

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 asks service providers to follow new guidelines when locating towers in the City. It includes:

- location and design guidelines for towers
- a requirement for preliminary consultation with the City
- increased notification area and a prescribed method of delivery for notices
- signage, as well as newspaper ads and public open houses in some cases and
- follow-up consultation, in some cases.

Public consultations can give people an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments and share their concerns. However, it is important to remember 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.

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. Contact information for Mississauga area MPs are included over page.

For more information about telecommunications towers, see Mississauga's [Interim 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> .

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FAQs for Residents about Telecommunication Towers

1. What is the City's role in the 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, as Industry Canada excludes some types of projects from consultation.

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.

For more information about telecommunications towers, see Mississauga's *Interim 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.

These requirements include a larger notification area and a prescribed method of delivery for notices and public notification including signage. Newspaper ads and public open houses are also required 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.

4. What types of 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.

5. 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](#).

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