

MEMOIRE IN SUPPORT OF THE ST-CYPRIEN WIND ENERGY PROJECT

Date: June 2015

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Projet de parc éolien Saint-Cyprien à Saint-
Cyprien-de-Napierville

6211-24-075

soir *evening*
Bonjour, Good Day, Mr Commissioner,

My name is Eva Johnson. I was the Coordinator and Manager of the Kahnawake Environment Protection Office for 25 years and I am currently in semi-retirement from this position. I am also a member of the KSE Consultation Committee. I am presenting this brief to la Bureau d'Audience Public sur L'Environnement in support of the wind energy project as proposed, in Saint-Cyprien-de-Naperville. Green energy, which is unfortunately being frowned upon by many, especially those involved in hydro carbon projects, is an important step as we go forth. Although it is speculated that we can live for years to come on the many natural resources that can be extracted from our Earth, what happens to the future generations when these unrenewable sources are literally tapped out? In fact, there are no perfect energy sources. Although many Quebecers perceive hydropower as "green energy" we must remember the huge impacts that the mega-hydro dams of the north had on our brothers and sisters living off the land in those areas, as well as the wildlife whose habitats were flooded and the fish whose access to upstream spawning areas were cut off.

Some people have suggested that we should be tapping all the possible resources in the North first before we consider disturbing the view-scape of those in the south. This "Not in My Backyard" attitude will not help us achieve the sustainable future we must be striving towards. The massive environmental impacts associated with development of projects in the north, the

logistics and further impacts associated with transporting power south including the occasional blackouts that occur as a result and the impact on the people that live in these areas are not being considered in this narrow-minded approach. Development of small-scale, local, green energy projects are the key to future sustainability. An analogy can be drawn with the local food movement. People want to eat locally because of the environmental benefits; people should also want to use local sources of energy.

The issue of pollution and groundwater contamination has also been raised. Most would agree that the likelihood of a leak or spill or fire from a wind turbine affecting the regional groundwater system ranges from extremely slim to none. One could similarly argue that tractors and other farm equipment should be avoided. Or the large quantities of fertilizers that are applied annually to fields or the water used for irrigating crops. We must realize that risks are necessary if we hope to advance the human condition. Whether energy is created here or elsewhere, there will be impacts and benefits. In this case, the impacts have been minimized and the benefits are shared amongst us all.

We cannot, in good conscience, look the other way and expect others to find answers to keep our future generations warm.

We have to be humble and accept the gift of the endless supply of what our Creator has provided to us, wind energy. Perhaps this source isn't fancy enough or won't yield high enough profits such as has been extracted without second thought from places like Alberta and other "oil-rich" provinces. We cannot follow their lead; we must plan ahead; we must put our good minds together and find solutions for future survival and one of those solutions is wind energy. Let's not wait until there isn't another drop of oil or natural gas in our Mother's veins and then look at

each other and say “we should have done something – we should have taken our responsibility more seriously and planned for future generations – what do we do now?”.

In 2003, Kahnawake hosted a research project to evaluate the potential for a wind energy project for our community. Unfortunately, circumstances were not in our favor at that time and certain constraints prevented us from developing a viable wind energy project. The limited wind resources, proximity to a large airport, and lack of acceptable sites contributed to the decision to look elsewhere for a suitable site. Don't you think we would have liked to have this developed in our community and capitalized on most of the profits ourselves? This project in Kahnawake would have represented a healthy, green energy opportunity in which we would have realized the profits. This would certainly have been a change for us Mohawks who are used to seeing large-scale, industrial projects on our Territory with no benefit whatsoever. These have included the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway which cut us off from our life-blood the river as well as several railways and major highways that provide convenient links between Montreal and southern Quebec. We tolerate mega ships passing by our waters creating dangerous conditions in the water and trains passing beside our houses, blowing their whistles all through the night.

We have been very generous with the sharing of our limited land base; however, people have a way of conveniently forgetting that we have been exploited and the Quebec population has benefitted significantly from our cooperation. Now, we think that it's time for some reciprocal thinking; how can we all live in harmony and peace and not only think of today and ourselves? Your children and grandchildren will need electricity, they'll need warmth and they'll need food; no one will disagree with this; we have to work together to ensure that we don't forsake our future generations for the selfish thinking of “what's in it for me”? What about my lifestyle, my

electricity bill, my pocket-book? We would have to be so closed minded not to see this and just to have our way regardless of what the evidence shows that wind energy is the way of the future.

Finally, the possibility that these eight wind turbines will stop tourism in the area is silly. Other industry in the area has not had a negative impact on tourism. Wind turbines can be a magnet for kids who want to see the big windmills up close! In all likelihood, the impacts on tourism will be neutral and quite possibly positive.

KSE's wind energy project is very well-designed and was evaluated by the most experienced consultants in the business. This project required significant investment from our community and we committed to it because we believe very strongly that it is a good project with very minimal impacts on the environment and agriculture, and only positive benefits for people. Because of this, I urge the BAPE to recommend the approval of this project as-is.

In conclusion, I would like to

convey that the Mohawks have always tried to assist when issues have been brought to our attention

of common importance to us. we are

saddened to see that

people are fighting against us in our efforts to develop a

sustainable energy future that will have long-term benefits. The motto of Kahnawake Sustainable

Energies is "Balancing the Needs of People and the Planet". Please take the time to think beyond

your own personal agendas and consider the bigger picture and the future generations. We all

must work together to make this world a better place.

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Merci Beaucoup

Eva Johnson