

CITY OF VAUGHAN

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY SITING PROTOCOL TASK FORCE

<u>AGENDA</u>

Committee Room 244 2nd Floor, Vaughan City Hall 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive Vaughan, Ontario Thursday, April 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

- 1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA
- 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS
 See attached
- 4. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE</u>
 - 4.1 Reorganized Issues List brainstorming session
- 6. ADJOURNMENT
- 7. **NEXT MEETING** May 24, 2012 @ 7 pm

Committee Members					
Representing Vaughan Council	Representing the Public	Representing the Industry			
Regional Councillor Schulte, Vice-Chair	Mubarak Ahmed	Stephen D'Agostino			
Councillor DeFrancesca	Tina Catalano	Colin Lavery			
	Von Chaleunsouk	Michelle Vivar			
	Ann-Marie Colosimo				
	Mark Goldberg				
	Christina Sgro, Chair				

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY SITING PROTOCOL TASK FORCE - APRIL 19, 2012

COMMUNICATIONS

Distributed April 18, 2012

C1. Lena Streletska – CELL/WI-FI Tower at Al Palladini Plaza, dated April 10, 2012.

Disclaimer Respecting External Communications

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Please note there may be further Communications.

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY SITING PROTOCOL TASK FORCE COMMUNICATION C1

From:

Lena Streletska

To:

Britto, John

Subject: Date: CELL/WI-FI Tower at AlPalladini Plaza Tuesday, April 10, 2012 3:50:46 PM

Attachments:

Petition ALL.pdf

LETTER TO councillors.doc

Date: April 19, 2012

Hello John,

as per our phone conversation, please find the petition attached as well as few letters.

Thank you, Lena Streletska

From:

To:

Subject: CELL/WI-FI Tower at AlPalladini Plaza Date: Thu, 26 Jan 2012 18:57:06 +0000

TO: THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

RE: Al Palladini CC, the Cellular Tower at 9201 Islington Avenue, Vaughan, ON

On June, 2011 the Islington Woods & Wycliffe Residents (Vaughan, Ontario) sent the Petition, signed by 270 residents against the Cell Tower within 50-150 meters away from homes, the Emily Carr School, the Child care, Community Centre and the Library – wherein we expressed concern over the health risks of RF radiation.

Shortly, to describe this area:

- + the **Cell/WI-FI** tower with 2 providers Rogers and Bell (upgrading and keep adding more antennas every 3-6 month);
- + 3 license exempt antennas (including **radioantenna-Mike**, and one more **Telus-Tower**) all on Al-Pal's roof**(see more details below);
- + wi-fi in Emily Carr Secondary School;
- + wi-fi in the Library;
- + 3 huge parking lots in this area (metal is increasing the radiation signals-was proved by Industry Canada spesialyst);

To take all those factors together into account, the residents in this area belive that their families are being exposed to a dangerous level of microwave radiation and DEMAND to find an alternative location for the Al Palladini cell tower.

However, this issue is under no one's jurisdiction:

1. On July 2011, We did receive a reply from

Mrs.Beth Pieterson

Director General /

Environmental and Radiation Health Sciences Directorate:

"...Health Canada is committed to protecting the health and safety of all Canadians. The Department is responsible for establishing recommended limits for safe human exposure to RF energy from various devices, including cellular phones, cell towers and wireless telecommunications (WiFi). These limits are found within Health Canada's exposure guidelines Limits of Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy in the Frequency Range from 3 kHz to 300 GHz - Safety Code 6 (2009).

The authority for enforcement and moratoriums on new installations, e.g. within a specific distance of residences, lies with the provinces. Federally, Industry Canada is the regulator responsible for the approval of radiocommunication and broadcasting installations and apparatus, and the completion of the compliance assessments to ensure that public RF exposures fall within acceptable guidelines. Industry Canada has adopted Health Canada's *Safety Code 6* (the latest update was done in 2009, *O.S.*) as their exposure standard and therefore requires all radiocommunications installations and apparatus to comply with these regulatory limits...."

2. One more reply from

Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport:

"...Industry Canada is the federal government department responsible for approving the activities of the cell phone industry, including the location of cell phone towers and antennas. Health Canada has developed guidelines for safe human exposure to radiofrequency energy.

