

CHALLENGING THE TOWERS THAT BE

Cape Town cell masts dangerously close to home



An appeal to Cape Town Councillors
by Olga Sheean

DECEMBER 2016

Dear Councillors:

I am writing to you from Canada, where I have spent more than a decade researching—and experiencing the effects of—the harmful microwave radiation that now pervades our global environment. As someone who has worked for WHO in Geneva (when Director General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland resigned as cell phone radiation was making her ill), who has had a brain tumour caused by microwave radiation, who has extensively researched the science on EMR, who has connected with vast global networks of those directly affected by microwave radiation, who has interviewed some of the leading scientific experts in this field, and who has witnessed the government deception, denial and dodging of responsibility regarding this harmful radiation, I have seen and heard it all.

For those of us who have been seriously harmed by microwave radiation, it is extremely disturbing to witness our governments consistently and knowingly making the same unfounded claims (there's no evidence of non-ionizing radiation being harmful), despite the conclusive scientific evidence to the contrary. We are being physically harmed by this radiation—and many of us (such as me) can feel it is plainly as you would feel the heat from an open fire if you were standing next to it. To claim that we are not being harmed when the harm is undeniable, as well as medically verifiable, makes no sense whatsoever. We can only conclude that our governments are uninformed, industry-biased and/or driven by some other agenda.

No leg to stand on

Imagine breaking your leg after tripping over your other foot. You go to hospital and the doctor there says that no one breaks their leg from tripping over their foot. It simply doesn't happen. In fact, he says you can't possibly have a broken leg and you obviously need psychiatric treatment. Whatever is wrong with you, he says, wasn't caused by what you claim caused it. Even though you most certainly do have a broken leg and you can feel the broken bones grinding together, causing you severe pain, the medical community dismisses you, telling you it's all in your head. How would you feel about taking Prozac for a broken leg? How would you feel about your healthcare system or doctors if you were treated this way?

This is what it's like to have microwave sickness (also known as electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS)) and to be dismissed and disrespected—not only by the doctors tasked with protecting and enhancing your health, but also by governments who fail to inform healthcare and other service-providers that this condition is a physical one and that it is very, very real.

Yet this only gives you a tiny imaginary taste of the disrespect shown towards those with EHS. It doesn't give you a sense of the functional impairment, the pain, the neurological disorders, the insomnia, the anxiety and agitation, the cranial pressure and headaches, the hormonal imbalances, the ADD, the social isolation, the cost of not being able work or function normally, the loss of friendships and access to healthcare services, the loss of mobility due to the inhuman levels of microwave radiation on all flights, the inability to even go shopping due to the strong wireless radiation all around you, and even the ability to go to school or college to educate yourself.

Who's fault is that?

I may be seriously affected by microwave radiation, but I'm not mentally unstable. I'm not in need of psychiatric treatment. I am a normal human being with a normal brain and central nervous system. I'm not the problem. The problem is the pervasive microwave radiation that's known to adversely affect all forms of life and that is saturating our environments beyond our control and without our permission.

It's not the *science* that's in doubt, it's our *governments*

I won't waste time presenting the science on non-ionizing microwave radiation, since I'm sure you're already aware of it. It would be difficult for any public official to justifiably claim ignorance. After all, it has been known since the early 1920s to be harmful, and it has been used as a military weapon in many countries—and still is, today. Since the wireless telecommunications industry itself is aware of the adverse biological effects of its technology (and has submitted patent applications detailing such effects, as in the international patent filed by Swisscom: <http://bit.ly/1OQbG4V>), you cannot claim that no harm is being caused to your people. To do so demonstrates an intentional ignorance and a transparently political agenda that greatly diminishes your credibility—not to mention your viability in public office.

Nonetheless, you can go here—<http://www.emf-portal.org>—and read the evidence documented in more than 23,880 peer-reviewed scientific papers published in reputable scientific/medical journals. Or you can acknowledge the fact that microwave radiation is harmful to all living things and, consequently, that continuing to expose people to it is unsustainable, costly, counterproductive and a violation of their constitutional and human rights.

