

Dear Mayor, Committee and Staff,

Thank you for allowing me to speak here today. I am a resident of Ontario. I was asked if I could share my lived experience and knowledge about smart meter technology and its impacts on people who have been injured by wireless exposures. I am one of the people who is unfortunately affected by wireless technology. In the past decade I have helped hundreds of others who are also medically impacted as well, so I have a good understanding of what's working and what's not with regard to the smart metering technology.

Up until 2012, I worked as an airline pilot. My career took me to Europe, India, and all around the Americas. I absolutely loved my job. It was exciting, adventurous and I got to meet so many interesting people. I was so lucky to be able to travel and see the world.

My life has greatly changed now, and I am no longer able to work or travel, or even visit most of my friends and family in their own homes. I am losing millions of dollars in income.

In 2010, I was severely injured by two cell towers built behind my home during the new 4G rolled out across Canada. My employer and insurance company are supportive of my diagnosed injury and I am on permanent long-term paid disability with them. I flew for 25 years and was Captain on the Airbus when I took myself off the line, ending my wonderful career.

My symptoms initially began after the first tower was turned on, with problems sleeping, ringing in my ears, and chemical reactions to everything. After the second tower was built six months later, I then started experiencing heating in the skin of my hands, decreases and increases in pigmentation of my skin, migraines, nausea, foggy headedness, hormone changes, cystic acne, plantar fasciitis, rapid unexplained weight gain, tissue swelling and a sudden and a very worrisome decrease in vision. Also later, it was determined that my blood was clumping up when exposed to wireless, stacking in a Rouleau formation, something you'd see in late stage cancer patients.

But the worst of my symptoms is an increase in my body voltage when exposed. I build up a charge and will start to shock myself and others. Basically I'm being electrocuted 24/7. I can feel the the wireless signals on my skin, less when I'm in a non-radiated area, but with increasing intensity the more charged up I get. This latter symptom, although tortuous, lets me know the area is not safe for me. Many people who are affected do not get this symptom, leaving them unaware of what is actually making them sick.

I should mention that all of these symptoms disappear if I'm in an area without microwave radiation. Even my vision returns, and I don't need glasses.

This injury has left me unable to tolerate wireless and electricity as I once could. I am extremely limited now as to where I can live. Even if I'm able to get far enough away from a cell tower, be surrounded with trees, and have no neighbours, the smart utility meters can keep me from being able to live in my own home.

Smart meters, even the non-transmitting type, generate dirty electricity on the electrical lines of the home. Dirty electricity is also a hazard for people who have been injured by wireless. **So only analog meters are medically appropriate for them.**

It is possible for the makers of the meters to include a filter to filter out these frequencies that are contaminating the electricity in the home, but so far companies are not doing this. I've been told by a smart meter engineer that it would cost only a couple of dollars per home to install these filters.

However, even with being provided opt outs by the utility, I've been suddenly evicted from my home when the utility switched my neighbour's smart meter from a point-to-point type which transmitted once a day to a cell tower, to a mesh-grid type, which sends a signal every few seconds day and night.

I did have a point-to-point type on my home for a while too, but if I was anywhere near it when it transmitted, it would impact my heart. I also know of another woman who had a point-to-point type, and because it couldn't connect to the tower, it would keep sending out a very strong pulse constantly, day and night. She had to finally had to go the lengths of filing a human rights complaint with the human rights tribunal to get it off her house.

So for most of two years I had to leave my home and family, and live in a radio-free zone in West Virginia as I couldn't control the wireless from cell towers and smart meters, coming into my home. I lived in 200 year old cabin, and sometimes in a tent outside, even in the winter. I had a beautiful home, and I couldn't be there because of the wireless technology in the vicinity of my home.

Being paid disability from my company, and having a husband who is employed, enables me to be able to afford a more isolated home, with enough property to try and manage my condition. But most people with EHS, who cannot work at all, are left often with no compensation and no way to get away from technology from their neighbours. Having smart meters in their home or building makes it impossible for them to stay in their home. Already, at least here in Ontario, you can't take your very small housing subsidy with you if you're getting help from the government, to somewhere safe to live, you have to remain in the subsidized housing where everyone is using wireless. It's really an impossible situation, that will only be exacerbated by adding smart meters to the problem.

