



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00824**

BY: **MR. TILSON (DUFFERIN-CALEDON)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 26, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **HONOURABLE JANE PHILPOTT**

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Response by the Minister of Health

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Cellphone towers**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

Canada is recognized worldwide for the rigour with which it gathers, assesses and incorporates scientific information into its decision making and standards, including Safety Code 6.

Health Canada administers the Radiation Emitting Devices Act, which governs the sale, lease and importation of radiation emitting devices in Canada. In addition, the Department's mandate regarding human exposure to radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic energy from wireless devices includes carrying out research into possible health effects, monitoring the scientific literature related to such effects on an ongoing basis, and developing RF exposure guidelines, commonly referred to as Safety Code 6. Safety Code 6 sets recommended limits for safe human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) in federally regulated industries and workplaces. While Health Canada recommends limits for safe human exposure, the Department does not regulate the general public's exposure to electromagnetic RF fields.

In 2015, Health Canada updated Safety Code 6 to take into account recent scientific data from studies carried out worldwide. In the establishment of acceptable limits, departmental scientists considered all peer-reviewed scientific studies, and employed a weight-of-evidence approach when evaluating possible health risks from exposure to RF energy. When establishing Safety Code 6, Health Canada incorporated several tiers of precaution into the human exposure limits. These included conservative thresholds for the occurrence of adverse effects, extreme worst-case situations for body size and orientation in relation to the RF fields, and additional safety margins. Since these

conservative approaches are cumulative (i.e., stacked upon each other), Safety Code 6 provides very large margins of safety against the occurrence of all established adverse health effects associated with RF field exposure. The Department's updated Safety Code 6 makes Canada's limits among the most stringent science-based limits in the world.

Safety Code 6 human exposure limits, established by Health Canada, are designed to provide protection for all age groups, including infants and children, on a continuous basis (24 hours a day/seven days a week). This means that if a person, including a small child, were to be exposed to RF energy from multiple sources for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, within the Safety Code 6 limits, there would be no adverse health effects.

Health Canada has previously provided timely scientific information and messaging on EMF and health to federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) partners, including through the Pan Canadian Public Health Network. The Department will maintain this practice and its ongoing relationship with its FPT partners in an effort to support regional efforts and decision-making in this area.