We understand the process requires the proponent of an antenna tower to consult with the local land-use authority. This enables land-use authorities and proponents to work together to consider local interests and allows the local community the opportunity to influence the location of radio-communication towers."

3. Here is the reply from the City Councillor Mr.T.Carella:

".... the federal government is solely responsible for telecommunications.....This is according to the Constitution Act of 1867 (aka the British North America Act of 1867).

Telecommunications companies are asked (but cannot be compelled) to follow a protocol developed by the City to handle applications to install towers. However, the protocol has no teeth. For instance, Rogers, Telus, etc., cannot be required to even obtain a building permit issued by the City, as is required for all other structures erected in the City".

"...the City of Vaughan is not in the position to take any action based on the studies you quote as the regulation of telecommunications towers (both with respect to their placement and **any possible effects on human health**) is a federal responsibility. For that reason, I suggest that the petition be directed to the local Member of Parliament, Mr.J.Fantino, who is our representative at the federal level..."

4. And finally, **Industry Canada's** reply from November 2011:

Manager, Spectrum Toronto District Mr. M.Lang:

"...Industry Canada does not approve contracts (between Telecommunication companies and the City. - O.S.). The contracts are private documents between the landlord and tenant....

....As there are thousands of radiocommunications installations in Canada, Industry Canada conducts **random audits** to determine compliance. **This site** (Al Palladini CC the Cellular Tower at 9201 Islington Avenue, Vaughan, ON) **has not been part of our random sample to date** (this tower exists for over **15 years**! O.S.). You can procure the services of competent technical personnel from reputable associations/companies to take independent measurements. The person making such an assessment must: be knowledgeable in the area of RF measurements using Health Canada's "Technical Guide" for interpretation and compliance assessment; have the appropriate instruments to perform a proper RF field survey; and be able to interpret the measurement results...."

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Health Canada does not take any responsibilities in this matter and "hiding" under the Safety Code 6 (which is outdated (2009) and designed by **non-health** specialists!) and sending people to Industry Canada;
- 2. The Municipality: the public's health issue is not their competence, and again, the city of Vaughan's Councillor is also forwarding residends to Industry Canada.
- 3. And, Industry Canada (who is <u>blocking</u> public's e-mails!) "does not approve the contracts", and is <u>sending the residents</u> to "competent technical personnel from reputable associations/companies to take independent measurements"..... Furthermore, <u>15 years</u> was not enough for such a sensitive land like Al Palladini plaza (with Emily Carr School, Islington Woods Residential area, the Community Centre, the Child care and the Library) to be in the random for audit by Industry Canada!....

.....neither by any other Government's inspectors......

This is absurd and as the result, people are left alone, with no rights to protect their health. Citizens assuming that they are protected by they're Government, but unfortunately, there is nobody to actually TAKE AN ACTION to protect them and their children! Howewer, the multi-bullion dollars telecommunication companies have all the rights and in fact, are **uncontrolled!**

Meanwhile, the children/people in this area are getting sick and living with the risk of unrepairable damage to their health.

Again, to describe the problem in this area:

- + **Cell/WI-FI** tower with 2 providers Rogers and Bell- who are upgrading and keep adding new antennas every 6 month;
- + 3 license exempt antennas (including radioantenna-**Mike**, and one more **Telus-Tower**) all on Al-Pal's roof;
- + WI-FI in Emily Carr SS;

- + **WI-FI** in the Library;
- + 3 huge parking lots in this area (metal is increasing the radiation signals!) to take all those factors together into account , AlPalladini Plaza is a "CHERNOBYL"! Islington Woods and Wycliffe Residents, demand to cancel the lease for the existing (and proposed) cell/wi-fi tower at Al Palladini plaza in Woodbridge wich for the last 15 years located within 50 up to 200 meters away from:
- Homes (incl. Islington Woods Residential Area),
- Al Palladini Child care,
- Emily Carr Secondary school
- Al Palladini Community centre with day camps and
- Pierre Berton Resource Library all at the same location

and re-allocate Al Palladini cell/wi-fi tower for at least 500 meters away from this area.

Olena Streletska,

Islington Woods Resident, resident of the City of Vaughan for over 10 years.

