To: spectrumoperations-operationsduspectre@ised-isde.gc.ca

October 4, 2026

To ISED,

Re: DGSO-001-26. Canada Gazette. May 2026. Reply comments – Consultation on Amendments to the Tower Siting Process and Decision on Roaming, Tower sharing and Annual Reporting Requirements for Terrestrial Licences

I am writing as a person with environmental sensitivities, including electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS). I support the concerns raised in Sheena Symington's submission on behalf of the Electrosensitive Society and by Margaret Friesen on behalf of the Environmental Health Association of Manitoba.

I am originally from Manitoba. Because of my environmental sensitivities, my Winnipeg physician referred me to a physician in Alberta. I lost my Manitoba provincial disability benefit while seeking medical care in Alberta which left me in dire straits. Previously, I had been referred to Nova Scotia to be diagnosed then went back to Manitoba. My health challenges became much more severe after mold exposure which contributed to kidney failure.

A smart meter was also identified, with help of my physician, as a significant issue for me, as I experienced worsening symptoms associated with its presence. This was a "blinded" test because I did not even know what a smart meter was until after I experience getting headaches and tried to figure out what was causing them. It turned out there was a smart meter on the wall outside where I slept at night.

Cell towers also exacerbate my symptoms, further limiting where I can live, travel, and access essential services.

Following this period, and because I could not find housing that I could tolerate without becoming ill, my physician recommended that I take my van to the United States during the winter so that I would not freeze in the Canadian cold. My modified van became my home. I would rather live in a van than in a place that makes me sick. This is not a glamorous lifestyle. I miss my family and friends in Manitoba, but safe and tolerable housing has been extremely difficult to find there.

I think it is accurate to describe many people, including myself, as being environmental refugees — we are being forced to leave our homes or

communities to find safer housing, appropriate health care, or public spaces that we can tolerate. Many live in isolation, without adequate medical support or financial resources, while trying simply to survive.

I have met others living in similarly difficult circumstances, including people with very little shelter, few possessions, little or no electricity, and inadequate access to facilities or care. These circumstances are not a choice or a lifestyle. They reflect the lack of accessible, low-exposure housing and appropriate supports for people with severe environmental sensitivities.

I ask ISED to recognize that the expansion of wireless infrastructure can create profound accessibility barriers for people who are being adversely affected by wireless radiation such as cell tower antennas. Decisions about spectrum, wireless networks, antenna placement, and related infrastructure should include meaningful consultation with those directly affected. Lower-exposure options, including wired and fibre-based connections, should be preserved and expanded.

Please also consult organizations with direct knowledge of these issues, including the Environmental Health Association of Manitoba. Margaret Friesen can further explain why recognition, precaution, accommodation, and meaningful low-exposure options are necessary.

I share my story because it reflects the experiences of many people across Canada, and elsewhere. Please do not add further barriers for people seeking safer, lower-exposure environments. Policies should help prevent isolation, worsening illness, loss of housing, and homelessness.

When there are wirless devices such as small cell antennas, it would be helpful for clear labelling and signage. Those of us who are being harmed by this type of radiation should be able to easily see where these antennas are. I would be glad to offer further recommendations.

People reporting adverse effects from radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation need to be heard, respected, and protected.

I invite you to watch my short film, *Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Environmental Illness: Awareness and Acknowledgement*. It shares stories of people living with environmental sensitivities and has received awards, honourable mentions, nominations, and festival selections in the United States,

Athens and Romania. It was also displayed at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in 2022 and at Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) in Winnipeg and UCLA.
Short film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlmDrJYswxA

I support the request by Canadians for Safe Technology that no major changes should be made to the tower siting process until there a comprehensive full study conducted, such as the Townsend Report.

However, people with electrosensitivity should not, and in some cases, cannot wait that long for a low-wireless environment. I know of many who have had to leave their homes and communities because of cell towers placed nearby. Please urge Health Canada to study this with interviews of medical doctors who routinely see people with this condition as well as those with lived experience.

I ask ISED and other decision-makers to listen to people directly affected; require meaningful public consultation before new wireless infrastructure is installed; preserve lower-exposure options, including wired and fibre-based connections; and ensure that people with electrical sensitivity are not excluded from housing, health care, public spaces, or community life.

There are studies which show that cell tower radiation adversely affects people living near cell towers (see below). Why is ISED along with Health Canada, not conducting any studies?

A truly inclusive society does not leave people behind because their disability is invisible. It makes room for them to live safely, receive care, and remain part of their communities.

Thank you for considering the lived experiences of people with environmental sensitivities.

Sincerely,
Marie LeBlanc

Please note:

1) Links to peer-reviewed studies showing adverse effects in people living close to a cell tower:

1. **Blood parameters study (2026)**

Laldinpuii, Sailo, L. L., Weller, S., Varte, C. L., Tochhawng, L., Bandara, P., McCredden, J. E., & Zothansiama. (2026). Effects of exposure to nearby mobile phone base stations and mobile phone usage on human blood parameters. *Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, 45*(3), 231–250. https://doi.org/10.1080/15368378.2026.2623473

2. **Chromosomal aberrations study (2024)**

Gulati, S., Mosgoeller, W., Moldan, D., Kosik, P., Durdik, M., Jakl, L., Skorvaga, M., Markova, E., Kochanova, D., Vigasova, K., & Belyaev, I. (2024). Evaluation of oxidative stress and genetic instability among residents near mobile phone base stations in Germany. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety, 279*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoenv.2024.116486

3. **Review of studies on residents near base stations (2022)**

Balmori, A. (2022). Evidence for a health risk by RF on humans living around mobile phone base stations: From radiofrequency sickness to cancer. *Environmental Research, 214*, Article 113851. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2022.113851

2) Link to a paper documenting illness from what are likely 5G emitting antennas:

Hardell, L., & Nilsson, M. (2024). Summary of seven Swedish case reports on the microwave syndrome associated with 5G radiofrequency radiation. *Reviews on Environmental Health*. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2024-0017

The paper reports seven earlier case reports involving 16 people who developed adverse health symptoms after 5G base stations were installed near where they spent much time.

3) The House of Commons Health Committee in 2015 made 4 recommendations directly related to electromagnetic hypersensitivity. There seems to have been no progress that I know of, made on implementing them. Link: https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/412/HESA/Reports/RP8041315/hesarp13/hesarp13-e.pdf