

## **LTC motion re Cell Towers and antennae - Bob**

We're now faced with resisting another corporate/government travesty - that of exposure to more and more wireless transmission.

There's a huge push towards more to provide better cell phone coverage, faster movie downloads, smart grids, smart cities, autonomous cars, Internet of Things, etc.

Rogers and Telus have since 2007 been trying to increase transmissions on Gabriola. The Fire Improvement District in 2007 turned down one such application in 2007 based on public input. In 2010 the LTC enacted standing resolution GB-025-2010, which says: "Proposals for any new or expanded communication towers and antennae require an application to the Gabriola Islands Local Trust Committee. The application process shall comprise a public consultation process . . . and the required notice to the public shall include . . . a description of the predicted power density level of the antenna/tower." This resolution has until now held off all such applications.

In 2014 the feds at great expense put together a 19-page page "Client Procedures Circular – to do with Radio Communication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems" for use with all local Canadian governing bodies when evaluating applications. This document makes it very clear that

1. ISED (Innovation Science & Economic Development, formerly Industry Canada) has the ultimate say re applications . . . which I take to mean can over-ride decisions made by local governments; ie – can say yes even if a local governing body says no.
2. In deciding yes/no to an application, concerns about health are not to be considered by the local governing body . . . the applicant has to make sure transmitted EMR (electromagnetic radiation) meets it Safety Code 6 guidelines and that means it's perfectly safe . . . something that is proven to be untrue by numerous studies by reputable researchers.

This document was given to Islands Trust staff to use as a guideline creating a consultation policy applicable to the IT area as a whole. This they did, coming up with (with amendments by Gabriola's IT staff) the 19-page "Gabriola Island Protocol for *Antenna systems*" shown in Attachment 2. At its Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting our Local Trustees voted 2:3 to rescind GB-025-10 and adopt the new protocol.

Trustee Kees Langereis opposed this adoption. He subsequently proposed an alternate protocol (Attachment 3) for consideration at the Feb 27<sup>th</sup> LTC meeting.

Personally I believe the proposed by Kees is an order of magnitude improvement over the one adopted on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>, and since it's the only motion on the agenda it should be adopted. However it still has some worrisome flaws in it, leading me to believe it will be in our best interests to go back to the original the protocol (GB-025-2010) as soon as possible.

I urge everyone to take an interest in this and let their trustees know their views by mid morning Wed 26<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Sent emails to the 3 trustees and the local IT office – emails and details of the motion available at <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gabriola/>. Sending to one trustee only doesn't count.

I don't have time to provide my own comments at this time, but if you're interested please let me know – [bobmck@shaw.ca](mailto:bobmck@shaw.ca).

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\* **Safety Code 6:** a written and signed attestation that the *telecommunication antenna system* will respect Health Canada's *Safety Code 6* which sets safe radiofrequency emission levels for these devices including the cumulative effects of multiple *telecommunication antenna system* at the location and in the immediate area;

