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TORONTO WIND ACTION (TWA),

THE NORTH AMERICAN PLATFORM AGAINST WINDPOWER (NA-PAW),

THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM AGAINST WINDFARMS (EPAW)

International dismay at results of Ontario wind turbine ruling...

...but new **scientific breakthrough** vindicates windfarm victims worldwide.

Reactions came on the heels of an **Environmental Review Tribunal** (ERT) decision that the Kent Breeze wind farm project in Ontario may proceed because there will be no “serious” harm to human health. This ruling came out despite lengthy arguments presented by an illustrious group of physicians and acousticians and other technical experts.

In Ontario **Dr Robert McMurtry**, a distinguished member of the Order of Canada, is often sought out as an expert, having held various senior positions in public health administrations. At the ERT proceedings, he testified in favor of windfarm victims. Recently, he wrote to NA-PAW: *"I remain dismayed at the failure of any government to do the requisite research to establish either the safety or utility of Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT). There are better and fairer solutions to combat Green House Gases. For rural people in Ontario there is no safe place where they can be assured of freedom from IWT. I have not and will not express an opinion on a judicial process. I am not anti-wind, I am pro-health. The problem is IWT are being put far too close to people."*

"Windfarm victims have contacted me", says **Sherri Lange**, CEO of NA-PAW, the North American Platform Against Windpower, *"Ontarians as well as others from around the world. They are dismayed, if not completely despaired by the ERT decision."*

Jutta Reichardt, from Germany, wrote to NA-PAW about her ordeal. She has lived near wind turbines for more than 16 years, some as close as 320 metres from her home, and literally surrounded by 122 others. She experiences *"cardiac rhythm disorders, sleep deprivation, high blood pressure, kidney damage, different tinnitus sounds, nausea and dizziness, angina pectoris, palpitations, ear pressure, and VAD [vibroacoustic disease] ulcers in the mouth ... And for some months [I have suffered from] a follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in my mucous membranes."* She and her husband both suffer in their health, and spend much of their time at the hospital for treatment. It is a *"living hell"*, and nobody will buy their house. *"This is our personal 'circus'"*, she wrote, in reference to an outrageous remark made to other windfarm victims, Julian and Jane.

Jane and Julian Davis, in the UK, were recently victims of a slur when their opponent declared in court that they were part of “*an anti-wind farm circus*”. (1) Jane and Julian are suing the windfarm owner because they have had to abandon their home. They tracked their insomnia and other health disorders to noise and infra-sound from a wind farm located 930 meters from their house. Jane’s daily log of their problems is accessible on line, and covers the period from summer 2006 to summer 2007. (2)

Dr Sarah Laurie from Australia wrote to NA-PAW saying: “*it is so very hard for people to speak out, and takes enormous personal courage ... Not everyone can speak out — everyone's circumstances are different. That is why this industry is able to keep doing what it is doing, hiding behind a cloak of ‘but there are no complaints’. But increasingly in Australia, the climate has changed, and more people are speaking out, and I am sure they would be happy to do so if they thought it would also help people internationally.*” Dr Laurie’s work with Victims of Wind is known worldwide.

Ironically, on July 19th, on the heels of the Ontario announcement, US-based **Populi Health Institute** director **Carl Phillips** released his peer-reviewed assessment of the validity of wind turbine health complaints. It states unequivocally: “*There is overwhelming evidence that wind turbines cause serious health problems in nearby residents, usually stress-disorder type diseases, at a nontrivial rate. The bulk of the evidence takes the form of thousands (our emphasis) of adverse event reports.*” (Epidemiologic Evidence for Health Effects from Wind Turbines, Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society, Vol. 31, no. 4, August 2011). Nine more scientific papers on windfarm-related health problems are published in the same edition (3). **It is a scientific breakthrough.**

