



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: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE NAVDEEP BAINS**

Response by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Cellphone towers

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada has a collaborative and consultative cell phone tower policy. The procedures for the siting of antenna towers are outlined in Client Procedures Circular (CPC-2-0-03), Issue 5, entitled: Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems. They describe the requirements that companies must follow, which include collaborating with municipal governments and providing the opportunity for the local public to provide input. The procedures apply to everyone seeking to install or modify an antenna system, irrespective of their nature of business or legal status, including government, crown agencies and federally incorporated companies.

Municipal governments are uniquely positioned to explore all potential sites for new towers in their communities to ensure the proposed structure integrates into local surroundings in accordance with their citizen's views. The Department recognizes that working with companies in this regard and arriving at a mutually acceptable solution results in successful tower sitings. Every year, this process leads to the successful negotiation between companies and municipalities for the placement of approximately 1000 towers.

In all tower-siting situations, companies must also satisfy Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's general and technical requirements, including Health Canada's guidelines for exposure to radio frequency energy, commonly known as Safety Code 6, aeronautical safety, interference protection and environmental requirements.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada adopted Health Canada's Safety Code 6, to ensure the protection of the general public. As a condition of their licences, the industry is obliged to ensure that all radiocommunication and broadcasting installations comply with Safety Code 6 at all times.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada also conducts regular audits to ensure antenna installations are compliant with Health Canada's Safety Code 6. Should Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada become aware of an installation where the exposure levels exceed Safety Code 6 limits, the Department will take immediate action to protect the general public.