** P.S.: more details about antennas on AlPalladini's roof:

- 1. These are boosters for the Mike two-way radio system that staff use to communicate with each other within the building, Supervisors who may be at other City locations, and our head office at City Hall. Standard radio signals cannot penetrate fully into the buildings, and that is why these signal boosters are there. These are similar to internal antennas, etc. that you will see in hospitals for staff communication on portable radios.
- 2. This is a tower at the south end of the building. This carries data signals from the City's ITM Department. Many areas of the City do not have fibre optic cable through the cable lines (i.e. Rogers, etc.). Therefore, information exchange through the City's computer systems to other buildings (Community Centres, Libraries, Fire Stations) needs to be done in this wireless fashion.
- 3. This antenna is for communication through UHF/VHF radio (same signal type as TV over the air instead of cable.) These are used for communications with divisions such as Public Works (two-way radio systems in the trucks, etc.).

Also, are two Bell satellite dishes on the west side of the roof that provide signals to the t.v.'s in the lobby and fitness areas as the building does not have cable.

PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Whereas:

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO:

- immediately revise Health Canada Safety Code 6 to take into account accumulative biological effects, and health effects not just thermal effects, of microwave radiation, with a strict stated limit for exposure. Revisions must implement and enforce stricter limits to all new and existing cell towers, wireless, base stations, antennas, transmitters;
- immediately enforce a moratorium on all new installations of cellular and wireless antennas, transmitters, base stations across the country and especially in the GTA until further unbiased non-industry funded scientific research has examined the short-term and long-term biological effects and health effects on humans from immediate and accumulative exposure to microwave radiation emitted from said devices;
- ban all new antennas, base stations, and transmitters to be installed within 500 meters of any
 residence, school, community centre, hospital or any place where people spend a good part of
 their day, and the frequency of pre-existing antennas must be immediately reduced to adhere
 to the precautionary principle as suggested in the bioinitiative report of 2007; ban
 installations of antennas on the roofs of apartment building or any residential dwellings;
- consult all residents within a 500 meter radius well in advance to any installation of cell
 towers, base stations, antennas and transmitters so they can be informed of the biological
 health effects and have a say on the long-term implications of these devices in their
 immediate neighborhood and quality of life. Local councils must be allowed to make their
 own decisions about the tower sites without being overruled; and
- call for immediate implementation of unbiased non-industry funded scientific research on the short-term and long-term biological and health effects of human exposure to microwave radiation, emf's and rf's, taking into account immediate and daily accumulative exposure, with full public disclosure of all findings

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P.01

Protect Our Neighborhood and Loved Ones

Say "No" to the CELL PHONE TOWER at AL PALLADINI CENTRE! (Neither existing or proposed!

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, MAY 31, 2011

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY SITING PROTOCOL CITY OF VAUGHAN - FILE 15.88 WARDS 1-5:

"...- limiting telecommunication facilities within 500 m of sensitive land uses such as residential areas, schools, daycares, community centres, institutional uses and seniors' residences;..."

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS UNDER THE CELL TOWER RADIATION. NOW IS TIME TO STOP IT! RE-ALLOCATE THIS TOWER WITHIN A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OUR NEIGHRBOHOOD, AT LEAST 500 METTERS!

World Health Organization has just recently stated that radiation from cell phones and antennas is a possible 2B carcinogen.

WE MUST PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!

I'M ISLINGTON WOODS RESIDENT SIGNED BELOW AND I'M VOTING AGAINST THE CELL TOWER AT AL PALLADINI CENTRES heither existing or proposed!)

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JUN-28-2011 09:18

P.03 SAY "NO! "TO THE CELL TOWER AT AL PALLADINI CENTRE! Wyeliffe Resident signed below on behalf of my Family voting against the Cell Tower at AL PALLADINI CENTRE (neither existing or proposed) : FAMILY 'S NAME **ADDRESS** # PEOPLE # CHILDREN SIGNATURE GACACON 42 Houses was 38 Humberword Gal MARIANT

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	SAY "NO! "TO THE CELL TOWER AT AL PALLADINI CENTRE!
	I'm Islington Woods Resident signed below on behalf of my Family
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10 Tal on the Petition:

FROM: Islington Woods Residents, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 9J1

TO: City of Vaughan
To all Councillors Ward 1-5

June 21, 2011

PETITION: Serious and Well-Founded Concern regarding the Health Risks posed by Exposure to Cell Tower Radiation. Cildren in danger! Islington Woods Residents demand to cancel the lease for the cell tower at Al Palladini plaza, Woodbridge, ON

Dear Mr./ Mrs. Councillor:

Adverse health effects of cell tower emissions is a prominent factor of concern for the Islington Woods & Wycliffe Residents. We are not alone.

