homes and businesses, baby monitors and other devices
- The wireless radiation emitted from these devices is monitored by Health Canada through Safety Code 6.
- Safety Code 6:
 - has not been updated since the 1980's.
 - China, Russia, Italy and Switzerland have limits 100 times safer than Safety Code 6.
- Health Canada's current process to review Safety Code 6 fails any tests of openness and transparency.
- We also suspect that Health Canada is not following any of the critical steps in scientific protocols in its update for SC6.
- The panel chosen by the Royal Society to review Health Canada's internal evaluation has too many members tied to industry to have any credibility. The former Chair has resigned after failing to disclose a \$100,000 contract. Two other panel members have also resigned.
- C4ST has ATI documents that show HC has hampered the independence of the Royal Society and restricted information that is to be made public.
- There are peer-reviewed, credible studies that show harm to humans from levels of wireless radiation significantly below Health Canada's Safety Code 6.
- The World Health Organization has classified wireless radiation, as a "Class 2B, possible carcinogen". Lead and DDT are in the same category.
- Recently, Swedish researchers published a study in the *International Journal of Oncology*. The study correlates wireless technology use to malignant brain tumours.

- Similar to tobacco, asbestos and other harmful items, Health Canada is acting too late to keep Canadians safe.
- Wireless radiation is harmful to humans in more ways than cancer. Electrosensitivity is a condition where symptoms such as increasing headaches, insomnia, pain, rashes, memory lapses and dizziness occur when the person is in close physical proximity to a source of wireless radiation.
- For the same reason we cannot yet explain why some individuals are fatally affected by second hand smoke and others can smoke two packs of cigarettes a day, we cannot explain why some individuals react to minimal exposure to wireless radiation.
- People affected by ES often must take measures to distance themselves from any location where wireless radiation is present. This affects where they live, their ability to travel, work and support their families.
- Here to tell her story is Veronique Riopel.

Closing Remarks. We are making the following requests;

- Health Canada provide a non-redacted copy of its contract with the RSC.
- Health Canada follow international scientific research protocols that provide open and transparent review of its analysis and conclusions.
- Health Canada acknowledge that electrosensitivity exists and take responsibility as outlined in the Report of the Standing Committee on Health, August, 2010 to “ensure that it has a process in place to receive and respond to reports of adverse reactions to electromagnetic radiation emitting devices”
- Health Canada should adopt much more protective exposure levels, comparable to global best practices such as Switzerland, Italy, France, China and Russia.

Véronique Riopel

Discours – conférence de presse du 28 octobre 2013

Remarks – press conference of the 28th of October 2013

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Please note that the first part of Mrs Riopel's speech will be in French and the second part in English, but you will find below the complete speech in French and in English.

Veillez prendre note que la première partie du discours de Mme Riopel sera en français et la deuxième en anglais. Vous trouverez par contre ci-dessous le discours complet en français et en anglais.

Français

À l'été 2004, ma vie a basculé. J'ai subi un empoisonnement sévère aux pesticides ce qui a affecté mon système immunitaire. Mon corps s'est alors mis à réagir, entre autres, aux produits chimiques, parfums, savons. Environ un an plus tard, j'ai commencé à ressentir des symptômes lorsque j'utilisais un four à micro-ondes ou un cellulaire. Mes maux de tête, la douleur dans mes yeux et les chocs électriques au niveau de mon visage et de ma tête se produisaient dès le début de l'utilisation de l'appareil et disparaissaient lorsque l'appareil cessait de fonctionner. J'étais alors devenue électrosensible. À partir de là, ma condition s'est rapidement détériorée et, au pire de celle-ci, à l'hiver 2006, il suffisait que quelqu'un ouvre un cellulaire près de moi et je paralysais des jambes à l'intérieur de quelques minutes.

J'ai dû travailler excessivement fort pour recouvrer ma santé et redevenir pleinement fonctionnelle. Le facteur primordial me permettant, par exemple, d'être ici aujourd'hui avec vous, est le fait que j'ai encore la possibilité de retourner chez moi dans un environnement où mon corps peut récupérer de la surexposition aux champs électromagnétiques à laquelle je suis, bien malgré moi soumise. Effectivement, jusqu'à très récemment, je vivais et travaillais dans des endroits dénués de technologie sans fil et où la charge électromagnétique était la plus basse possible.

Le déploiement des compteurs intelligents qui fait actuellement rage au Québec est venu à nouveau bouleverser ma vie. Ces compteurs communiquant avec routeurs et bornes collectrices, émetteurs et récepteurs de radiofréquences 24 heures sur 24 et 7 jours/semaine, font en sorte que je perds le choix, essentiel à ma santé, de vivre dans un environnement exempt de technologie sans fil.

En raison du routeur qu'Hydro-Québec est venu installer à côté de mon domicile familial, j'ai perdu un de mes refuges sur lequel je pouvais compter. Pression douloureuse au niveau de ma tête, mes yeux, mes oreilles, sensation de chocs électriques, acouphènes et spasmes m'assaillent lorsque je vais dans la maison où je suis née. Depuis la pleine activation de ce routeur en juillet dernier, je n'ai pu y dormir une seule nuit ni y prendre un seul repas. Par chance, je disposais d'un autre domicile qui m'a permis de survivre lors des derniers mois. Mais vendredi, j'ai reçu la fameuse lettre d'Hydro-Québec m'annonçant l'installation imminente des compteurs intelligents dans mon quartier. S'il arrivait qu'un autre routeur soit, encore une fois, installé à côté de mon domicile ou si la charge environnante devient trop importante en raison des compteurs voisins, je me retrouverai sans abri.

