

April 7, 2009

201 – 5454 Balsam Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6M 4B4

Dr. Patricia Daly  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
800 – 601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Z 4C2

**Re: Letter from Dr. Daly, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008  
Wireless Technologies and Associated Health Risks**

Dear Dr. Daly:

Thank you for your letter of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. I appreciate your previous efforts to determine the urgency of this international public health concern.

In response, I wish to draw your attention to several points that continue to cause great concern to me and to an increasing number of other residents in the area of your remit as Chief Medical Health Officer. I also wish to remind you of the questions I posed at the Vancouver Coastal Health Board Meeting last October, which were:

- “What action is being taken regarding ill health effects to residents in close proximity to cell phone antennae in residential neighbourhoods?” and
- “What is Vancouver Coastal Health’s position regarding Wi-Fi in schools in light of the international call for a precautionary approach which includes a moratorium and dismantling of wireless systems in schools?”

Your letter does not mention the BioInitiative Report 2007. This is the result of international collaboration by twenty-one working scientists, researchers and public health policy professionals (individual names, accreditations and affiliations appended to this letter). The BioInitiative Report provides detailed analysis of the impact on human health of exposure to electromagnetic radiation hundreds or even thousands of times below limits currently established by Health Canada, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and International Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) in Europe. Therefore, I am concerned that this report appears to be missing from the reference corpus from which you have drawn your conclusions.

The authors of the BioInitiative Report have considered more than 2,000 scientific studies and reviews; they conclude that the existing public safety limits are inadequate to protect public health. In light of the total weight of evidence, new public safety limits – as well as limits on further deployment of risk-laden, insufficiently-proven technologies – are undeniably warranted.

To quote one of your peers, David O. Carpenter, MD, Director, Institute for Health and the Environment, University at Albany East Campus (an author of the BioInitiative Report):

" . . . this report stands as a wake-up call that long-term exposure to some kinds of EMF may cause serious health effects. Good public health planning is needed now to prevent cancers and neurological diseases linked to exposure to powerlines and other sources of EMF. We need to educate people and our decision-makers that "business as usual" is unacceptable."

The Report makes a further salient point in this respect:

" . . . public health and EMF policy experts have now given their opinion of the weight of evidence . . . and international limits . . . are not protective of public health. New biologically-based public and occupational exposure are recommended to address bioeffects and potential adverse health effects of chronic exposure. These effects are now widely reported to occur at exposure levels significantly below most current national and international limits."  
(Cindy Sage)

In your letter, you refer several times to current safety standards and organizations. Please note the following critical points, extracted from the Overall Conclusions of the BioInitiative Report:

- Section 5 - Genotoxicity Based on Proteomics  
"The IEEE and WHO databases do not include the majority of ELF studies (only 6 of 15 in the WHO; 0 of 16 in IEEE)."
- Section 8 - Effects on Immune Function  
"The WHO and IEEE literature surveys do not include all of the relevant papers cited here, leading to the conclusion that evidence has been ignored in the current WHO ELF Health Criteria Monograph."
- Section 10 - Brain Tumours and RF – Epidemiology  
"Epidemiological studies as reviewed in the IEEE C95.1 revision (2006) are deficient to the extent that the entire analysis is professionally unsupportable. IEEE's dismissal of epidemiological studies that link RF exposure to cancer endpoints should be

disregarded, as well as any IEEE conclusions drawn from this flawed analysis of epidemiological studies.”

- Section 14 - Effects of Modulation of Signal

“Current standards have ignored modulation as a factor in human health impacts and thus are inadequate in the protection of the public in terms of chronic exposure to some forms of ELF-modulated RF signals.”

“The current IEEE and ICNIRP standards are not sufficiently protective of public health with respect to chronic exposure to modulated fields (particularly new technologies that are pulse-modulated and heavily used in cellular telephony).”

“The collective papers on modulation appear to be omitted from consideration in the recent WHO and IEEE science reviews. This body of research has been ignored by current standard setting bodies . . . .”

- Section 16 - The Precautionary Principle

“The Precautionary Principle has been developed to help justify public policy action on the protection of health where there are plausible, serious, and irreversible hazards from current and future exposures and where there are many uncertainties and much scientific ignorance. EMF is characterized by such circumstances.”