Allowing cell towers to be erected beside people's homes and in children's playgrounds is not only an egregious dereliction of your duty to protect your people, but also an act of political self-sabotage, given how quickly and progressively your people are being harmed. The photo below shows a mast in Manenberg (2nd Avenue, Sherwood Park), right beside a playground where children are directly exposed to strong microwaves. Several elderly residents living nearby have cancer and are extremely concerned about the powerful radiation permeating their homes and bodies, given that microwave radiation is known to damage DNA and cause cancer, among many other things.





Photo (left) shows a cell mast in Heathfield, No 47, 4th Avenue, and (right) a mast in Lentegeur, in the grounds of the Montrose Bible Church, 48 Cynthia Crescent, Montrose Park, Mitchell's Plain.

Real cases of harm

- **Mogamat Johaadien** is a 66-year-old man who lives **just metres away from one of these masts** and is aware of being exposed to very high levels of radiation. Despite his meagre resources, he has done his own research into the effects of this radiation, and has written to the mayor directly, asking for this mast to be removed. Yet nothing has been done.
- **Alwyn Lewiis** is so **severely impaired by the radiation** from these masts that he cannot be within a 1km radius of any radiation. He experiences many of the symptoms of microwave radiation sickness—**severe headaches, nausea, dizziness and even loss of consciousness** if the signal is strong. He **cannot function normally or support his young family properly** and must drive to an isolated area to escape the radiation so he can sleep. Alwyn contacted Mr Raymond Maseko of PRASA (responsible for the mast just 150m from his home) and submitted a report from his **neurologist Dr van der Merwe, substantiating his claim of EHS**, to no avail. His EHS status was confirmed by **Dr Lauraine Vivian** (Medical Anthropologist and Honorary Research Associate at the University of Cape Town) who is herself electro-sensitive and has published peer-reviewed papers on electromagnetic hypersensitivity and the radiation causing it.

- **Families living right under the Heathfield mast report that their children regularly become ill** and they believe the mast to be the cause. Since microwave radiation affects every cell in the body, causing leakage of calcium, breaking DNA strands and clogging red blood cells, it's clear that it will make people sick—and children are particularly vulnerable.
- **Amanda Collins lives across the road from the Lentegeur mast, with her young autistic daughter** Skyla. There is now an extensive body of scientific literature confirming the effects of non-ionizing microwave radiation on the brain, resulting in (and/or exacerbating) numerous neurological disorders such as autism, MS, dementia and Parkinson's.¹ In many cases, children with autism recover completely when removed from their irradiating environment.
- **Lynette October lives only about 20m** from a recently erected mast (20 Cabral Street, Forest Heights, Kleinville). She fears for the health of her husband, who had **prostate cancer**, and for the children at the nearby school, whose parents were never consulted about this mast. When two other pending masts have been installed, this small community will be **living with five masts within a radius of 200 metres, resulting in inhuman levels of radiation, guaranteed to cause harm.**

The autism epidemic

Dr Martha Herbert, PhD, MD ² is an expert in neuro-developmental disorders—particularly autism spectrum disorders (ASD). She has published papers in brain-imaging research, physiological abnormalities in ASD, and environmental influences on neuro-developmental disorders such as autism as well as on brain development and function. She also carried out a review literature on the potential link between ASD and electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and radiofrequency radiation, and found such an extensive body of literature that she ended up producing a 60-page paper with over 550 citations.³ There are now thousands of papers on the adverse health and neurological impacts of EMFs. Children are more vulnerable than adults, and those with neuro-developmental disabilities are even more so.

Current wireless technologies were designed and promulgated without taking into account biological non-thermal impacts. We now know that significant adverse effects occur without the heating of tissue. “The claim from WiFi proponents that the only concern is thermal impacts is now definitively outdated scientifically,” says Dr Herbert, whose findings are confirmed by thousands of scientists worldwide.

1 Dr Dietrich Klinghart, MD, PhD, Institute of Neurobiology, Seattle, conducted studies to assess the role of EMFs in the dramatic rise in autism and other neurological impairments over the past decade. A strong correlation has been found and the incidence of autism in children is now doubling every five years in the US.

