

Nick Doe, *Re Aug. 29 Editorial, "Local governments should have jurisdiction over wireless transmission technology.*, p.4, September 12, 2011.

Dear Editor

Your editorial (August 29) advocating that local governments should have jurisdiction over wireless transmission hardware reads reasonably enough until you do some basic research. When you do this, you will find that a policy of refusing to allow the construction of cell-phone towers, even though there is no evidence that they are a hazard, will do practically nothing to reduce the level of radiation people are exposed to. It would only be possible to do that if the local government concerned also banned all use of cell phones within its boundaries.

To satisfy myself that this is not just a theory, I went down to the cell-phone tower (a COW) at Silva Bay with a radiation level meter, a CORNET ED-85EX with a sensitivity of 0.001 mW/m^2 [one microwatt per square metre] over a frequency range of 1 MHz to 8 GHz.

Standing ten metres from the tower, I measured a level of 0.6 mW/m^2 . This has to be compared with the level I measured while standing at the ferry terminal watching the ferry being unloaded. Many of the vehicles passing by showed no radiation, but a significant number did, and where I was standing, the levels they were exposing me to were up to 0.4 mW/m^2 . Radiation levels only slightly less than this, 0.2 mW/m^2 , were also measured in various parking lots in the village.

If you are unfamiliar with the units by the way, 1.0 mW/m^2 [milliwatt per square metre] is about the intensity of the radiation from a full moon. A cell phone pressed against your ear could be exposing you to $10,000 \text{ mW/m}^2$.

I then returned to Silva Bay to see how far away from the tower I would have to be to be receiving less radiation than the unloading ferry. The answer was thirteen metres. People with phones cause far more trouble than the tower because their transmitters are almost always much closer to you and radiation levels rise rapidly as you move toward the source.

The bright side (no pun intended) is that so far I have not found any public space on Gabriola where electromagnetic radiation power density levels come anywhere close to even the most stringent safety standards in the world (20 mW/m^2). And yes, that includes standing with my nose against the cell-phone tower. [But I'll keep looking.](#)

Regards

Nick Doe

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