

Is Health Canada "out to lunch" on the current EMF health crisis?

An open letter to Health Canada

Did you know that "Electrical Hypersensitivity" (EHS), an allergic-like reaction to EMF (Electric and Magnetic Fields), is a recognized disability in Sweden and was recently (November 2005) classified as an illness in Britain? Approximately 3-4% of the population in those countries is considered severely affected.

News: October 30, 2006 - [Five percent of the Swiss population attribute health symptoms to electromagnetic fields \(EMF\)](#)

Simply put, we are all bioelectric beings. Each cell in the human body contains positive and negatively charged ions that are kept in a delicate balance inside and outside each cell. Electromagnetic (EMF) energy from outside the body disrupts this critical balance and plays havoc with the millions of electrical impulses that the body uses to regulate all cellular activity.

Experts now estimate that as much as half of the Canadian population may now be exhibiting symptoms of EHS, symptoms relating to immune system dysfunction and other more obvious symptoms such as chronic or unexplained pain, anxiety, depression, MS-like symptoms such as numbness, tingling and muscle weakness, along with less severe symptoms such as insomnia, chronic fatigue, stuffy noses and general irritability. At the same time Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, MS, cancer and leukemia have reached almost epidemic proportions.

Asthma, autism, ADD, behavioural problems and other physiological disorders in children have also skyrocketed in recent years. Many of these "new-age" illnesses have been linked to ongoing exposure to the wide variety of EMF in homes and in schools.

EMFs are produced by a number of sources including electronic devices such as computers, household appliances and wireless devices. EMF is in the ground (ground current) and being emitted from our dysfunctional electrical systems. A system that was not designed to safely handle the high frequency electrical "feedback", called dirty electricity. [Dirty Electricity](#) is created by many of today's modern electronic devices including computers, dimmer switches, and energy-efficient lighting systems. This includes the majority of these new so-called "green" compact florescent bulbs (which are big polluters) the utilities and government are currently promoting to help save energy.

Based on the number of victims in Britain and Sweden, Electrical Hypersensitivity likely affects over 1 million Canadians severely, with most never making the connection to their health symptoms and EMF exposure. EHS is not recognized in this country by Health Canada, the government body charged with protecting the health of Canadians.

Health Canada states "Health Canada does not consider such guidelines necessary because the scientific evidence is not strong enough to conclude that EMF exposures in Canadian homes, offices, and schools, regardless of their proximity to electrical devices, cause adverse health effects such as cancer." Based on the experience of Switzerland, Sweden, the UK and other European countries how is this possible?

Question: Who exactly is Health Canada Protecting?

It is the opinion of many, including this author, that information concerning the dangers of EMF exposure

is being suppressed, and that hundreds of thousands of Canadians are currently suffering needlessly.

Who's involved? The people who make money selling their products to us and benefit by keeping things quiet to preserve the "status-quo". The utilities, who sell us the electricity and who have put the voltages in the ground as an alternate path to the substation, instead of keeping it up on the neutral wire where it belongs. The technology manufacturers, who sell us their unfiltered computers, "dirty" low-voltage lighting and other modern electronic devices that create dangerous levels of "dirty electricity" creating an inescapable level of EMF pollution in most of our homes and schools. The wireless industry, who blanket us with layer upon layer of radio frequency (RF) radiation each day. And of course the pill pushers and drug companies whom Health Canada supports as the only viable option when it comes to maintaining health. We are prompted to use their modern medicines after we have already become sick from this pervasive, environmental toxin.

Just take a look at the ads on your TV each night that push drugs for depression, sleep trouble, chronic pain, asthma, ADD, etc. These are some of the classic symptoms of EHS, what the experts in Russia have long called "[Radio Wave Sickness](#)". Pills and other drugs seem to be the only answer here in North America, whereas in Europe they understand the dangers of EMF much more acutely. A number of countries there have made provisions for the affected, while at the same time many European countries have taking steps to protect their citizens from EMF exposure. Many Europeans understand the dangers of EMF and practice "prudent use" and "prudent avoidance" to avoid unnecessary exposure.

Fact:

It's now estimated we are being exposed to a trillion times more EMF energy than that of our grandparents time. Here at home, Health Canada says there is absolutely nothing wrong and no one's health in this country is being adversely affected by the multitude of EMF-producers that are now polluting our environment with low-level radiation and other electrical pollution. Much like with tobacco, the real story concerning the dangers of EMF exposure will not likely be revealed to the general public for many years.

EMF also comes through the air from cellular towers, AM, FM, GPS, GSM, satellite TV, short-wave, Doppler radar, and more recently from the new high speed digital networks used for voice and data transfer. It is also produced in homes or you may be exposed to EMF second-hand, from your neighbours who may have DECT phones or a wireless network/router inside their homes, or when someone is using a cell or cordless phone in your vicinity. If you live in the downtown Toronto core you are likely getting showered with this toxin from the newly introduced Wi-Fi network.

Fact:

Did you know that 31 of the world's top EMF scientists met in Benevento, Italy earlier this year and released the [Benevento Resolution in September of 2006](#) stating: "More evidence has accumulated suggesting that there are adverse health effects from occupational and public exposures to electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields, or EMF, at current exposure levels."

Why are we not being made aware of the dangers of EMF?

Fact:

Did you know that one of the 37 scientists who conferred in Italy is a Canadian research scientist at Trent University; her name is Professor Magda Havas. Dr. Havas is considered to be one of the world's leading

research scientists studying the [health effects of EMF pollution](#). Her urgent cries to reform our EMF guidelines and make the public aware of the dangers of EMF have been ignored and actually shunned by Health Canada.

