

Good Afternoon:

Thank you for your recent email regarding your concerns with the safety of wifi technology. MP Brown always appreciates receiving feedback from constituents and thanks you for taking the time to write.

As you referenced in your email, Health Canada (HC) publishes a radiofrequency (RF) exposure guideline, commonly referred to as Safety Code 6 (SC6), which sets recommended limits for safe human exposure to electromagnetic energy as emitted from various devices including cell phones, Wi-Fi equipment, and broadcasting and cell phone antenna towers. No adverse health effects from exposure to RF emitting devices are expected if they adhere to these guidelines.

Furthermore, Health Canada has committed to undertaking regular reviews of Safety Code 6 and to establishing a formalized expert panel process to obtain an independent expert assessment of Health Canada's SC6 review.

The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) is Canada's National Academy composed of over 2000 Fellows, with members available to assess issues of value to Canadians and provide independent expert advice, notably to government on matters of public policy, through its program of Expert Panel reports. Given the RSC's experience in conducting such reviews, and its reputation for independence and excellence, it was chosen to conduct the expert assessment. The RSC last assembled a panel to conduct such a review of SC6 in 1999.

The RSC has robust conflict of interest guidelines to support decision making respecting individuals' participation on expert panels. Prospective panelists are required to complete (and/or update where an individual's circumstances have changed) declaration forms outlining any issues that might give rise to a real, apparent or potential conflict of interest in relation to their official duties. Specific considerations are given to: Individual Economic Impact, Proprietary Information, Public Statements and Positions, Access to Government Information, Reviewing One's Own Work, and Employment by a Sponsoring Agency. Conflict of interest policies often acknowledge that the existence of such considerations does not in itself establish that the individual is in conflict.

According to RSC policy, information regarding conflict of interest or balancing of viewpoints is to be carefully considered by two committees, the Committee on Expert Panels and a Scientific Advisory Committee on Expert Panels, prior to the appointment of individuals to panels.

The review by the RSC is an independent process conducted through a contract with HC. HC was aware of and satisfied with the RSC's conflict of interest policy prior to establishing the contract. Questions relating to perceptions of conflict of interest of RSC panel members should be directed to the RSC. You can contact the RSC via their webpage at: <http://rsc-src.ca/>

Once again, thank you for your email. Should you have any further questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact MP Brown's office once again.

Kind Regards,