“.....Waiting for high levels of scientific proof of causality, or for knowledge about mechanisms of action, can be very expensive in terms of compensation, health care, job losses, reductions in public trust of scientists, etc.”

Again, I strongly recommend that you review the full Report, available at [www.bioinitiative.org](http://www.bioinitiative.org).

I believe it is remiss of any public health professional in Canada to ignore the increasing public and scientific concern in Europe in this respect. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety voted 43 – 1 to adopt a resolution urging the European Commission to recognize this great concern over health risks from electromagnetic fields. This vote mirrors the full Parliamentary vote of 522 – 16 in September 2008 to amend best practices to set stricter exposure limits for all equipment which emits electromagnetic fields in the frequencies between 0.1 MHz and 300 GHz. The resolution identified existing conditions that have required the Commission to notice, and to take action on as a matter of urgency, the exponential growth of new technologies that may place the health of societies at increased risk. I have no hesitation in stating that international independent scientific research shows unequivocally that Canada’s Safety Code 6 is inadequate in protecting

public health, as it is based solely on heating of tissue from acute exposure, ignoring effects of chronic, cumulative, non-thermal exposure.

Further, the documents you cited in your letter do not reflect the full body of current science regarding the effects of these technologies. Sir William Stewart (whose report you cited) has publicly stated that he is concerned about the health effects of phone masts (cell antennae) and Wi-Fi in schools (see BBC Panorama documentary at [mastsanity.org](http://mastsanity.org)). Three thousand German doctors and over 40,000 other individuals have signed the Freiburger Appeal, which expresses serious concerns on the part of doctors over such health effects observed in their medical practices. These concerns include the fact that there are similarities of exposure to manmade, modulated signals (which do not exist in nature) among cell phone antennae, Wi-Fi, DECT Telephony, and cell phone use, causing a spectrum of disease that includes cancer, benign tumors and electrohypersensitivity.

For your convenience, I have noted further essential documentation of this most urgent concern, and I request that you review the following:

1. Table 1.1, BioInitiative Report Overall Conclusions, detailing how and why existing ICNIRP, FCC and WHO limits for exposure are insufficient for protection of public health- the full report can be found at [www.bioinitiative.org](http://www.bioinitiative.org);
2. Electromagnetic Fields: Questions and answers about wireless technologies by Andrew Michrowski, Ph.D., including damaging biological effects of microwaves below US & Canada's regulatory limit;
3. Freiburger Appeal: Over 3,000 health professionals (mostly doctors and professors of medicine) appeal for stricter safety limits;
4. Ill-Health Effects on Mobile Phone Base Station Masts Report -10 out of 14 peer-reviewed studies;
5. Letter to parents and school officials from Dr. Gerd Oberfeld, a government scientist from Salzburg, Austria, who is calling for wi-fi to be removed from schools in Austria;
6. University of Albany, August 31, 2007 press release, "Serious Public Health Concerns . . .";
7. Irish Doctors Environmental Association – Position on Electro Magnetic Radiation and Report by Dr. Elizabeth Cullen;
8. Updated Memorandum on WiFi Research, dated December 10, 2007, signed by eight members of the British HPA-RPD EMF Discussion Group;

9. The international journal “Pathophysiology” article dated January 2009 detailing damaging effects of microwave radiation exposure at low levels;
10. Columbia University, New York, Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics paper summary “The Precautionary Principle Must Be Guided by EMF Research” by Associate Professor Martin Blank Ph.D., calling for regulatory action to be guided by the results of epidemiology studies and recommending that safety standards based on the best available biological evidence must (1) recognize non-thermal protective responses, and (2) include cumulative exposure across the EM spectrum.

With respect, I refer to the oath taken by medical practitioners. This oath includes the promise to cause no harm. Bearing in mind the above-referenced conclusion that earlier studies on which public health officers may have based their stance have been shown to be “deficient to the extent that the entire analysis is professionally unsupportable”, it would appear that for such a professional to ignore or knowingly dismiss the rapidly-mounting evidence of potential widespread harm from electromagnetic radiation is tantamount to breaking that promise. Therefore, I trust that the enclosed reference materials from numerous international scientists and health professionals will help guide your decisions to protect the Vancouver Coastal Health community from the clearly damaging effects of wireless technologies. Like many with electrohypersensitivity and other diseases related to EMR, I have been living with serious health concerns for almost two years. I have been severely affected in my ability to parent my children, work in my career and almost all aspects of my life. Again, I look to you, Dr. Daly, to protect me and my children as well as the largely unsuspecting public.

