

December 4, 2007

To: Planning and Growth Management Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: Prudent Avoidance Policy on Siting Telecommunication Towers and Antennas

The Board of Health on December 4, 2007, amongst other things, forwarded the report (November 20, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health on the Prudent Avoidance Policy on Siting Telecommunication Towers and Antennas to the Planning and Growth Management Committee for information.

Board Recommendations:

The Board of Health recommended to City Council that:

1. City Council endorse a Prudent Avoidance Policy and use the new City of Toronto Telecommunication Tower and Antenna Protocol as a mechanism for collecting information on the estimated levels of radiofrequencies around cell phone towers and antennas in areas where people normally spend time.

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Board of Health:

1. reaffirmed the Prudent Avoidance Policy approach for radiofrequencies (RF) that would keep levels in areas where people normally spend time at least 100 times lower than Health Canada's Safety Code 6 limits when siting new telecommunication towers and antennas in the City of Toronto;
2. recommended to Health Canada that public exposure limits for radiofrequency fields under Safety Code 6 be made 100 times more strict as previously recommended by the Board of Health;
3. recommended to cell phone carrier proponents to consider voluntary adoption of the Prudent Avoidance Policy when proposing sites for new telecommunication towers and antennas, including considering proposed alternative sites when the City's review identifies potential concerns; and

4. encouraged Industry Canada to conduct regular monitoring for radiofrequencies arising from telecommunications structures in Toronto, and to make that information publicly available.
5. forwarded a copy of this report to the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest, and the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud; and strongly encouraged the Boards of Education to support and adopt the Board of Health's Prudent Avoidance Policy;
6. forwarded a copy of the Board of Health's recommendations to the Planning and Growth Management Committee and the Acting Chief Planner and Executive Director for their information; and
7. requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health:
 - a. on the impact of cell phone usage on the health of children and youth; and
 - b. early in 2009 on the implementation and effectiveness of the new City of Toronto Telecommunication Tower and Antenna Protocol.

Background:

The Board of Health on December 4, 2007, considered a report (November 20, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the prudent avoidance policy on siting telecommunication towers and antennas, and recommending that:

1. the Board of Health reaffirm the Prudent Avoidance Policy approach for radiofrequencies (RF) that would keep levels in areas where people normally spend time at least 100 times lower than Health Canada's *Safety Code 6* limits when siting new telecommunication towers and antennas in the City of Toronto;
2. the Board of Health recommend that City Council endorse a Prudent Avoidance Policy and use the new City of Toronto Telecommunication Tower and Antenna Protocol as a mechanism for collecting information on the estimated levels of radiofrequencies around cell phone towers and antennas in areas where people normally spend time;
3. the Board of Health recommend to Health Canada that public exposure limits for radiofrequency fields under *Safety Code 6* be made 100 times more strict as previously recommended by the Board of Health;
4. the Board of Health recommend to cell phone carrier proponents to consider voluntary adoption of the Prudent Avoidance Policy when proposing sites for new telecommunication towers and antennas, including considering proposed alternative sites when the City's review identifies potential concerns; and

5. the Board of Health encourage Industry Canada to conduct regular monitoring for radiofrequencies arising from telecommunications structures in Toronto, and to make that information publicly available.

Speakers:

Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health, and filed a copy of his presentation material.

Secretary,
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd
Item HL9.3
Attachment

- c. Medical Officer of Health
Acting Chief Planner and Executive Director