



**association to protect  
AMHERST ISLAND**

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5<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq,  
Minister of Health,  
Parliament of Canada,  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

Dear Ms. Aglukkaq,

First, our Association to Protect Amherst Island welcomes the recently announced study of the adverse health effects caused by industrial wind turbines. We believe, however, that the study needs a Director who starts with an unbiased attitude to the impact of wind turbines on the health of those living in proximity (within 2 km) of wind turbines. The need for an independent Director is outlined in the attached "Comment" and summarized below.

The paper "Health Impacts and Exposure to Wind Turbine Noise: Research Design and Noise Exposure Assessment", authored by Michaud, Keith, Feder and Bower, reads, to our Association, as a pre-judgment of the question of the impact of living in proximity to wind turbines on the health of residents in rural Canada. Much is now known about this impact and the resulting adverse health effects. These have been ignored or down-played by the authors. The bias is outlined in detail in the "Comment" report; it falls into the following categories:

The authors wrongly imply that there are studies showing no impact upon sleep.

They deny the importance of the extensive field studies of Pedersen and colleagues which demonstrate a clear dependence of annoyance upon turbine noise.

They mistakenly apply the World Health Organization *Night Noise Guidelines* for traffic noise to wind turbine noise.

They wrongly attribute the annoyance from living in proximity to wind turbines to an attitude to the visual aspect of the turbines.

They try to leave the impression that the turbine noise problem was solved by the change from down-wind to up-wind placement of the turbine blades relative to the supporting tower.

Our Association ask that you seek advice from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research in order to appoint a truly independent Director for the Health Study. In addition, we ask that you consider adding balance to the study team by appointing recognized health scientists and acousticians who have expertise in the impact of wind turbines on the health of those living in proximity to the turbines. Possibilities include Ms. Carmen Krogh (Canada), Mr. Richard James (USA), Dr. Chris Hanning (UK), Dr. Robert McMurtry (Canada), Dr. Carl Phillips (USA), Dr. Robert Thorne (Australia), Dr. Daniel Shepherd (New Zealand). We would be pleased to provide curriculum vitae.

Yours faithfully,

APAI

cc: Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister  
Dr. Colin Carrie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health  
Ms. Glenda Yeates, Deputy Minister of Health  
Ms. Hilary Geller, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health  
Ms. Beth Pieterston, Director General, Health Canada  
Mr. Scott Reid, MP  
Dr. Ted Hsu, MP  
Hon. John Gerretsen, MPP  
Dr. D. Michaud, Health Canada