

## Information for Residents about Telecommunications Towers

Industry Canada, a federal government agency, regulates telecommunications towers under the federal *Radiocommunication Act*. Industry Canada makes all final decisions on tower location and construction. Municipalities can only comment in some cases on telecommunications service providers' plans for new towers, as Industry Canada excludes some types of projects from consultation.

In March 2012, Mississauga's City Council adopted an interim protocol that asked service providers to follow new guidelines when locating towers in the City. The protocol was finalized in December 2012 and updated in May 2013. The protocol includes:

- location and design guidelines for towers, including amateur (HAM) radio towers in residential areas
- a request to notify the City about new towers that are less than 15 metres high
- a requirement for preliminary and formal consultation with the City
- increased public notification area and a prescribed method of delivery for notices
- signage, as well as newspaper ads, public information sessions and follow-up with residents in some cases.

Public consultations can give people an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments and share their concerns. However, it is important to note that Industry Canada does not require public consultation in all cases. Towers that are less than 15 metres high, for example, do not require public consultation, although the City has requested notification in these cases and may request public consultation if a tower's proposed location is within 120 metres of a residential area.

The City does not have the authority to stop the construction of a tower or make the final determination on its location, and can only provide its comments to Industry Canada for consideration. If you have questions or concerns about a tower in your area, or the decision-making process, you may want to contact Industry Canada or your local Member of Parliament. MPs in Mississauga are:

**Eve Adams, Mississauga-Brampton South**

1-613-995-7784 (Ottawa)  
905-625-1201 (Constituency Office)  
[Eve.Adams@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Eve.Adams@parl.gc.ca)

**Stella Ambler, Mississauga South**

1-613-992-4848 (Ottawa)  
905-278-4111 (Constituency Office)  
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**Brad Butt, Mississauga-Streetsville**

1-613-943-1762 (Ottawa)  
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**Bob Dechert, Mississauga-Erindale**

1-613-995-7321 (Ottawa)  
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**Wladyslaw Lizon, Mississauga East-Cooksville**

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**Bal Gosal, Bramalea-Gore-Malton**

1-613-992-9105 (Ottawa)  
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Visit the *Protocol for Telecommunication Tower/Antenna Facilities*, our FAQs and Industry Canada's website at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf08777.html> .

## **FAQs for Residents about Telecommunications Towers**

### **1. What is the City's role in the telecommunications towers process?**

Industry Canada makes all final decisions on tower location and construction. Municipalities can only comment in some cases on telecommunications service providers' plans for new towers.

In March 2012, Mississauga's City Council adopted an interim protocol that asks service providers to follow new guidelines for tower location and design, as well as public consultation in the City. The protocol was finalized in December 2012 and updated in May 2013.

For more information about telecommunications towers, see Mississauga's *Protocol for Telecommunication Tower/Antenna Facilities*, or our Information for Residents Fact Sheet.

### **2. Who has the final authority to decide where telecommunications towers are located?**

The federal government's Industry Canada regulates telecommunications towers under the federal *Radiocommunication Act*.

Industry Canada makes all final decisions on tower location and construction. Municipalities can only comment in some cases on telecommunications service providers' plans for new towers, as Industry Canada excludes some types of projects from consultation.

### **3. How can members of the public get involved?**

In March 2012, Mississauga's City Council adopted an interim protocol that asks service providers to follow new guidelines for public consultation in the City, in cases where it is required. The protocol was finalized in December 2012 and updated in May 2013.

These requirements include a larger notification area, a prescribed method of delivery for notices, and signage, as well as newspaper ads, public information sessions and follow-up with residents in some cases. Public consultations can give people an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments and share their concerns.

However, it is important to note that Industry Canada does not require public consultation in all cases. Towers that are less than 15 metres high, for example, do not require public notification or consultation, although the City has requested notification in these cases and may request public consultation if a tower's proposed location is within 120 metres of a residential area.

#### 4. What will Industry Canada consider when they make a final decision?

According to [Industry Canada](#), all comments received will be considered. Comments received about the effects on property values, or concerns about the health effects of electromagnetic fields may be set aside, however.

The federal government has established standards for acceptable exposure to these fields that they consider when they decide on a location for a tower. These standards are outlined in [Safety Code 6 – Limits of Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields](#).

#### 5. What types of telecommunication projects are excluded from consultation with the City and the public?

Telecommunications tower projects that are excluded from consultation are noted in Industry Canada's guidelines. They include:

- maintenance of existing radio apparatus including the antenna system, transmission line, mast, tower or other antenna-supporting structure;
- addition or modification of an antenna system (including improving the structural integrity of its integral mast to facilitate sharing), the transmission line, antenna-supporting structure or other radio apparatus to existing infrastructure, a building, water tower, etc. provided the addition or modification does not result in an overall height increase above the existing structure of 25% of the original structure's height;
- maintenance of an antenna system's painting or lighting in order to comply with Transport Canada's requirements;
- installation, for a limited duration (typically not more than 3 months), of an antenna system that is used for a special event, or one that is used to support local, provincial, territorial or national emergency operations during the emergency, and is removed within 3 months after the emergency or special event; and
- new antenna systems, including masts, towers or other antenna-supporting structure, with a height of less than 15 metres above ground level.

**Note:** While towers that are less than 15 metres high do not require public notification or consultation, the City has requested notification in these cases and may request public consultation if a tower's proposed location is within 120 metres of a residential area.

For more information about telecommunications towers, see *Mississauga's Protocol for Telecommunication Tower/Antenna Facilities*, our *Information for Residents Fact Sheet* and Industry Canada's website at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf08777.html> .