As an immediate action, I call upon you and all health professionals to implement the Precautionary Principle by ordering replacement of wireless systems with hard-wired connections in our kindergartens, pre-schools, schools, libraries, universities, colleges and all other areas where young people congregate. This is an essential first step in protecting our youth. They are our future, and their wellbeing depends on our willingness to recognize fully, and to mitigate, the risks of the technology that is now intertwined with every aspect of their daily lives.

Yours sincerely,

Carl Katz  
 Director, Citizens for Safe Technology

bcc: Stephen Hume, Columnist and Senior Writer, *The Vancouver Sun*  
 Pamela Fayerman, Health Issues Reporter, *The Vancouver Sun*  
 Letters to The Editor, *The Vancouver Sun*    BCCPAC and DPAC  
 Georgia Strait – Charlie Smith                School Boards  
 The Vancouver Sun – Sarah Schmidt        School Districts  
 Globe & Mail                                        Common Ground  
 The National Post                                Mayor & Council, City Manager, City of Vancouver  
 HANS                                                    BCTF

## **APPENDIX: List of BioInitiative Participants**

### **Organizing Committee Members**

#### **Carl F. Blackman\*, Ph.D.**

Founder, Former President and  
Full Member of the Bioelectromagnetics Society  
Raleigh, NC USA

\*opinions expressed are not necessarily those of his employer,  
the US Environmental Protection Agency

#### **Martin Blank, PhD Associate Professor**

Former President and Full Member of Bioelectromagnetics Society  
Dept. of Physiology. College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Columbia University  
New York, NY USA

#### **Prof. Michael Kundi, PhD**

Full Member of the Bioelectromagnetics Society  
Institute of Environmental Health, Medical University of Vienna  
Vienna, Austria

#### **Cindy Sage, MA, Owner**

Full Member. Bioelectromagnetics Society  
Sage Associates  
Santa Barbara, CA USA

### **Participants**

#### **David O. Carpenter, MD**

Director, Institute for Health and the Environment  
University at Albany East Campus  
Rensselaer, NY USA

#### **Zoreh Davanipour. DVM, PhD**

Friends Research Institute  
Los Angeles, CA USA

#### **David Gee**

Coordinator Emerging Issues and Scientific Liaison  
Strategic Knowledge and Innovation  
European Environmental Agency  
Copenhagen, Denmark

#### **Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, Prof.**

Department of Oncology  
University Hospital

Orebro, Sweden

**Olle Johansson, PhD, Associate Professor**

The Experimental Dermatology Unit.

Department of Neuroscience

Karolinska Institute

Stockholm, Sweden

**Henry Lai, PhD**

Department of Bioengineering

University of Washington

Seattle, Washington USA

**Kjell Hansson Mild, PhD, Prof.**

Former President and Full Member of Bioelectromagnetics Society

Board Member, European Bioelectromagnetics Society (EBEA)

Umea University, Department of Radiation Physics

Umeå, Sweden

**Amy Sage, Research Associate**

Sage Associates

Santa Barbara, CA USA

**Eugene L. Sobel, PhD**

Friends Research Institute

Los Angeles, CA USA

**Zhengping Xu, PhD**

Guangdi Chen, PhD

Bioelectromagnetics Laboratory,

Zhejiang University School of Medicine

Hangzhou . People's Republic of China

**Reviewers (partial)**

**James B. Burch, PhD**

Arnold School of Public Health

University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC USA

**Nancy Evans, BS**

Health Science Consultant

San Francisco, CA USA

**Stanton Glanz, PhD**

University of California, San Francisco

Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education

Cardiovascular Research Institute, Institute for Health Policy Studies

San Francisco, CA USA

**Denis Henshaw, PhD**

Professor of Physics

Human Radiation Effects Group

Wills Physics Laboratory

Bristol University, Bristol, UK

**Samuel Milham, MD**

Washington State Department of Health (retired)

Olympia, Washington

**Louis Slesin, PhD**

Microwave News

New York, NY USA