EPIC Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation
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July 7, 2025

TO: Executive Policy Committee, City of Winnipeg

RE: Your Committee's **July 8, 2025 Meeting Agenda Item No. 5 "Opt-Out for the Advanced Metering System" [in "REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER, WASTE, AND ENVIRONMENT DATED JUNE 27, 2025"]**

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members,

Further to our letter sent in 2023 to City of Winnipeg Mayor and Councillors, we write today to **request that you support the core of what the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste, and Environment reported out of its June 27, 2025 meeting: unanimous passage of a direction that Winnipeg Public Service will present alternative water metering options for ratepayers who — for reasons of at-home personal bodily vulnerabilities and safety, and for barrier-free access at their homes (indoors and outdoors) — may need different metering equipment than whatever equipment the City may choose to generally deploy.** We are certain other like-minded written submissions and delegants to your Committee meeting will discuss specific aspects, therefore, trusting that you'll give attention and action to their points, we won't overload you with many duplicated details here.

During the June 27, 2025 meeting, it seemed clear that Committee intended for Winnipeg Public Service to fully collaborate with residents who have such accessibility accommodation needs, and that WPS flexibility on a case-by-case basis may be necessary. I commend that Committee's attentive and respectful consideration, questions, and desire for effective sensible solutions regarding this dire matter — a matter that is often complex and difficult for everyone involved to understand. Our medical, technical, and physics experts have extensive knowledge that would advance provision of essential services to persons who have vulnerabilities. Respectfully, if you and/or City staff were to suggest denying such necessary opt-out/alternatives, that would indicate you have, so far, not been connected with the correct experts. We would gladly expedite such connections for you. **If you need more time to best understand some of the dire needs of your residents, kindly give yourselves that time.**

We know of existing City of Winnipeg policies and procedures, regarding other personal safety or protection matters, that grant necessary opt-outs, exceptions, and provisions, to respectfully and inclusively and kindly address various specific needs. To the best of our knowledge and understanding, not only are those granted, they are *easily* attainable and *readily* offered and *free of charge* — in other words, without any citizens feeling, in effect, that the City would prefer to knowingly 24/7 endanger them at home in a known life-threatening way without even

bothering to genuinely collaborate to achieve a viable and surviveable outcome for all involved. Proper and humane consideration must be given to intentionally protect persons who would be adversely impacted by exposure to the emissions from an Advanced Metering System's radiation-emitting antenna(s) and/or electronic components. Such persons must have no sources of these radiation emissions at their homes (indoors or outdoors) that are not 100% within the control of the residents of the home. No sources — none — regardless if the radiation emission level would be described by anyone as "low" or "infrequent."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. Electromagnetic Pollution Illnesses Canada Foundation (EPIC) is a national, volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization modernizing awareness about "electrosmog" and how to prevent it and related harms. We promote e-Hygiene, PracticeSafeTech, education, and kindness in creation of safe, liveable indoor and outdoor environments. And EPIC connects persons affected by electrosmog to various resources. To be clear: EPIC is not anti-tech. EPIC was founded in 2016 by five Directors: a retired police officer, a Nurse Practitioner, an airline Captain, a sustainable agriculture expert, and an employee of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Department of a Toronto college. Together, EPIC's founding Directors have more than 50 years of personal, professional, academic, and technical experience regarding the adverse health and environmental effects of exposures related to use of electrical, electronic, and so-called "wireless" signals, devices, appliances, and other equipment.

I am personally and professionally acquainted with many residents and families across Canada, including in the City of Winnipeg, who have known vulnerabilities or medical diagnoses, who require indoor and outdoor living and community spaces where machine-generated radiofrequency (RF) and other types of electromagnetic radiation are absent or are always completely within the control of such vulnerable persons or their guardians (i.e., control being the ability to entirely turn off the radiation emitters and assure that they always remain off).

If the City of Winnipeg does proceed with the proposed metering system, it is imperative that any residential service address account holder who feels vulnerable must be able to, at any time pre- or post-installation, opt out of activation of the RF/EMF-emitting components of the equipment, immediately upon request, without any requirement for proof-of-need, and without ever any fee, penalty, or denial of service. Also, it may be necessary for the City to offer protection from neighbouring emitters (whether emitters are individual meters or data collector equipment or other wireless components of related City infrastructure).

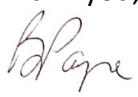
It is always my understanding that the individuals and families who need your protection in this way would intend to fully cooperate in appropriately reporting water usage by some other method.

We will be pleased to collaborate with you regarding solutions and any gaps in your understanding and knowledge that you wouldn't know you have. We are well aware that this can be a complex topic, and we are certain that none of you would intend to cause anyone's home to be unsafe for them, nor would you intend to inhumanely discriminate against

individual vulnerabilities or health status in delivering City services and representation. **In relation to aspects we have mentioned, and in support of your best intentions, the City needs to do all things necessary to implement an adequate Opt-Out/Alternatives Program in regard to any proposed water metering system.**

We always welcome questions and ideas — please offer them! I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,



Barbara Payne, President