

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

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Bonjour, Good Day;

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 would like to present a 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 into the future. 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, and the destruction of vast areas of habitats that were flooded. 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 will 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? We have never thought that way and if you can see how we've shared our natural resources and allowed the St. Lawrence Seaway to be built alongside our shoreline and four highways to be built to allow the Quebec population better access to the very place that we're proposing this wind energy project be built. Not to mention, the railways that traverse our lands carrying goods and services to people not only in Quebec but throughout North America.

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 ensure and 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? Wind energy is part of Eco-Tourism and will benefit everyone. 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.

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 remind the people of St-Cyprien-de-Napierville that we were partners in the past in the fight against other issues of common importance to us, and we are saddened to see that many of these same 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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