Professor Phillips’ work is further corroborated by anterior research from US-based physician **Nina Pierpont**, MD, PhD, which has been publicized in her world-acclaimed book, **The Wind Turbine Syndrome** - www.windturbinesyndrome.com

The universal reporting of ill health is a fact that wind farm developers and their political allies have tried to deny all along. This is no longer possible, say **TWA, NA-PAW and EPAW**, speaking in the name of windfarm victims: “*The Tribunal’s decision is not sitting well with those who have worked hard to bring the health issue to the surface, nor with those living in turbine hell. We now have peer-reviewed science to prove their point.*”

Few people have better knowledge of the anguish felt by windfarm victims than retired Canadian pharmacologist **Carmen Krogh**. Two of her articles were peer-reviewed and published in the scientific journal mentioned above (Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society, Vol. 31, no. 4, August 2011) . She wrote to Sherri Lange: “*While the adverse health effects are severe enough that a significant number of families have abandoned their homes, the loss of social justice has caused additional grief and distress. People say they welcomed Industrial Wind Turbines into their community and the negative consequences were unexpected. There is an emotional and physical toll from the individuals’ health related symptoms, loss of enjoyment of homes and property, disturbed living conditions, financial loss, and the lack of society’s recognition of their situation. These negative impacts combined with a loss of social justice, represent a serious degradation of health in accordance with commonly accepted definitions of health as defined by the World Health Organization and the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.*”

Sherri Lange recently visited Bruce Huron Counties in Ontario and heard firsthand stories of electrical pollution, a home burned likely due to a power surge, livestock that had to be moved out of the area, accounts of “*pending agricultural ecological disaster*” as one farmer expressed it, and anguishing stories of ill health. People cannot sleep in their homes. These often become receptacles or amplifiers for the turbines' infrasound, and have to be insulated against surges of “dirty electricity” (4). The list of complaints includes ringing ears (tinnitus), ear pressure, headaches, cardiac arrhythmias, sleep disorders, stress, depression, and a sense of hopelessness. “*To have the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) emerge with this denial decision after the lengthy detailing of health problems by expert witnesses in sound and paths to disease, and having been there personally during several days hearing them as well as the concluding remarks by lawyer Eric Gillespie, I find the decision nothing short of astonishing,*” Lange said.

Last week in Scotland, a young bullock was found dead in a field near a wind turbine. The autopsy revealed “*hemorrhaging around the heart, a possible sign of electrocution*”. (5) Stray voltage can do this to animals — and to humans as well.

In 2009, the BBC reported that a farmer in Taiwan had lost more than 400 goats due to the proximity of wind turbines. (6)

Mark Duchamp, CEO of the European Platform against Windfarms (EPAW), tells us that the European authorities haven't done their homework either: “*As happens with other ill effects of wind turbines, governments are happy to swallow what they are told by the wind industry, hook, line and sinker. They don't do independent research. Everything they say or write is biased in favor of developers. As a result, the wind industry has a free hand to play God with the health of rural Europeans, and with biodiversity. This will have consequences of catastrophic proportions*”, he warns.

It is no different in Ontario, adds Lange: “*When you have an emergency, such as wind turbine havoc across the province, and the authorities turn a blind eye and allow the abuse to continue, then the system is seriously broken.*” She concludes: “*It is a serious case of social and environmental injustice. The elections are near: Ontarians will know what to do.*”

(1) “anti-wind farm circus” slur:

http://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/wind_turbines_high_court_hearing_julian_davis_claims_anti_wind_farm_circus_suggestion_is_typical_of_his_family_s_treatment_1_2875020

(2) Jane Davis log: <http://www.windaction.org/documents/14202>

(3) <http://bst.sagepub.com/content/current> Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society, Vol. 31, no. 4, August 2011

(4) “Dirty electricity” or electricity pollution: <http://www.dirtyelectricity.org/health-issues.shtml>

(5) Bullock electrocuted <http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/2357094>

(6) Death of 400 goats <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8060969.stm>

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