Why is Health Canada not listening to one of the world's top scientists?

Fact:

December 2005: The Health Ministry in Salzburg, Austria [warns against DECT phones and Wi-Fi in schools](#) based on the “symptoms seen” in children.

Why was this not investigated further by Health Canada and efforts made to protect our children?

Fact:

January 2006: [Radiation warning issued by German Government](#) regarding DECT cordless phone. About half the people I visit for [EMF Home Inspections](#) have these phones in their homes, and not one of them knew they had one of these pollutants, or that they may be dangerous.

Where was Health Canada, when these warnings were issued - out to lunch??

Fact:

In 2002 The California Health Department of Health's [EMF Program](#) concluded EMFs from home wiring and appliances... can cause some degree of increased risk of childhood leukemia, brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and miscarriages.

Why did Health Canada not issue a warning concerning this important news?

Fact:

Did you know that Canada has one of the laxest standards (Code 6 Safety standard) for radio frequency (RF) emissions in the world, and did you know we also have one of the world's highest rates of autism, cancer, Alzheimer's, MS and other chronic diseases?

Summer 2006:

Toronto goes wireless with little review of the latest scientific evidence, thus exposing its citizens to another significant layer of EMF pollution.

Based on today's "known" science, Canada's "Code 6 Safety standard" for RF exposure is totally outdated. The Code 6 standard is based on the "thermal effects" of RF radiation - the actual heating of human tissue - similar to the way in which a microwave cooks food. It's a well known fact that the biological effects, including DNA damage, brain tumors, damage to the blood brain barrier and lower sperm count take place well below the threshold required to create significant heat in human tissue.

Why does Health Canada continue to expose Canadians, including children, to this invisible toxin?

Fact:

Did you know it's now estimated that three quarters of the electricity we now use goes through devices (computers, electronic devices, dimmer switches, transformers, etc.) that create poor power quality resulting in high frequency "dirty electricity" that rides on the electrical wiring in our homes and schools? We are capacitively coupled to this energy whenever in a contaminated building.

Today, high levels of "dirty electricity" can be found in most modern homes, schools and workplaces - especially if they have a number of computers, big screen plasma TVs, low-voltage lighting, compact florescent bulbs and dimmer switches. If your neighbours use any of these pollutants you will likely be exposed just because you share a common transformer. It's there on the wires, it's measurable and it's dangerous.

Why are our political officials standing idly by while we slowly unwittingly microwave ourselves?

Fact:

Ground current is killing cattle in Ontario and other provinces; out of court settlements prevent much of this news from getting into the public domain. Where do we stand? Where do your kids play? On the ground... right?

Experts now estimated that over [70% of the phase current that is delivered to your home takes the earth's path](#) (as opposed to the utilities overloaded neutral wire) to get back to the substation. EMFs containing various voltages and frequencies get into your home via your water and gas pipes and even through your phone lines; from there they can contaminate your entire electrical system with dirty electricity. A Private Member's Bill "The Ground Current Pollution Bill" was sent to committee in the Ontario Legislature to deal with this part of the EMF equation.

Update: It was sent to a committee for more study

Fact:

Health Canada "botched" report concerning Stetzer filter

In May of this year Health Canada issued an extremely flawed report concerning [Graham-Stetzer](#) filters, they then surreptitiously posted this ludicrous report on the BC Centre for Disease Controls (BCCDC) web site... but not their own web site.

Why?

Health Canada did not follow their own testing protocol, nor advise the manufacturer they were testing the Stetzer products, they didn't even have the courtesy to send a copy of the final report to the manufacturer for review. Nor did they have their flawed document "peer reviewed" by an outside party who would likely have caught many of the obvious fundamental errors contained in this biased report.

For the uninitiated, Stetzer filters are electrical "capacitors" used to short out the higher frequency (4 KHz to 100 KHz) so-called "dirty electricity" that rides on a building's electrical wiring. This claim is indisputable and I openly challenge anyone, including this country's top electrical engineers and scientists, to disprove this fact. Stetzer filters have been used by Professor Magda Havas at Trent University in her [groundbreaking EMF research](#), which has demonstrate health benefits for many who use the product.

In an extremely poorly conducted, very-unscientific study, Health Canada actually measured the wrong frequency range (measuring only the less harmful 50 Hz to 5 kHz frequencies as opposed to the higher more dangerous 4 kHz to 100 kHz frequencies the filter actually takes out, an overlay totaling only 1%) They also measured the input to the filter not the actual output, much like going to a doctor with a toe infection and the doctor conducting a search for problem by looking down your throat.

They also used the wrong formula and then concluded the filters did not work and stated they actually added to the levels of dirty electricity in the home. But, buried deep in the body of the report the authors contradict themselves and state: "The Stetzer filter is probably effective in attenuating high frequency (4kHz to 100kHz) noise on the AC power lines..." How can they say it adds to the level of dirty electricity when they clearly state in their report it attenuates the higher frequencies that ARE the dirty electricity?

How could they get it so wrong?

This document, paid for by Canadian tax payers, is pure garbage and has dissuaded many Canadians from trying one of the few things they can do to protect themselves from the harmful electric field that is always present in a home's electrical wiring and in the devices plugged into a home's electrical outlets.

And guess what... the Canadian taxpayers footed the bill for this flawed report.

Dear Health Minister please step up to the plate and reform Health Canada's archaic EMF policies and at the same time raise awareness on the critical EMF health issue, an issue the World Health Organization recently called "a growing worldwide health concern."

By: Kevin Byrne

Kevin Byrne is an EHS victim, founder of this web site and President of EMF Solutions Canada