

Dear Salt Spring Trust Representatives,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Rogers tower proposed for Channel Ridge.

We do not need another commercial wireless telecommunications site on our island. Rogers' coverage maps show they now provide almost full 4G and 5G service. Ninety percent of Salt Spring residents surveyed say they can access 911 by cell phone from home. Given that there is a Telus tower at this site, that we can access 911 through any provider, and that the propagation of cellular signals is topography dependent, this Rogers installation will *not* improve our access to mobile 911.

Over eighty percent of cellular traffic is generated indoors. Providers are pushing to offer home internet through wireless and cellular signals, but the best way to connect when we are not mobile is through safe, fast, energy efficient and secure fiber optics wired directly to our premises and our devices. When major telecoms bring fiber to our homes they also install wireless repeaters, giving millimetre waves the boost the need to get through walls, turning our homes into transmission sites that are a part of the 5G grid. There are better connectivity options. The Connected Coast is bringing open access fiber to four ports on our island, giving us the opportunity to strengthen local resilience by building an Internet that is net neutral, wired if we choose, and locally controlled.

In terms of CREST – a taxpayer-funded emergency services organization should not be furthering the agenda of big telecom. CREST should build their own tower, with no commercial antennas allowed.

This unneeded Rogers tower poses many land-siting issues that should concern the Trust. It is a fire hazard and raises issue of liability due to fire, data breaches, and health and environmental claims related to electromagnetic harm. It will create visual blight due to its use of wireless line of sight. It will be in close proximity to homes, a nature reserve, and a significant recreational area and watershed in the heart of a forest that is at high risk for fire.

At this pivotal juncture, it is crucial we make decisions based on the well-being of future generations and the natural world that sustains us. This project will profit Rogers but it will greatly diminish the quality of life on our island. I urge you to write a letter of non-concurrence for this tower.

Thank you for giving careful consideration to my concerns,

Signed : _____

Address: _____

Date: _____