

Healthy Housing Society, Box 151, New Denver, B.C.  
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August 16, 2007

Mr. Robert Rabinovitch, President & CEO  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
250 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON M5V 3G5

Dear Mr. Rabinovitch:

Re: Cell Antenna proposed by Telus for the Village of New Denver

The Healthy Housing Society of New Denver would like to express our extreme disappointment in Telus's decision to go ahead with the installation of a cellular antenna on the CBC tower in our village despite the voice of a clear majority of our citizens who are opposed to this service. At the cut off date for public input the official tally by the Village Council was nearly a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority opposed to cell phone antennae in this area, the numbers against still growing.

We, of the Healthy Housing Society, focus primarily on the health, affordability and the integrity of the residences and communities in which people live, yet in this controversy over the proposed cell antenna in the Village of New Denver, we also have particular concerns over our long democratic heritage. We understand that Telus is under no legal obligation to consider public input on the placement of cellular antennas. However we believe in the wisdom of the majority. Furthermore, we believe that a local governing council should not be lightly overruled.

This opposition to cellular usage in our area is for a several reasons:

- 1) Health Concerns- After extensive research in the matter, most residents do not feel comfortable with the limited forms of measurement (full body heating only) used by Health Canada to devise their Safety Code 6. Acknowledging the several hundred peer-reviewed scientific papers demonstrating negative effects of cell phones and transmitters on the cells of living organisms, most residents feel inclined to err on the side of caution. Most studies have shown these effects particularly within a 500 metre radius of a cell tower wherein a large segment of our village population resides in this case.
- 2) Economic Development Strategies- The Slokan Valley Economic Development Commission and many of the business owners have proposed marketing our area as a cell phone free zone for tourists who would choose to visit our scenic region and de-pressurize from the stress of a hectic life, knowing they are inaccessible by cell phone.

- 3) Cultural Changes- One of the unique appeals of our tranquil community is its traditional atmosphere. People fear that our public spaces would be disturbed by annoying ring tones and loud one-sided conversations. There is also concern about the social effect, especially among younger users, of frequent cell phone usage.

The New Denver Mayor Gary Wright and Council are unanimously against the installation of the cell antenna in our Village. They urged Telus to abandon their plans or at least find an alternate site and they fear liability in future health related matters that may arise. Is Telus willing to indemnify our local Council?

Although Mr. Steve Jenkins and Mr. Enderton of Telus must have received dozens of letters and witnessed our community hall overflowing with those opposed to the cellular installation, Telus is disregarding the democratic process on which we had embarked. Mr. Enderton's letter to the New Denver Village Council, dated August 13, 2007, announcing that Telus is going ahead with the antenna on the CBC tower in our village totally disregards the concerns of our citizens and focuses only on what is "suitable for our (Telus's) purposes." This decision is based on a limited definition of what is financially cost effective, without consideration of health costs, local economic considerations or the relationship of Telus with the residents of New Denver. Moreover, Telus is ignoring the now internationally popular economic proposal to maintain a cell free zone in the Slovan Valley.

Telus claims that after a "review of the site and other alternative sites we have determined that this is the best option... and will be moving ahead." According to Mr. Enderton's letter it appears Telus's primary concern is the minimal initial investment made thus far. Such hasty investment and its potential loss illustrates how important public consultation is to gauge the will of the community **before** Telus embarks on installations.

The Village of New Denver has spoken in favor of remaining cell phone and antenna free. Since the CBC is the owner of the mast on which this proposed antenna is to be installed, we feel that it carries an obligation to ensure that such installation be carried out commensurate with our democratic tradition and that the health and economic considerations are clearly addressed. We urge you to confront Telus on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Julia Greenlaw, Chair, Healthy Housing Society