2 Dr Herbert is a paediatric neurologist and neuroscientist at Harvard Medical School and on staff at Massachusetts General Hospital. Board-Certified in Neurology, she specializes in Child Neurology and Neuro-developmental Disorders.

3 See <http://bit.ly/1JXLfmr>.

Take the towers down

These cell masts must be removed as soon as possible. There is no excuse or justification for deliberately and knowingly harming your people. It is physical abuse and it is a violation of every human being's fundamental right to exist.

Denise Rowland is a dedicated advocate for those who are unable to fight for protection from microwave radiation. She has seen firsthand the devastating impact of this radiation on the lives of those nearby, and her agenda is pure—none other than helping these people to avoid further harm and to live a normal life. Considering the inevitable impact on these children and residents, immediately removing the cell masts would be a smart and cost-effective move. I know Denise has been in touch with you about this and **she deserves your fullest cooperation.**

Her brother, **Dr William Rowland**, has done extraordinary things for your country, launching the disability rights movement in the 1980s and demonstrating exceptional leadership and compassion for those with invisible disabilities such as blindness. Blinded at the age of four, due to a shooting incident, he is a shining example of what can be achieved when one has vision even if one does not have physical sight.⁴

His book, *Nothing about us without us: inside the Disability Rights Movement of South Africa*, was a landmark work that shaped the thinking of the disability rights movement in your country and helped to popularize the notion that no meaningful policies or progress could or should be made without the collaboration of those involved.

Nothing about us without us—did you get that message?

What are you doing for the rights of those being harmed by microwave radiation? How many of them have you consulted in your studies of the harm being caused and before concluding that they were not being harmed and were, instead, in need of psychiatric help? Worldwide, an estimated 250 million people from all walks of life are being affected. If doctors, businessmen, children, teachers, scientists, mothers, bankers and labourers all came to you and claimed to be physically ill as a result of being irradiated (otherwise known as microwave sickness), would you tell them that it was all in their heads and that they needed psychiatric help?

Consider what William Rowland has done, purely to help others. Consider what Denise Rowland is doing, purely to help others. And consider what you are doing—as paid government officials—favouring the wireless telecommunications industry that is knowingly harming your people.

⁴ In addition to being the chairman of CBM South Africa, former National Executive Director of the SA National Council for the Blind, chairperson of Disabled People South Africa, President of the World Blind Union, and chairperson of the International Disability Alliance, Dr Rowland has also contributed on the Board of the SABC and the Council for the University of South Africa, and he continues to serve as Council member of the University of Johannesburg.

Do you have vision?

Imagine what will happen to your economy and infrastructures when large numbers of your population fall ill from radiation. It's only a matter of time before this happens, and everyone has their tipping point—even you. If you fail to understand this, you may be in for some rude awakenings. Already, here in Canada, there is a shortage of doctors due to the increasing number of people seeking help for insomnia, depression, anxiety, ADD and many other conditions known to be caused and/or exacerbated by microwave radiation—not to mention the more serious nervous-system disorders, brain tumours, MS, fertility issues, autism and various forms of cancer.

**What's good for your people is good for government
—not the other way around.**

We all get to choose how we express our power, yet nowhere is the power of our choices more keenly felt than among those government officials tasked with protecting our health and safety, while respecting our human rights. If our governments fail to fulfil this basic duty, violating our human rights and acting in contravention of laws and conventions (such as the Nuremberg Code and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including those affected by their environment), it becomes our right and our obligation to fight back to protect ourselves.

“When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty.”

—Thomas Jefferson

Having to defend ourselves from our own governments is a sure sign that we are heading down a slippery slope of diminishing returns and ultimate self-destruction. There can be no positive outcome from promoting a technology that causes progressive harm, creates an intolerable burden on healthcare systems and social services, and undermines the very fabric of society.

Telling people that microwave radiation is not harmful will not stop them from being affected by it. It will not stop them from becoming ill in rapidly increasing numbers as you scale up cell phone coverage and irradiate all forms of life.

