

VALHALLA COMMITTEE For Environmental Health

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October 29, 2007

Mr. Darren Entwistle,
President and CEO of Telus

Dear Mr. Entwistle,

The most recent communication we have received connected to the cell phone controversy in New Denver, is a letter from Tony Geheran, Vice President, Telus Customer Solutions Delivery, BC. Surely, the man, given this title, must possess an unusual aptitude for resolving difficult, confrontatory situations.

My reply, sent with many documents, some of which are enclosed herewith, brought Mr. Geheran up to date on the varied fronts of the issue. I provide first my letter to Mr. Geheran as well as the following enclosures (attached as .pdfs):

1. Four-page Flyer, distributed to over 5000 residents of the Slokan Valley.
2. Our most recent press release.
3. My last (and likely final) letter to Health Canada.

The entirety may present to all concerned not only the shape, tone and content of the controversy, but why it has steadily escalated, with a number of residents canceling their Telus optional services. This takes place amidst a gathering unity of response which excoriates Telus, the CBC and Health Canada to media and anyone who is interested.

The issue has been fuelled by the relevant questions that Health Canada refuses to answer. Instead, it continues to reply with a tape loop jargon assuring safety of cell phone transmission and usage, obstinately ignoring the fact that their safety tests related to thermal effects, while world-wide reports of health hazards have been based on *non-thermal* effects.

Full notice has been given to all the parties: the health hazards are real, these have in-depth scientific and medical reports corroborating the effects which are cited. This context illuminates the curious contradiction pointed out in my October 17, 2007 letter to Health Canada.

As I pointed out to Mr. Geheran, Telus seems bent on a public relations disaster, given the combined resistance to its entrance into New Denver. It certainly leads one to ask why this should be so. Considering the meager profits to be gained, we believe that the

exercise of corporate muscle in such circumstances can only end up portraying Telus / CBC as bullies, with Health Canada's see-no-evil position giving off the impression that it is gravely influenced by the telecommunications industry; this is not a pretty portrait.

On the other hand, as I have urged in previous communications, a sober consideration of all the factors should lead to leaving New Denver out of your grid. The only expense thus far incurred has been the building of a small concrete pad (8 feet by 12 feet), some wiring from the CBC tower to the pad, and a small extension of the fence around the CBC tower. We're told by Shawn Hall that Telus has to "protect its capital investment", which, considering the facts as contrasted to millions Telus pays for advertising, is worse than a bitter joke, it is completely offensive to our intelligence.

Consider then the reasons why the escalation of such strong resistance to Telus / CBC / Health Canada has ensued. The record, extending back at least to my letter of 20 August 2007, spells it out. Now what is needed is what is urged in our flyer, or failing that, the withdrawal of Telus, adopting whatever explanation it chooses.

Sincerely,

Richard Caniell
Chairperson

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Tony Geheran, Vice President, Telus

The Honourable Tony Clement, Federal Minister of Health

Robert Rabinovitch, President & CEO of CBC

Mayor Gary Wright, Village of New Denver

Morris Bodnar, District Director, Industry Canada

Sharon Watts, President and CEO, Hazardous Materials Information Commission

Steve Jenkins, Area General Manger, Southern Interior -BC, Telus

Healthy Housing Association