Wireless health and safety

Bell is a member of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), which monitors worldwide scientific research related to mobile technologies. Many studies have been performed or are ongoing to assess whether wireless devices, networks and towers pose a potential risk to human health. While some studies suggest links to certain conditions, others conclude that there is no established causation between mobile phone usage and adverse health effects.

National and international organizations work together to set and enforce thresholds for radiofrequency (RF) energy intensity. In Canada, Health Canada reviews studies from around the world, conducts its own research and sets guidelines for human exposure to RF. The guidelines are documented as Safety Code 6. Moreover, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is responsible for approving RF equipment, performing compliance assessments and uses Health Canada's Safety Code 6 standard for exposure. This code sets the limits for safe exposure to RF emissions at home or at work. It also outlines safety requirements for the installation and operation of devices that emit RF fields, such as mobile phones, Wi-Fi technologies and base station antennas. ISED has made compliance to Safety Code 6 mandatory for all proponents and operators of radio installations.

The deployment of 5G or “fifth generation” systems (the next generation of wireless technology), is expected to enable a fully connected mobile society and deliver unprecedented benefits to citizens, industry and government. Mobile communications use different parts of the RF spectrum, often referred to as low, mid and high-band spectrum. Millimeter (MM) wave spectrum is one of the bands that will be used for 5G deployment. MM spectrum is not new as it is already being used for fixed wireless communications and satellite internet services. Devices using MM wave have always been part of Health Canada’s guidelines, which cover the entire RF spectrum range. For more information, please see the GRI 413-1CWTA’s "Setting the Record Straight on 5G Wireless & RF Safety" brochure.
The safety and security of our customers is our top priority. Bell only purchases mobile phones from manufacturers that meet Health Canada’s Safety Code 6 RF emission requirements for devices. Bell also seeks to ensure that all of the wireless network equipment that we place on towers, buildings and other support structures meets these requirements. When selecting the location of new telecommunication sites, Bell is sensitive to community concerns with respect to location and placement of facilities. Before selecting or acquiring property for any new telecommunication site, Bell first determines whether it is feasible to place antennas on existing structures, such as tall buildings and pre-existing towers. Bell also fully complies with ISED’s guidelines for public and municipal consultation as laid out in CPC-2-0-03, Issue 5, Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems.

In all cases, Bell works with community officials to identify local preferences and review established protocols. We engage in meaningful dialogue with municipalities, provincial as well as federal agencies and Indigenous communities, to mitigate local concerns about tower placement, operation and design. We also undertake thorough public consultations for proposed wireless antenna sites with local residents and stakeholders, and routinely conduct open houses, public meetings and written consultations in communities across the country, all to share information and understand local views on proposed tower sites.

To the extent this information sheet contains forward-looking statements including, without limitation, outlooks, plans, objectives, strategic priorities, commitments, undertakings and other statements that do not refer to historical facts, these statements are not guarantees of future performance or events, and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on assumptions that give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. Refer to BCE Inc.’s most recent annual management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A), as updated in BCE Inc.’s subsequent quarterly MD&As, for further information on such risks, uncertainties and assumptions. BCE Inc.’s MD&As are available on its website at bce.ca, on SEDAR at sedar.com and on EDGAR at sec.gov.