

Presentation to City of Regina Planning Commission – July 5, 2022

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for allowing me to present today.

My name is Julian Branch. I am a long-time resident of Regina. I am a curious fellow who likes to read and research, and what I am reading in the area of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation is concerning. That is what brings me here today to present on the City of Regina Antenna System Protocol.

We all have cell phones. We all want faster service. Consequently, cell phone towers are popping up around the world at an alarming rate. Regina is no exception. The question is whether technology is causing health concerns? There is an increasing body of evidence that Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation should be a concern.

I see on the City of Regina FAQ page on this topic that “The consensus of the scientific community is that radio-frequency energy from cell phone towers is too low to cause adverse health-effects in humans.” That is not what I am reading.

On April 7, 2022, a national organization known as Prevent Cancer Now (PCN) submitted a white paper to the federal government of Canada entitled *Protect birds, bees and trees: Include Anthropogenic Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation in Canadian Environmental Protection Act amendments*. The paper is calling for amendments to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).

One of the proposed amendments reads: “The ministers shall conduct research or studies relating to radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation, methods related to its detection, methods to determine its actual or likely short-term or long-term effect on the environment and **human health**, and preventative, control and abatement measures to deal with it, and alternatives to its use, to protect the environment and **human health**.”

The board of PCN is made up of PhD's , scientists, and medical doctors. Just three months ago this national organization was urging more study related to the possible impacts of radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation on human health.

Yet, when I read the Antenna System Protocol that is under discussion, and up for approval by the Planning Commission today, I see that “The City does not assess any proposal for an Antenna System with respect to radiofrequency exposure/health issues, or any other non-location or non-design related issues, as these matters are not within the City's jurisdiction to comment on.”

I would respectfully submit that the health of the residents of this city should be the primary concern of the City of Regina.
I strongly suggest the proposed protocol be revised in this area.

Under Public Consultation the protocol states “All landowners, community associations, school boards and adjacent municipalities shall receive notice by mail within the greater distance of: 120 metres of the proposed Antenna System site.”

120 metres is approximately 400 feet. I don’t know how this distance was arrived at, but I suggest the proposed protocol be revised in this area, to increase the distance.

Also, the protocol should include some way to confirm whether those people actually received the notice that was sent by mail.

Further to this, I see that if the proposed antenna system is to be more than 30 metres in height that one newspaper ad needs to be taken out. I suggest more than one newspaper is required, and certainly more notification in general.

On the point of public consultation, the protocol does not mention that the affected city councillor should be included in the notice of a new antenna. Nor does it mention the affected MLA or MP.

I suggest the proposed protocol be revised in this area to include these individuals.

I suggest the precautionary principle be one of the guiding principles for this process.

If you are unfamiliar with the principle, it states; “When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof.” The World Health Organization uses tobacco and asbestos as examples of when the principle should be employed.

We all have cell phones. We all want better, faster service. Let’s not do that at the expense of human health. Let’s take the time to do this right, so that future generations don’t suffer as a result of hasty decisions we make today.

I suggest the City of Regina Planning Commission consider revising the Antenna System Protocol in the areas I have mentioned, and use the precautionary principle as a guiding principle moving forward on this issue. Please take the time to make the revisions to the Antenna Systems Protocol before sending this item to city council for approval.

Thank you for your time.

Julian Branch