

Mayor Gillingham
City of Winnipeg Councillors
510 Main St,
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9



P.O. Box 33
Maple Grove Village Postal Outlet
Oakville, ON.,
L6J 7P5

Subject: Opposition to approval of wireless smart water meters and support for opt-out with no fee

November 22, 2023

Dear: Mayor Gillingham and City of Winnipeg Councillors,

CANADIANS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY (C4ST) AND MY BACKGROUND

I have spent my 40+ year career entirely in the technology industry. In my previous role as President of Microsoft Canada, I witnessed the incredible benefits that technology can provide. I also witnessed the potential harmful effects if technology is not implemented correctly. I have invested a significant amount of time researching and talking with experts and now understand the harmful effects to human health that wireless radiation can have.

Ten years ago, when I realized that the improper use of radiofrequency/microwave radiation technology could adversely impact a large proportion of the population with resulting enormous costs to health care, I co-founded Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST). C4ST is a national, not-for-profit organization that is concerned with the health and safety risks of unsafe wireless technology. We are a volunteer-based, national, coalition of parents, citizens and experts whose mission is to educate and inform Canadians and policy makers about the dangers of the exposures to unsafe levels of radiation from technology and to work with all levels of government to create healthier communities for children and families.

I am writing to provide support for Winnipeg residents who are opposed to the proposed wireless smart meter program where current read-only meters will be replaced with 2-way transmitting microwave frequencies, namely Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The benefits of wired technologies and downsides of wireless are provided in a publication I co-authored with medical doctors, scientists and building biology specialists:

“Building Science and Radiofrequency Radiation: What Makes Smart and Healthy Buildings.” *Building and Environment* 176 (June 1, 2020): 106324. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2019.106324>.

Abstract: Radiofrequency radiation (RFR), used for wireless communications and “smart” building technologies, including the “Internet of Things,” is increasing rapidly. As both RFR exposures and scientific evidence of harmful effects increase apace, it is timely to heed calls to include low RFR levels as a performance indicator for the health, safety and well-being of occupants and the environment. Adverse biochemical and biological effects at commonly experienced RFR levels indicate that exposure guidelines for the U.S., Canada and other countries are inadequate to protect public health and the environment. Some industry liability insurance providers do not offer coverage against adverse health

effects from radiation emitted by wireless technologies, and insurance authorities deem potential liability as “high.” Internationally, governments have enacted laws, and medical and public health authorities have issued recommendations, to reduce and limit exposure to RFR. There is an urgent need to implement strategies for no- or low-RFR emitting technologies, and shielding, in building design and retrofitting. These strategies include installing wired (not wireless) Internet networks, corded rather than cordless phones, and cable or wired connections in building systems (e.g., mechanical, lighting, security). Building science can profit from decades of work to institute performance parameters, operationalizing prudent guidelines and best practices. The goal is to achieve RFR exposures that are ALARA, “As Low As Reasonably Achievable.” We also challenge the business case of wireless systems, because wired or cabled connections are faster, more reliable and secure, emit substantially less RFR, and consume less energy in a sector with rapidly escalating greenhouse gas emissions.

Wired technologies are superior in many significant ways to wireless technologies. I would encourage you to become familiar with the work of Dr. Timothy Schoechle, author of: **Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks**. <https://mdsafetech.org/2018/01/30/reinventing-wires-the-future-of-landlines-and-networks-february-5-2018-commonwealth-club-sf/>

If the City of Winnipeg decides to choose wireless smart water meters, I completely support and highly recommend the establishment of an opt-out program that is at no-cost and with no special documentation required. C4ST is often contacted by individuals who report adverse reactions to emissions from wireless technologies, including smart meters. Often, by the time they reach us they are in dire straits desperate to find housing with low electromagnetic fields.

These individuals report symptoms consistent with electromagnetic sensitivity also referred to as electrosensitivity, microwave sickness, as well as other terms. The most conservative estimate is that about 3% of the population suffers from electrosensitivity, with the more common view of 10% of the population suffering. This compares to a better understood sensitivity to peanuts in the 2% to 3% range. More information about electrosensitivity can be found at the Canada-based Electrosensitive Society¹ and by viewing the videos from the EMF (Electromagnetic Fields) 2021 Conference **Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of EMF Associated Illness**. This conference was approved for 24.5 Continuing Medical Education/CE credits for licensed health practitioners (MDs, nurses and other health care practitioners).

I would be pleased to follow-up on this letter with a telephone or video conversation.

Sincerely,



Frank Clegg
CEO, Canadians for Safe Technology (C4ST)

cc: Margaret Friesen, Environmental Health Association of Manitoba

¹ <https://www.electrosensitivesociety.com/>