In no case should any opt-outs for smart meters result in a cost to the consumer.

This inability to find housing has led people to opt for assisted death or MAiD now. As you already heard today, one young woman already went through with it. There are at least two people I know of who are applying for assisted death now because they can't find somewhere to live that doesn't hurt them.

The smart water meters are usually on an analog base meter. The antenna goes on the meter, in the basement of the home, and transmits every 6 to 10 seconds. Options like putting the antenna outside still affect the interior of the home. These signals are lower frequency and are designed to penetrate brick, soil, etc. They can either talk to a car that drives by occasionally, or to a cell tower, or a transmit through a mesh-grid system that is set up around the neighbourhood.

In all of these cases though, it increases the amount of wireless pollution in the neighbourhood and in the home. Not only are people with EHS affected, but it can actually cause people to become injured permanently. For this reason, all wireless utility infrastructure should be avoided.

There are wired solutions that could be used.

1. Keep with the system you have now that works for everyone.
2. Have the data from the meter be collected by hand from the outside of the home.
3. Have the data from the meter be collected through the phone lines or through fibre optic cable. Hydro meters in parts of Toronto have used the phone lines for the past decade to collect data. Winnipeg might even consider buying the copper landlines from the phone company in the future so as to be able to provide emergency 911 services for everyone, but also to collect data from any utility meters.

I've included a document from a telecommunications engineer in the package I sent to Council called, "Re-inventing wires". He also writes that fibre could be used in the transmission of data from the meters instead of doing this wirelessly.

Another point that Council should consider is that all wireless has been classified as a 2b possible carcinogen since 2011. The International Agency for Research on Cancer or IARC, has given high priority to re-evaluate all wireless by the end of 2024. There are **new** studies showing **conclusively** that microwave radiation, below the levels of Health Canada's safety code, are causing animals to get cancer. Experts in the field are now asking that IARC make all wireless a full 1a carcinogen. It should be expected that the classification level for all wireless could be upgraded in the next year, so it makes sense for the Municipality to limit the exposure of this toxic substance to its citizens by providing safer wired infrastructure instead of wireless.

In addition, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health within the Canadian Federal government reviewed the impacts of wireless radiation in 2015. They came up with 12 recommendations to be addressed and implemented by our government. At the time, the committee was held under the Conservative government,

but the recommendations were brought forward and upheld by the new HESA committee after the Liberal government was voted in. These important recommendations to track injuries and cancers, protect people with EHS, and other sensitive populations, etc, sadly are still waiting to be actioned by our government, but what it does show is that there is an unaddressed problem with this technology, that the government is acknowledging, even if Health Canada is choosing to not investigate the health issues and injuries that are being reported, so the safest choices for the public should be applied.

One of the arguments that industry makes about smart meters is that the overall amount of radiation is low over the day. Because of the way the safety code averages radiation levels over a six minute time period, it evens out the spiky powerful pulses generated by this technology. Even if the frequency of pulses could be reduced, even one of these pulses can negatively affect the heart and pacemakers. This is why wireless needs to be avoided, and wired options preferred.

Another point that Council should consider is that wireless is not being insured at all by insurance companies, nor their underwriters.

The Municipality, by agreeing to implement these meters, would potentially be liable if any injuries that occur from the new wireless meters, or their grid system. Other Municipalities have already looked into this legally with regards to radiation from cell towers, and they could not be assured that they would not be held responsible. I would encourage this Council to contact the Municipality of Niagara Falls to gain more insight into this.

I hope that the information I have provided for you will help you in your decisions and you will defer the vote to implement your water metering system here in Winnipeg. Wireless is not the answer, it's already hurting people and has been for a very long time, and it needs to be avoided at all costs. There are other ways to transfer data that will not put people or other life in the environment in harms way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

If you have any questions for me, I'd be happy to answer them now.

Feel free to contact me personally in the future as well.

Melissa Chalmers