

Dear Elizabeth,

Rogers wants to build a 131-foot 4G and 5G cell tower in the residential and environmentally-sensitive neighbourhood of Channel Ridge on Salt Spring. I am deeply concerned about this project. Other MPs have acted on behalf of constituents on the issue of cell towers in their communities, and I am asking you to do the same.

The Project in Question

This project is being presented under the guise of improved emergency services, as Rogers will lease about 5% of this tower to CREST. The earliest LTC will vote on this tower is on July 27.

This project is being framed as essential to improving emergency services, which it is not.

Rogers' coverage maps show almost full 4G and 5G service on Salt Spring now. Also, this tower will not improve mobile access to 911 as there is already a Telus tower at the site. We can use any provider to call 911 and any topography issues that limit current cell service will apply.

CREST - a publically funded program - should not be furthering the goals of a big telecom like Rogers. CREST should build their own tower with no commercial antennas allowed.

Our Response to Date

An estimated hundred plus of us have written letters opposing this project to Cypress Land Management, the siting agent for Rogers, during the public consultation process. Our concerns were not adequately or transparently addressed in the responses we received.

Many of us have also asked our local Trust Committee to write a letter of non-concurrence to ISED for this project. There are several land-use related issues that validate them in doing so. As Davide Almeida of ISED Vancouver Island has stated, it is ultimately the LUA who says yes or no to a macro tower.

Some of the Reasons we Oppose this Tower

- The site is 50 metres from homes

- It is adjacent to a nature reserve, a popular recreation area, and is in the critical St Mary Lake watershed. Science shows electromagnetic pollution has a detrimental effect on wildlife, plants and insects.
- We are aware of the effects that excessive and unneeded wireless infrastructure has on energy consumption and climate change.
- We know our local government cannot officially weigh in on health concerns, but the SSI Trust passed a resolution creating a protective antenna-siting EMR exposure policy in 2001, which this project and the combined Rogers/Telus output at this site would exceed.
- This project is a fire hazard and a liability risk.

OUR REQUEST TO YOU

This past March, at the urging of constituents, Marty Morantz, MP for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia-Headingley wrote a letter to the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry (and also sent a copy to Winnipeg City Council) expressing concerns about a Rogers tower proposed for his riding. Winnipeg City Council subsequently wrote a letter of non-concurrence for this tower.

I am hoping you will write a letter to Minister Champagne on our behalf.

Please let me know as soon as possible how you can support us, Elizabeth,

All the Best,