Communities and representative assemblies, both national and international, are opposing the locating of cell towers near homes, schools, nurseries, elderly care facilities and other places of long duration habitation citing the growing body of scientific evidence on the adverse health effects of radio-frequency radiation (aka RFR) exposure.

As the most recent example: St. Margaret Mary Church was planning to install cell antennas within a Bell tower which would mean that the antennas would be at eye level to the children of St. Margaret Mary school in Woodbridge and within 100 m away. The residents of that neighbohood were successful at stopping this installation in January 2011.

In February 2009, the European Parliament passed a resolution by a vote of 559 to 22 against the placement of cell towers near schools, nurseries, retirement homes and health care institutions based upon the current status of science on the matter.

Most recently, in May 2011, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe called on governments to "take all reasonable measures" to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields. This would include siting cell towers at distances no less than 500 m from homes and other dwellings.

(http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=6685) (http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta11/ERES1815.htm)

The Assembly resolved that

"high frequency waves used in the fields of radar, telecommunications and mobile telephony, appear to have more or

less potentially harmful, non-thermal, biological effects on

plants, insects and animals as well as the human body even when

exposed to levels that are below the official threshold values."

The Assembly went on to state that

"the precautionary principle should be applicable when scientific

evaluation does not allow the risk to be determined with sufficient certainty, especially given the context of growing

exposure of the population, including particularly vulnerable

groups such as young people and children, which could lead to

extremely high human and economic costs of inaction if early

warnings are neglected."

The Assembly then brought attention to the lack of meaningful response by governments,

regulatory bodies, and the associated industries by saying

"despite calls for the respect of the precautionary principle and

despite all the recommendations, declarations and a number of

statutory and legislative advances, there is still a lack of

reaction to known or emerging environmental and health risks and

virtually systematic delays in adopting and implementing effective preventive measures. Waiting for high levels of scientific and clinical proof before taking action to prevent

well-known risks can lead to very high health and economic costs,

as was the case with asbestos, leaded petrol and tobacco."

The Assembly also pointed out the problems of obtaining credible and accurate scientific

studies on the health effects of RFR exposure via investigations done or sponsored by

industry, where obvious conflict-of-interest exists, testifying that

"the problem of electromagnetic fields or waves and the potential

consequences for the environment and health has clear parallels

with other current issues, such as the licensing of medication,

chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals or genetically modified organisms. It therefore highlights that the issue of independence

and credibility of scientific expertise is crucial to accomplish

a transparent and balanced assessment of potential negative impacts on the environment and human health."

At the end of the Assembly's resolution, specific direction was given with respect to protecting children, stating the need for

"targeted information campaigns aimed at teachers, parents and

children to alert them to the specific risks of early, ill-considered

and prolonged use of cell phones and other devices emitting microwaves" (which includes exposure to cell tower radiation).

The Assembly also stated the need for being stringent in the siting of cell towers, emphasizing that in the planning of tower locations, determinations should not be made

"solely according to the operators' interests but in consultation with local and regional government officials, local residents and associations of concerned citizens."

Cell towers radiate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so no one in their proximity has any choice about being irradiated by their emissions.

The neighborhood around the existing/proposed **Al Palladini** site is home to many families with children and elderly persons. People at these ages are considered to be at higher risk for health problems from cell tower radiation than the average adult.

We are, the Islington Woods Residents, consider the health of our families and neighbors just as important as that of our community schools and care centers and don't want to be put at risk for corporate convenience.

Arguments continue to be cited contending that the allowed power output from a cell tower is considered safe by the **Safety Code 6** guidelines which is not a health scienceorganization and has not actually done any research to validate the safety of its exposurestandards.

Instead, it has relied on standards developed decades ago.