L'électrosensibilité n'est pas qu'un simple concept. C'est une réalité des plus difficiles à vivre. Si les élus persistent à ne pas reconnaître cette réalité, le prix à payer pour les générations actuelles et futures sera énorme, car je suis loin d'être la seule.

Jusqu'à une personne sur quatre deviendra électrosensible. Croyez-moi, vous ne voulez pas que votre enfant, un parent ou vous-même deveniez cette personne.

Je laisse maintenant la parole au Dr Martin Blank du département de physiologie en biophysique cellulaire de l'Université de Columbia.

English

In the summer of 2004, my life was turned upside down. I suffered from a severe pesticide poisoning which affected my immune system. My body started to react to all kinds of things: chemical products, perfumes and soaps to name just a few. About a year after, I began to experience symptoms when I would use the microwave oven or a cellular phone. These symptoms: headaches, pain in my eyes and electric shocks in my face and head would start as soon as the device was turned on and would stop when the device would no longer work. I had become electrosensitive. From then on, my condition worsened rapidly and at one point, in the winter of 2006, it got so bad that I would feel paralyzed from the waist down in a couple minutes if someone near me activated a cellular phone.

I had to work extremely hard to recover my health and become productive again. The most important factor that enables me, for example, to be here with you today, is that I still have the possibility to return home where my body can recuperate from the involuntary exposure to electromagnetic fields I have to endure. Effectively, until very recently, I lived and worked in Wi-Fi free and low-emission environments.

The deployment of smart meters, actually in full force in the province of Quebec has again turned my life upside down. These meters communicating with routers and collectors, emitting and receiving radiofrequencies 24/7, take away my choice of living in a wi-fi free environment.

Because of the router installed by Hydro-Quebec next to my family home, I have already lost one of my safe havens that I could count on. I experience painful pressure in my head, ears and eyes, electric shocks, ringing in my ears and spasms whenever I go to the house that I've known all my life. Since the full activation of that router last July, I have been unable to stay over for a night or a meal. By chance, I had a second home which has allowed me to survive in the last months, but one Friday, I received the infamous letter from Hydro-Quebec informing me of the coming installation of smart meters in my area. If a router is again placed next to my home or if the surrounding grid becomes too high due to neighbouring smart meters, I will be, this time, homeless.

Electrosensitivity is not a simple concept. It is a reality very difficult to live with. If our elected officials persist in refusing to recognize this reality, the price to pay for actual and future generations will be extremely high, because I am far from being the only one.

Up to one person out of four will become electrosensitive. Believe me, you do not want your child, a parent or yourself to be this person.

I will now let you hear Dr Martin Blank from the department of physiology on cellular biophysics at Colombia University.

Submitted by Martin Blank, PhD,
Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics,
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New York

To: The Royal Society of Canada (RSC)
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Re: Panel on Safety Code 6

For the past three decades, I have contributed to research on the effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF) on living cells. It is from this perspective that I wish to contribute to ‘... the regular review of the code ...to help insure that the results of emerging research relating to the safety of RF energy on human health is reflected in the code...’ I am writing to inform the committee that living cells react to both power and radio frequency EMF as they do to proven harmful influences (e.g., changes in temperature, acidity), and urge that the Panel use this information in revising Safety Code 6.

Many epidemiological studies (of power lines as well as radio, TV and cellphone transmissions) show an increased risk of cancers associated with long-term exposure to non-ionizing radiation. We also know that an accumulation of mutations in DNA is associated with the incidence of cancer, and that exposure to EMF can cause changes in DNA. In fact, EMF can cause single and double strand DNA breaks at exposure levels that are currently deemed safe.

Though long term effects, such as the development of cancer, are difficult to evaluate, significant biological damage from short term exposure has been established. RF has been shown to cause other harmful effects, such as leakage of the blood brain barrier that can damage neurons in the brain. These exposures occur well below the current safety code limits.

Probably, the most convincing evidence of potential harm due to EMF comes from cells themselves. The *cellular stress response* is a reaction to molecular damage that stimulates the synthesis of stress proteins. This protective mechanism is triggered by known harmful stimuli, such as exposure to elevated temperatures or toxic metals. We found that *cells start to synthesize stress proteins upon exposure*

to very low levels of non-ionizing radiation. When stress protein synthesis is stimulated by EMF, *the body is telling us in its own language that exposure to non-ionizing radiation is harmful.*

For years, increased temperature has been considered the critical factor leading to harmful effects. However, many potentially harmful effects of EMF exposure, such as the stress response and DNA strand breaks, occur at non-thermal levels. It is clear that safety standards must be revised to take into account the non-thermal biological responses that occur at much lower intensities. The current standards do not adequately protect the health and welfare of the public, and especially its most vulnerable members, children. I urge you to revise Safety Code 6 to take into consideration these established scientific findings.

References

Three recent peer- reviewed publications are cited below, the first being a review of the EMF activated stress response.

- Blank M, Goodman R (2009) Electromagnetic Fields Stress Living Cells. **Pathophysiology** 16: 71-78.
- Blank M, Goodman R (2011) DNA is a fractal antenna in electromagnetic fields (EMF). **International J. Radiation Biology** 87: 409-15.
- Blank M, Goodman R (2012) Electromagnetic fields and health: DNA-based dosimetry. **Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine**, 31:243-249.

The latest update on EMF and the Stress Response (Stress Proteins) is in Section 7 of the **BioInitiative Report**, entitled ‘A Scientific Perspective on Health Risk of Electromagnetic Fields’ and published Online December 31, 2012.

<http://www.bioinitiative.org/report/index.htm>