

Telecommunications Towers FAQs

Who is responsible for approving telecommunications facilities?

The Government of Canada regulates the siting and construction of telecommunication antenna/tower systems under the [Radiocommunication Act](#) through [Innovation, Science and Economic Development \(ISED\) Canada](#).

What is the City of Mississauga's role in the telecommunications tower approval process?

The City of Mississauga's role is to provide comments to ISED Canada. The City does not have the authority to stop the construction of an antenna/tower system. ISED Canada has the sole responsibility to approve new telecommunications facilities. The Planning Act, Zoning By-laws and other related planning legislation do not apply to these antenna/tower systems.

ISED Canada, while requiring proponents to follow the City of Mississauga's Telecommunication Antenna/Tower Siting Protocol, makes the final decision on whether or not an antenna/tower system can be constructed.

Who has the final authority to decide where telecommunication towers are located?

Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada, in consultation with City staff and the public, is responsible for siting approvals.

Can I appeal the proposed installation of a telecommunication antenna/tower to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)/ Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)?

The appeal process to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)/ Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) does not apply as telecommunication/antenna systems are federally regulated and licensed.

How can the Public provide comments?

Residents can submit their written comments directly to the applicant in accordance with the notice. Concerns can also be directed to the local Member of Parliament (MP), as this is a federally regulated process.

How can members of the public get involved in the decision making process?

On June 7, 2017, City of Mississauga Council adopted a [Telecommunication Antenna/Tower Siting Protocol](#) that provides guidelines for conducting public consultation.

ISED's Antenna Tower Siting Policy requires the applicant to notify all residents within an area three times the height of a proposed tower by direct mail to place a notice sign on the subject property. Section 7 of the City's [protocol](#) describes the consultation process and requirements.

What can the City provide comments on?

ISED Canada will only consider comments on what it deems to be reasonable and relevant concerns on three issues:

- the design of a new facility
- the facility's location on a lot
- the public consultation process

What is the City's role in reviewing a submission for a telecommunications tower?

Mississauga reviews and evaluates each submission for a telecommunications tower based on land use planning criteria. This includes the specific elements and issues observed, reviewed, analyzed and evaluated as described in Section 6 of the City's [protocol](#).

What are the health and safety guidelines in place to protect the public?

Questions or comments regarding any potential health issues related to cell phones, cell towers and radiofrequency exposure guidelines ([Safety Code 6](#)) should be directed to [Health Canada](#) and to the proponent's representative. ISED Canada, Spectrum Management Operations Branch is also available at 403-292-4575 or by email at spectrum.calgary@ic.gc.ca.

What does a telecommunications facilities protocol actually do?

A protocol outlines a municipality's role in providing comments to proponents and to ISED Canada on telecommunications facilities installations. ISED Canada requires proponents to consult with municipalities and the public on certain proposals.

A municipality can define its own guidelines to inform this consultation under the authority of ISED Canada.

The City of Mississauga's [protocol](#) provides proponents with its expectations for facility design, siting on a lot and for public consultation.

What does ISED Canada consider to be a reasonable or relevant concern?

ISED Canada has identified some general technical and process-oriented questions relating to the technical review for the specific facility, its design and location.

- Why is the use of an existing antenna system or structure not possible?
- Why is an alternate site not possible?
- What is the proponent doing to ensure that the antenna system is not accessible to the general public?
- How is the proponent trying to integrate the antenna into the local surroundings?
- What options are available to satisfy aeronautical obstruction marking requirements at this site?
- What are the steps the proponent took to ensure compliance with the general requirements of this document including the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), Safety Code 6, etc.?

These are examples only. Other concerns could be considered valid by ISED Canada.

What does ISED Canada consider not to be reasonable or relevant?

ISED Canada identifies a number of areas that are not relevant to individual facility installations. These include:

- disputes about a proponent's level of service
- property value concerns
- validity or need to reform various federal policies and procedures — including the CPC-2-0-03 procedure guiding telecommunications installations, and Health Canada's Safety Code 6 document on radiofrequency exposure.

I think a new antenna was erected near my property (i.e., on a rooftop or a new tower). Why did I not receive notice?

ISED Canada excludes a number of telecommunications facility installations from any form of public consultation. To inquire about a particular installation, contact ISED Canada's area office.