These standards, though better than no standards at all, are based on antiquated ideas that are greatly in need of revision in order to reflect modern scientific knowledge. For example, a compilation and analysis of over 150 studies into the health effects of cell tower emissions entitled "Biological Effects from Exposure to Electromagnetic Radiation Emitted by Cell Tower Base Stations and Other Antenna Arrays", published in May 2010 in Volume 18 of the science journal Environmental Reviews (http://er.nrc.ca), and a collection of research published in November 2010 by the International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety in the monograph "Non-Thermal Effects and Mechanisms of Interaction Between Electromagnetic Fields and Living Matter" (http://www.icems.eu/papers.htm) are only some of the most recent findings that serve to underscore the inadequate level of protection afforded by federal guidelines with respect to the emissions of cell towers and related transmission facilities.

Even with this, the telecom industry still continues to claim that radio-frequency radiation exposure poses no health risks.

As you aware, on May 31, 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, an arm of the World Health Organization (aka the WHO), determined radio-frequency radiation to be a possible human carcinogen, classifying it as a **Group 2B hazard** like lead, gasoline engine exhaust, and chloroform. This is a highly significant declararation given the level of political activity and industry influence existing within the WHO.

However, with the now critical level of evidence concerning health risks from radio-frequency radiation, it is now irrefutably vital and incumbent that communities and governments take sincerely into account the seriousness of the health effects of RFR on the human population by taking greater protective measures against exposure to it and not wait for long-needed improvements to obsolete exposure guidelines.

Message from The Canadian Cancer Society:

"...the Canadian Cancer Society mobilizes Canadians to create social and political change to help control cancer in Canada and to create environments to reduce people's risk of cancer. They are involved in a wide range of issues that span all aspects of cancer control and prioritizing the issues we address is a very important part of advocacy efforts."

In May 31, 2011 City council approved a Task Force to review and recommend changes to the city's existing telecommunication's protocol:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 31, 2011
TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY SITING PROTOCOL
CITY OF VAUGHAN - FILE 15.88
WARDS 1-5

- "... Consideration should be given to the following sustainable practices in developing a new Telecommunication Facility Siting Protocol:
- i) use of existing telecommunication and antenna infrastructure wherever possible, including modifying or replacing existing towers;
- ii) encouraging co-location of telecommunication facilities in industrial or commercial zones; and,
- iii) discouraging new telecommunication tower and antenna facilities from locating near sensitive land uses to be determined through the study...."
- "...limiting telecommunication facilities within 500 m of sensitive land uses such as residential areas, schools, daycares, community centres, institutional uses and seniors' residences:..."

We are, The Islington Woods Residents, demand to cancel the lease for the existing (and proposed) cell tower at Al Palladini plaza in Woodbridge located within 50 up to 200 meters away from:

- Homes (incl. Islington Woods & Wycliffe Residential Area),
- Al Palladini Child care,
- Emily Carr Secondary school,
- Al Palladini Community centre and
- Pierre Berton Resource Library all at the same location!

We are also note it is the responsibility of our elected representatives and **Government** to place the **citizenry's health first**, not mechanically apply laws or overlook established neighborhood standards for the sake of business interests or civil process convenience over that of public safety, especially in matters as important as children's and families' health.

We are, the Islington Woods Residents, hope that this testimony will be given the respectful and responsible consideration it deserves. We hope you, Mr./Mrs.Councillor, will take an appropriate action to help us, so that the cell tower will not be sited at the existing/proposed location so very close to our homes, thereby keeping our families, our children safe.

Please find the attached petition from Islington Woods & Wycliffe Residents

With Respect,

Islington Woods & Wycliffe Residents (as per attachment)

P.S.

This letter was previously send to:

Concervative Party of Canada

M.P.

Julian Fantino

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E-mail: fantij@parl.gc.ca

City Of Vaughan

Mayor

Maurizio Bevilacqua

E-mail: maurizio.bevilacqua@vaughan.ca

City Of Vaughan

Ward 2 Councillor

Tony Carella

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Emily Carr Secondary School Woodbridge, ON

Principal Mrs. V. Campoli emilycarr.ss@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

CC: York Region District School Board The Education Centre, ON feedback@yrdsb.edu.on.ca