

Urgent Appeal Appel urgent

to the Government of Canada to Suspend the 5G Rollout
and to Choose Safe and Reliable Fibre Connections
au Gouvernement du Canada afin qu'il suspende le
déploiement de la 5G et opte pour des connexions par
fibre optique fiables et sécuritaires

May 12, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada K1A 0A6

Via email: Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca

Re: Appeal to the Government of Canada to Suspend the 5G rollout
and to choose safe and reliable fibre connections

Dear Minister Hajdu,

We are writing to inform you of the attached appeal on behalf of Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST), Prevent Cancer Now (PCN), *Let's Stop 5G – Let's Live Safely* campaign, and 21 other organizations and groups across Canada (see Appendix).

As the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is distancing Canadians physically, the Internet is bringing us together socially, for work and for learning. Today's investments shaping how the Internet is provided will impact human and environmental health, security, resilience, economic burden and long term sustainability for years to come. As detailed and scientifically substantiated in the Appeal document, this means relying on fibre, which does not emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation that harms human and environmental health. Hundreds of peer-reviewed, published studies show that radiofrequency (RF) radiation can cause cancers, damage sperm and DNA, impair reproduction, learning and memory, and more. Emissions affect basic biochemistry, and contribute to chronic illness. Experts state that when the International Agency for Research on Cancer updates its assessment, RF radiation should be classified a *known* human carcinogen.

The support the Government has provided to Canadians during the COVID-19 crisis is appreciated and necessary. At the same time, the costs will put a tremendous financial burden on Canadians for some time. That said, we feel there is an opportunity to act now, to avert future costs. Broadband proposals (crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/internet.htm) are being received, to expand fibre networks throughout Canada. Not only does continuous fibre to the premises not emit RF radiation, fibre is at least 100 times faster, more reliable, secure and resilient, consumes about ten times less energy, is less harmful to our environment and is far more protective of privacy than wireless connectivity. In addition, acting now to protect Canadians better from the harmful effects of radiation from wireless devices and infrastructure could reduce health care costs over the long term.

We know that you are extremely busy with COVID-19, and thank you for all of that hard work. As we have about as many cell phones as citizens in this country, and many times more wireless devices (and growing!), the exponentially escalating levels of RF radiation pose risks to public and environmental health. Safety Code 6 is established and re-evaluated under the Ministry of Health, and two successive Parliamentary Health Committees have recommended actions. The current Guideline Rationale considered a small fraction of the science, and is out of date. Health effects of RF radiation has never been subject to a systematic review in Canada, according to international standards. IARC has placed a high priority on re-evaluation because with new research, experts state that RF radiation is a known human carcinogen.

There are five items that we believe pertain to the Ministry of Health:

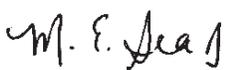
1. Building on the regulation of chemicals, shift the burden of proof to the telecommunications and wireless technology industries, and require that they prove that their products are not harmful to Canadians or to the environment;
2. Revise Health Canada's Safety Code 6. A truly independent panel with appropriate expertise must systematically review the scientific evidence of the effects of RF radiation. This requires rigorous scientific methods, transparency, full public consultation from initial scoping throughout the process, and health-protective precautionary interpretation of findings; and
3. Extend biological effects assessment to the environment, and establish binding guidelines to protect wildlife and the environment from RF radiation using a similar process;
4. Ensure Canadians' indoor and outdoor exposure to RF radiation from wireless technologies is kept as low as possible (ALARA or "as low as reasonably achievable") through proper regulation, monitoring, enforcement and ongoing public education and technical device management. One of many examples would be to require that all wireless devices and antennas not transmit (i.e., not emit radiation) when not in use; and
5. Complete an economic analysis, by the end of 2021, of the incremental revenue from 5G versus the total potential economic burden. This would include, but not be limited to: increased healthcare costs; lost productivity arising from adverse health effects; security and privacy breaches; damage to the environment; and risks to safety and property including those resulting from degraded weather forecast accuracy.

The explanations and justifications for these requests can be found in the Appeal document, attached to this email. We are also sending the Appeal to other Ministers engaged with communications technology, and entrusted to protect Canadians' health, environment, security and economy with resilient infrastructure.

We are writing to you specifically at this time to alert you that our Appeal will be launched on May 14th, 2020 to engage Canadians and to gain support. We will be calling your office to arrange a meeting once the restrictions to COVID-19 are reduced, to review the scientific evidence that forms the bases for the Appeal, and to explain our rationale for these requests.

We look forward to working with you and your officials.

Sincerely,



Meg Sears, PhD
Chairperson,
Prevent Cancer Now



Jean Hudon
Founding Member,
Let's Stop 5G – Let's Live Safely
Campaign



Frank Clegg
CEO,
Canadians For Safe Technology

Attachment: Appeal to the Government of Canada to suspend the 5G rollout and to choose safe and reliable fibre connections

Dr. Meg Sears holds a PhD in biochemical engineering, and has worked for decades in medical research and environmental health. She is associated with The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and has prepared scientific reports for the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the National Research Council and other governmental bodies. Dr. Sears also chairs Prevent Cancer Now, a national civil society organization working for primary cancer prevention, including by reducing and eliminating exposures that contribute to development of cancer.

Frank Clegg spent his 40 year career in the technology industry, most recently as President of Microsoft Canada. He cofounded Canadians for Safe Technology. C4ST is a volunteer coalition of parents, scientists and citizens whose mission is to educate Canadians and policy makers about the dangers of exposures to unsafe levels of radiofrequency/microwave radiation from commonly used wireless devices and cellular antennas and to provide information on how to use wireless devices more safely. C4ST works with all levels of government to create healthier communities for children and families.

Jean Hudon is the main founding member of the organizing committee for the *Let's Stop 5G – Let's Live Safely* campaign in Quebec. He has been spearheading over the past 9 years the growing movement in Quebec against electromagnetic pollution. Over the past 40 years, he has been a global advocate to safeguard peace and the environment. Notably, he organized the Earth Concert in 1989 which contributed to a greater awareness of our vital need for a healthy planet. He has authored two books and worked as a professional translator for over 20 years.

Appendix: Canadian Organizations Supporting This Appeal at Launch (May 14th, 2020)

- 5G Winnipeg Awareness [MB]
- Albertans for Safe Technology [AB]
- CALM - Call to Action to Limit Microcells [Canada-wide]
- Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST) /
Canadiens pour une technologie sécuritaire (C4ST)
- Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST) Youth Riding Reps [ON]
- Citizens Against the Proliferation of Cell Antennas in the Eastern Townships /
Citoyens contre la prolifération des antennes de téléphonie mobile dans les Cantons de l'Est [QC]
- Coalition to Reduce Electropollution (CORE) [BC]
- Coalition to Stop Smart Meters [BC] Electrosensitive Society [Canada-wide]
- Environmental Health Association of Manitoba [MB]
- EPIC - Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation
- Kingstonians for Safe Technology [ON]
- Let's Connect Salt Spring [BC]
- Let's Stop 5G - Let's Live Safely Campaign /
Campagne Stoppons la 5G - Vivons sans danG [QC]
- Parents for Safe Schools [BC]
- Prevent Cancer Now (PCN) [Canada-wide]
- Rassemblement ÉlectroSensibilité Québec (RESQ) [QC]
- Stop 5G Magog-Sherbrooke [QC]
- Stop 5G Montréal [QC]
- Stop 5G Rimouski [QC]
- Stop 5G Sutton [QC]
- Stop 5G Val-David [QC]
- Transition Wolfville Area [NS]
- WEEP - The Canadian Initiative to Stop Wireless Electrical and Electromagnetic Pollution