We can all delude ourselves when we don't want to face reality, but you cannot fool the human body. The body never lies, and anyone who is harmed by microwave radiation is having a biologically correct reaction to a harmful, invasive, manmade environmental toxin known to cause adverse bio-effects. Many of those being affected do not even know that microwave radiation is the cause—and you're doing nothing to enlighten them. On the contrary, you appear to be promoting ignorance, denial and deception, none of which ever built a great nation—or even a decent human being.

The **Precautionary Principle** states that, when there are indications of possible adverse effects, although they remain uncertain, the risks of doing nothing may be far greater than the risks of taking action. **This principle shifts the burden of proof from those suspecting a risk to those who discount it.**

Have your people not been disenfranchised enough already? How do you justify deliberately, knowingly harming your fellow men?

I am calling you on your denial, challenging you on your disregard for human life, and reminding you of your duty to protect those you've been elected to serve. Denying responsibility for what's going on, or claiming that cell tower installations etc are outside of your jurisdiction, will not absolve you of your guilt. If you are not part of the solution and are not taking a strong stand against any further harm being caused to your people, you are most definitely part of the problem.

Siding with the wireless industry while disregarding the irrefutable scientific evidence of the harm caused by non-ionizing radiation, is an abuse of your power and your public office. It is also a betrayal of the people you serve and of your own essential humanity.

Economies can only thrive when individuals and communities are empowered in healthy, sustainable ways.

The Mayor of Cape Town, Patricia de Lille, gave great cause for hope when she declared her progressive vision for the city:

"We want to create a Cape Town where everyone feels loved, respected and cared for both at home and in the public institutions we have created, developed and supported. We want the most vulnerable amongst us—our children, our youth, our elderly, our people with disabilities and the poor—to have a fair chance to be healthy, happy and a valuable part of our society."

Yet those being harmed by the masts are not feeling loved, respected or cared for—in their homes or anywhere else that they are exposed to this harmful environmental pollutant.

The mayor also said she wanted people to *"feel empowered to make things happen for themselves"* and *"to care—give us feedback, report faults, use our services, and become an active citizen."*

The people are giving you their feedback. They are reporting faults. They are telling you they are being harmed and functionally impaired by the microwave radiation in their environment. You have an opportunity to act on this feedback and honour your stated commitment to the people of Cape Town.

The people shall govern

I'm sure I don't need to remind you about the **Freedom Charter**, which was the statement of core principles of the South African Congress Alliance, consisting of the African National Congress (ANC) and its allies—the South African Indian Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats and the Coloured People's Congress. It is characterized by its opening demand: ***The People Shall Govern***. Many of the people of South Africa DIED for this right and many more FOUGHT for it. You are being asked—by independent advocates such as Denise Rowland, by those who are being harmed by cell mast radiation and by those yet to be so harmed—to **RESPECT** this crucial principle and to respect your people's right to govern their own lives.

Given the enormity of this problem, and the rapid proliferation of wireless radiation everywhere, you have a unique opportunity to deliver on your promises, to respect your nation's laws and principles, and to make a difference. South Africa has been a world leader before, in respecting the rights of those with disabilities. You have the chance to lead again, by taking a stand against a harmful industry and by protecting the rights and health of your people. You also have a moral and legal imperative to do your job. Governments that fail to do so, while continuing to knowingly harm the people they were elected to serve, will ultimately be seen as **criminally negligent for having willfully endangered human life.**

Doing the right thing requires integrity. Going against the powerful forces of industry takes courage. And protecting your fellow citizens from further harm requires basic human decency. Given your vision of all citizens feeling loved, respected and cared for, I am hopeful that you will see the wisdom of addressing this problem now, rather than waiting for it to harm so many people that you will be unable to handle the human and economic consequences.

The numbers of those being harmed by wireless radiation are rapidly growing, and the wise words of Thomas Jefferson may soon come back to haunt the governments that fail to protect the rights and serve the interests of their own people.

Sincerely,

Olga Sheean

Author, educator, empowerment trainer

www.olgasheean.com

