




EX28.2.19

October 24, 2017

TO: Executive Committee
exc@toronto.ca

RE: 2017.EX28.2 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan - 2019 - 2038
Recommendation #75

Recommendations – Reshaping Facilities	
#75. Place a focus on creating public spaces, meeting rooms and year-round multi-use spaces that are digitally enabled (e.g., WiFi access) and can be animated through unstructured community use and programming.	

Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (EPIC) is a volunteer-based not-for-profit in Canada established to:

- provide support and services to adults and children affected by electromagnetic pollution;
- provide information to the public about electromagnetic pollution and its impact on health and wellbeing;
- promote the creation of healthy environments.

EPIC commends the City of Toronto for its ongoing, diligent work in doing whatever it takes to progress toward full compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) and for recognizing that both reduction of existing barriers to accessibility and avoidance of creation of new barriers is necessary.

We respectfully request whatever process will effectively revise Recommendation #75 in section 5.7 on page 75 in the *Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* (FMP) (Appendix A <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-107775.pdf>) to remove the following wording and intent: "(e.g., WiFi access)."

"WiFi access" refers to knowingly adding volumes of non-natural radiofrequency electromagnetic fields into the environment/air, usually continuously. Non-natural radiofrequency electromagnetic fields are physical agents that present a barrier to accessibility

for an estimated 3 to 5 per cent of Toronto's residents (all demographics, and including children and adults) — experts predict this percentage is increasing.

We note the FMP includes these sections:

- 5.5 Environmental Responsibility;
- 5.6 Accessibility For All;
- 5.7 Reshaping Facilities.

The wording "(e.g., WiFi access)" in Recommendation #75 contradicts sections 5.5 and 5.6. This is Recommendation #75 in the FMP:

#75: Place a focus on creating public spaces, meeting rooms and year-round multi-use spaces that are digitally enabled (e.g., WiFi access) and can be animated through unstructured community use and programming.

We note that this Committee, other Committees, Councillors, and various department staff in the City of Toronto previously have been informed of this type of accessibility barrier, and that places and spaces can be digitally enabled via legacy or modern wireline methods that neither pollute environments/persons nor create such an accessibility barrier.

Within the past month, both the Ontario government and the Office of the Auditor General of Canada have released related documents.

On September 29, 2017, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) released a *Health Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* also refers to a July 2017 Report (including recommendations), posted in *Ministry Reports*, from the MOHLTC's "Task Force on Environmental Health" (one-third of the members of the Task Force are persons with lived experience). Please note:

- Within two months (or less) of receiving the Report, the province decided to renew "the funding for a fellowship in Clinical Environmental Health at the University of Toronto to expand clinical expertise in this domain."
- The scope of the Report includes radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic fields (EMFs), as the Report explains its terminology "ES" for "Environmental Sensitivities" refers to chemical, biologic, and physical agents (RF-EMFs are physical agents). Also, EMFs are specifically mentioned in other Task Force material in one of the Report's appendices.

Here are the two Government of Ontario links. Please read the short *Bulletin* first. This from Minister Hoskins is in the *Bulletin*:

"I would like to thank the Task Force on Environmental Health for their dedication to improving care for individuals living with myalgic encephalomyelitis, fibromyalgia and environmental sensitivities. In Ontario, we still have a lot of work to do to advance the health care experience for individuals living with environmental health conditions. This report will help to increase the understanding of these conditions and provide our government with the information we need to improve access to care."

– Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, *Health Bulletin*, Sept 29, 2017

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2017/hb_20170929.aspx

Improving Care for People Living with Environmental Health Conditions
Release of Interim Report Looks at Hard-to-Diagnose Conditions

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, *Ministry Reports*, July 2017

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/environmental_health_2017/default.aspx

Time for Leadership: Recognizing and Improving Care

Task Force on Environmental Health - Phase 1 Report

direct: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/environmental_health_2017/task_force_on_environmental_health_report.pdf

In *2017 Fall Reports to the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development*, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) of Canada released:

Report 5—Environmental Petitions Annual Report and Retrospective

http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att_e_42597.html

(excerpt:) "Of note, 7 petitions concerned potential adverse health effects on humans from radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation from personal wireless devices, such as cellphones, tablets, baby monitors, and Wi-Fi Internet routers."

We respectfully request whatever process will effectively revise Recommendation #75 in section 5.7 on page 75 in the FMP to remove the following wording and intent: "(e.g., WiFi access)."

Thank you in advance for your attention to this accessibility matter.

We always welcome discussion, questions, ideas, and information. You can reach me at 416.788.4749 and contact@iexistworld.org.

Best regards,

Barbara Payne

President

Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (EPIC)

iexistworld.org (under construction)