

December 12, 2024

Amanda Holland (via email)

RE: Proposed Xplore Inc. Towers

Good Afternoon Amanda,

Thank you for your email outlining your concerns.

All proponents that propose telecommunication infrastructure are required to comply within the guidelines set by Health Canada in order to protect people who live or work near these facilities. Health Canada safety guidelines are outlined in their 'Safety Code 6' document (see attached short version and below link for more details).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/occupational-exposure-regulations/safety-code-6-radiofrequency-exposure-guidelines.html>

Mobile base stations or cell towers transmit and receive radio-frequency (RF) signals or energy in order to connect with the cell phones and other mobile devices in the network. RF energy from cell towers is a form of "non-ionizing" radiation, which means it is not strong enough to break chemical bonds. Common sources of RF exposure include cell phones, cordless telephones, FM radio transmitters, baby monitors, WiFi routers and of course cell towers.

The Canadian public is limited to radio-frequency exposure via Health Canada's *Limits of Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy in the Frequency Range from 3kHz to 300 GHz* (Safety Code 6 [2015]) – Health Canada's RF exposure guidelines. Ongoing compliance with Safety Code 6 is a mandatory condition of all Canadian wireless carriers.

The exposure limits set in Safety Code 6 are based on an ongoing review of published scientific studies, including both internal and external authoritative reviews of the scientific literature, as well as Health Canada's own research. The code is periodically revised to reflect new knowledge in the scientific literature. The current version of Safety Code 6 reflects the scientific literature published up to August 2014 and replaces the previous version published in 2009.

Health Canada reminds all Canadians that their health is protected from radiofrequency fields by the human exposure limits recommended in Safety Code 6. Health Canada does not consider cell towers dangerous to the public, including groups typically more sensitive to environmental agents (young children, elderly). The Safety Code 6 limits for human exposure to RF energy are designed to provide protection for all age groups, including children, on a continuous (24 hours a day/seven days a week) basis. This means that if someone, including a small child, were to be exposed to RF energy from multiple sources for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, within the Safety Code 6 limits, there would be no adverse health effects.



Health Canada continues to monitor and analyze scientific research on this issue and should new scientific evidence arise demonstrating that exposure to radiofrequency fields poses a health risk to Canadians, Health Canada will take the appropriate action to safeguard the health of Canadians. Compliance with any updates or changes to Safety Code 6 is mandatory for all Canadian wireless carriers.

If you are interested, I have provided some further reading on this topic below:

- Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada; Radiofrequency Energy and Safety (5G): <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf11467.html>
- Safety Code 6: Health Canada's Radiofrequency Exposure Guidelines <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/radiation/safety-code-6-health-canada-radiofrequency-exposure-guidelines-environmental-workplace-health-health-canada.html>
- World Health Organization: Electromagnetic Fields and Public Health <https://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/facts/fs304/en/>
- American Cancer Society: Cellular Phone Towers <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/radiation-exposure/cellular-phone-towers.html>

If you would like to make follow-up comments, please note that Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada provides 21 days to do so following receipt of this email (January 3, 2025). You can reach me at 587.894.0773 or sduncan@forbesbrosLtd.ca.

Sincerely,
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