

Dear Mr. Hird,

My residence is at 4542 Rocky Point Road, directly across the road from the proposed site of the Telus communications tower.

I am strongly opposed to a tower being constructed on this site for the same reasons that many of my neighbors have already cited in letters and e-mails...potential long-term health risks and visual interference with the beauty of our natural rural landscape.

My family and I moved from the city of Victoria to rural Metchosin five years ago in order to nourish our souls with the quiet of a pastoral countryside. The very satisfying view from our front windows is of lush green fields and community gardens...a property owned by the Knights of Columbus Club. We had thought, because it was Agricultural Reserve Land, that nothing could be built on it. It is painful to think of how that view will be distorted and marred by a thirty meter tall industrial tower.

Members of the Columbus Club have, to this point, been congenial neighbors and I have great respect for the charitable work that is carried out throughout the world by the Knights of Columbus. I believe they are men of faith and prayer (as evidenced by the large rosary that graces their land); men committed to justice, integrity and compassion; men who believe and follow the Biblical call to love God and to love one's neighbor as oneself.

For this reason, I was disheartened at the Columbus Club's decision to lease a portion of its land to Telus for a questionable project, without seeming to have any regard for the concerns or well-being of its neighbors. This seems to me to be totally out of character with what the Knights of Columbus believe and represent.

Telus also seems to have little regard for the rights of individuals to be heard and respected. In correspondence and conversations with our community, you, Mr. Hird, have conveyed to people that this consultation process is simply a formality - nothing more - and that Telus will go ahead with its proposal regardless of what anyone thinks. If this is true, your employer Telus, and you, go against all that we as Canadian citizens hold dear - namely the freedom to engage in a democratic process...the freedom to speak and negotiate when there is a difference of opinion.

Mr Jim Laursen from Industry Canada, when asked what that organization's role would be in the consultation process between Telus and Metchosin residents said that "the best role for Industry Canada is no role. That is, the telecoms and the residents should find a mutual solution to tower siting issues."

That is all I, as a resident, am looking for Mr. Hird - a mutual solution. The District of Metchosin (local land-use authority) has stated its tower siting guidelines in an Antenna Location and Consultation Policy by-law and waits for Telus to respond. A petition, requesting that Telus relocate the tower, has been circulated amongst residents who live within 100-500 meters of the proposed site, and signed by nearly 100 percent of them.

It is clear that we, as a community, do not want a tower on the proposed Rocky Point road site. I ask that you please respond to my concerns, as a fellow citizen, and engage in mutual discussion with the District of Metchosin to determine a more suitable site - a site that is inconspicuous and a reasonable distance from local residences and schools.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Luther