

Empowerment Action List

The following list of community empowering actions is the result of some careful consideration of the more recent science pertaining to the health risks associated with radio-frequency radiation in the context of the existing regulatory environment. The aim is to diminish if not eliminate those risks altogether. The goal is to make our workplaces, our hospitals, our schools, our recreation facilities, our public libraries and our elected democratic institutions less radio-frequency toxic. Doing so will make our environment friendlier to the health of people, animals and plant life.

The first step in this process is to help educate the public about the reality of radio-frequency toxicity based on the most recent non-industry sponsored science. The second step is to politically advocate for a specific list of actions that need to be taken by our federal, provincial and local governments. We outline this action list further below. While the list below is an ambitious one, the cause of protecting the health of human lives requires such a comprehensive effort. Please consider taking part in advocating for these actions with the help of your own local volunteer communities of interest.

The wider context: Given that more than 85% of Canadians now own a cell phone, there is little doubt that a majority of the population has been hypnotized by the huge convenience wireless technology has brought to their lives. And when governments reassure them it is perfectly safe, they are given little cause to think otherwise. Thus through the daily use of this technology, the belief it is safe begins to entrench itself and harden. Yet as more and more people become aware of the true state of the scientific evidence pertaining to the cumulative toxic effects of radio-frequency radiation from cell phones, cordless phones, WiFi units, cell towers and even smart meters, they begin to realize they were lulled into a false sense of security around their use of these products. When this happens, many people become quite distressed, and may feel a profound sense of betrayal, disempowerment and/or an understandable measure of anger. Thus this issue has at least three very distinct dimensions that need to be considered – a scientific dimension, a human psychology dimension and a political dimension. While this section focuses on the political action steps people can take to help address the radio-frequency toxicity issue, those embarking on this social reform journey must bear in mind that just like the civil rights workers who ventured into the US deep south in the 1960s to fight discrimination and segregation on the basis of racial origins, people who are first confronted with the real science relating to radio-frequency toxicity are apt to experience varying degrees of cognitive dissonance. As such, many will minimize the importance of the information. This is a form of denial. Or they will ridicule the persons presenting this information, which is a form of non-rational belief defense. As such, it is important to keep all three of these dimensions in mind when addressing this issue to help one understand that it is in the nature of human beings to react in this way anytime their belief systems and behavioural conditioning history is being challenged, no matter the topic in question. It will help one to weather the storm of seeing the science knowledge being rejected.

Yet at the same time, we also need to apply political pressure on our elected officials to modify their existing public policies and regulations to reflect this higher standard of evidence. It is important to underscore the fact that to ignore this issue is not only a scientific one, but given the harms it can cause to human health, it is a deeply moral and ethical one as well.

Writing letters: When writing letters to your elected representative make them as personal as possible, relaying personal details about how you or a member of your family was affected by radio-frequency toxicity, and then ask them what their views are on the matter and what actions they specifically pledge to take on it? Don't be shy about saying that your vote likely depends on their answer. The most effective letters are never more than two typed written pages in length... in fact, the shorter you can make it, the better, since most politicians simply do not have the time necessary to read long letters or e-mails. And snail mail letters are often more effective and

considered than are e-mails. If you do chose to write an e-mail, use a short punchy subject line, such as: Can I know your views on Health Canada's Safety Code 6? Or: Seeking your views on closing the loop-hole on WiFi micro-cell antennae installations in your riding? And don't be shy about letting them know you are also blind copying your letter to several interested friends or a local chapter of a community organization in their riding. Such organization can include a Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) chapter, or a local community newspaper, or a social club to which you belong. If you are writing to your local Cancer Society chapter, you might ask them when their organization was planning to reject Canada's obsolete Safety Code 6 standard and adopt a more stringent scientific standard in relation to radio-frequency toxicity? Remind them that radio-frequency radiation is currently classified as a Class 2b carcinogen under the W.H.O. standards and that many credible scientists are pushing to see it moved to being a Class 1 carcinogen, and that any future donations you might make to the Cancer Society depends on their response and the actions they commit to take in this regard.

Here is the political action shopping list of Federal, Provincial and Local actions we believe need to be taken.

Federal Actions Sought:

1. Close the radio-frequency broadcasting antenna regulation loop-holes in Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's **CPC 2-0-03** as relates to public notification exemptions by telecom service providers in relation to antennae of 15 metres or less in height. Public notification and consent within a 150 metre area should be mandatory.
2. Setting substantively lower allowable levels of radio-frequency radiation energy emissions as currently defined by Health Canada's **Safety Code 6** to better safeguard against the known biological harm effects now documented by a growing body of independent science in the field.
3. Disallow the auctioning off of any further public radio-frequency airwave spectrum for the purposes of mobile communication, until such time that a proper independent peer-reviewed evidence-based findings can attest to that spectrum's safety according to more stringent biologically sensitive criteria, and not thermal heating criteria.
4. Require telecom service providers to only provide homes with WiFi units that come with an automatic "shutoff/sleep" feature after 30 minutes of inactivity .
5. Require telecom providers to issue clearly understandable health risk warnings associated for all households that use of WiFi units in their homes, and obtain signed informed consent documents from said subscriber households in order to retain use of said wireless services in the home.
6. Require all cell phone owner/subscribers within Canada to be issued with clearly visible and clearly understandable health risk warnings related to the use of their phones; and to require all retailers at point of sale about to obtain signed consent forms from purchasers acknowledging their assumption of health risks associated with the operation of their cell phones.
7. Implement a public education campaign about the carcinogenicity risks and other health risks associated with wireless technology use to counter misleading statements made by wireless telecom service providers about the safety of their products.
8. Allow Parks Canada the right to create ecological safe areas free from any WiFi broadcast contamination of the natural ecosystem.

Provincial Actions Sought:

1. Require the removal of all WiFi antennae within hospitals, and all cell phone antennae complex within 1 kilometre of any hospital facility.
2. Require the removal of *all* WiFi antennae within all primary and secondary schools and to be replaced with hardwire internet connections.
3. Enable all municipal governments or other equivalent authorized local government authorities the right to create "no WiFi" areas within their jurisdictions.

Local Governments Actions Sought:

1. Request local municipalities to enact Bylaws which require residents be notified and duly informed of the health risks associated with WiFi antennae being erected on utility poles within 150 metres of their homes.
2. Provide property tax credit incentives to local businesses to remove WiFi antennae from their premises, and require those with WiFi to not only provide visible signage of such, but where such services are provided, require the posting of clearly legible health risk notifications, along with posted exposure values in micro-watts per square metre.
3. Provide landlords of rental accommodations with property tax credits for the retrofitting of apartments with radio-frequency mitigation shielding, and to offer multi-unit dwellings with incentives to only use wired technology for internet access.

Other Organization Pressure Actions to be considered:

1. Engage in letter writing campaign and presentations with school board trustees on getting WiFi removed from primary and secondary schools.
2. Engage in letter writing campaign and street protests outside of **local cancer agency** offices, demanding that they take a more serious position against wireless technology given its WHO classification as a carcinogen.
3. Engage in letter writing campaign directed at the BC Medical Association (now *Doctors of BC*) office, the Canadian Medical Association office, and the BC College of Physicians, demanding they each take more serious positions against wireless technology by insisting on more up-to-date grand-rounds training of doctors in the field about the latest research.

[The foregoing information is provided courtesy of volunteer researchers associated with the Community Empowerment Town Hall series www.CETH.ca. You are permitted to e-share it provided source credit is given.]