

## News Release – Office of the Mayor

### **Town reminds residents of Interim Radiocommunication Facilities Protocol *Industry Canada sole authority of installation decisions***

#### **Oakville, August 9, 2013 – for immediate release**

Notice was recently posted at 3135 Lakeshore Road West advising the public of a Bell Mobility proposal to erect a 14.9 metre (50 foot) monopole radiocommunications facility (cell tower) on the property. The Town of Oakville is reminding residents that Industry Canada has the sole authority over the installation of all radiocommunications facilities.

“Unfortunately, the law does not grant us jurisdiction to approve or deny the installation of these towers,” Mayor Rob Burton said. “That said, the Town of Oakville’s Interim Radiocommunications Protocol clearly states that the town will not support any radiocommunication tower located within 200 metres of a sensitive land use including residential areas. Industry Canada has been and continues to be informed of the town’s position of this issue. However, jurisdiction to approve is solely within Industry Canada’s control.”

Both of the Ward 1 Town of Oakville Councillors also weighed in on the matter. Councillor Ralph Robinson took the initial role by alerting C4ST and The Oakville Beaver. Robinson says, “I am now proposing a motion to Council requesting a negotiated management plan between Industry Canada, The Federal Government and The Town of Oakville.” Ward 1 Regional and Town Councillor Alan Johnston added, “I encourage residents to contact their Federal M.P., to voice their concerns and to ask for a change in legislation to allow for greater municipal oversight.”

Industry Canada excludes a number of installations from any form of public consultation including towers less than 15 metres in height, and any antenna added to an existing building or structure (including a tower replacement) that does not increase the height of that building or structure by more than 25 per cent.

For non-excluded facilities – namely, towers greater than 15 metres in height – Industry Canada permits the town to define the local consultation process only. In Oakville, the Interim Radiocommunications Facilities Protocol defines this process. On completion of this process, the town shares its comments with the governing body, in this case Industry Canada. No formal planning approvals are given by the town. Rather, the town issues Municipal Letters of Comment for consideration by Industry Canada in their review of radiocommunications facility proposals. No comment is provided unless a letter of endorsement is received from the Federal Member of Parliament in whose riding the proposal is located. The town is a key stakeholder with whom applicants are asked to consult regarding non-excluded facilities but is not involved in the evaluation.

Residents interested in providing feedback to Industry Canada about this particular installation can contact the Central and Western Ontario District in Burlington at 519-457-4826 or email [spectrum.cwod@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.cwod@ic.gc.ca)

To learn more about the town's Interim Radiocommunications Facilities Protocol as well as an inventory of known radiocommunications facilities in Oakville, visit [oakville.ca](http://oakville.ca) and search for 'radiocommunications facilities'. For more detailed information about each facility, you will need to contact each individual service provider or Industry Canada's area office in Burlington.

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