Industrial wind turbine projects became operational in rural Ontario, Canada in 2005. Within a short period of time, residents near the projects reported noticing adverse health effects. By 2008, reports of health problems became more common and had been associated with the advent of Industrial Wind Turbines. In some cases Ontario families have abandoned their homes to protect their health.

Government vigilance and long term surveillance programs for industrial wind turbines do not exist in Canada. Volunteers in various affected communities organized and funded an Ontario-based vigilance health survey to capture and document the array of adverse health effects being reported. Reports are now being received from other jurisdictions.

WindVOiCe (Wind Vigilance for Ontario Communities) is a community-based self-reporting health survey based on the principles of Health Canada’s Canada Vigilance Program designed to monitor suspected drug reactions. This survey is ongoing.

WindVOiCe respondents report altered quality of life. Sleep disturbance is the most common health complaint. Other symptoms include but are not limited to inner ear problems, cardiac concerns, and headaches.

In the comments section of the survey some respondents describe their emotional toll. They describe disturbed living conditions, loss of enjoyment of their homes and property, and financial loss due to the negative impact to the health of their families which further contributes to increased stress levels.

Informal discussions with respondents indicate some family members grieve deeply. These include those who suffer adverse health effects, those who had to abandon their homes, and those who had to sign non-disclosure agreements as a condition of a buy out of their homes by the wind developer. They feel victimized by the very systems that normally would protect them. The lack of social justice hurts deeply.

The symptoms of adverse health effects reported are consistent with other surveys and research conducted by clinicians such as Harry, Pierpont, Nissenbaum.

The relationship of increased mood alterations and industrial wind turbines: Imlications and Social Justice

**Key words:** mood disorders, stress, anxiety, depression, quality of life, cognitive dysfunction, anger, grief, social justice, vigilance, self-reporting survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>118 Respondents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headache</strong></td>
<td>Migraines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excessive Tiredness</strong></td>
<td>Tinnitus/ Hearing Problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approached Physician</strong></td>
<td><strong>Not affected: 26 respondents with no health effects</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Lorrie Gillis, Protocol Administrator**

**Carmen Krogh, BScPharm**
A SNAPSHOT OF COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS (ONTARIO)

Number 003
“Feel no [one] cares or believes us.”

Number 004
“Our finances are not as good because of living in two places. All family events including Christmas has not been in our family home. No one should have this happen to them. We were fine before the wind farms came.”

Number 005
“The damage that has been done to my body – scares me what will happen in the future… A very uncertain future!!”
We have discouraged our two daughters and son-in-law from visiting. They have also experienced health issues when visiting.

Number 019
“I am unable to come home to visit my parents as often as I would like. Due to my parents ongoing adverse health effects I feel discouraged…. My childhood home no longer feels like a place to relax …in a peaceful environment. I am sick over what the turbines have done to my family & community.”

Number 021
“My house is worth nothing now. I could never sell it. Angry, sad, disillusioned, exhausted.”

Number 024
“Because I have a conflict of interest, I am not signing my name but I do not want anyone else to suffer as we did for 8 or 9 months.”

Number 040
“I now live on drugs that don’t seem to help.”

Number 046
“Because of this I do not want to stay in our home or for that matter come home. The biggest change has been the effect on my Mom, sister and Dad's health, especially Mom. To see her suffering from health problems, getting sicker and sicker just pisses me off. It really bothers me a lot.”

Number 047
“My family has been ripped apart with Mom not able to live at home. Not having Mom around to talk to about school or friend and personal stuff has been and is hard. Very hard.”

Number 049
“We did not invite the Grand mothers over to visit much or stay over due to the concern for their health… We send love over the phone or on message sheets on the counter.”

“Lost total faith in government to safeguard myself, my family and other Ontario families. I do not trust the word or intentions of experts compared to before Nov. 2007.”

Number 051
“The visual impact of the navigation lights has had a profoundly negative effect on our night sky. In the day-time the obvious industrialization of our landscape adds to this demoralization.”

Number 052
“The blinking red lights at night just depresses me and ticks me off. I might as well be at an airport landing strip. The same goes when I just look around.”

Number 056
“It is the responsibility of the wind turbine company and/or Hydro One to ensure that their life and health returns to pre wind turbine quality.”

Number 069
“The rear of our house is all windows, at night all you see is the warning lights. It is driving me crazy. We had no say in the mills because we weren’t getting one. The persons that got them get paid and don’t live near them.”

Number 079
“…our plans to retire here are on hold and may need to change”

Number 085
“…flicker issues at certain times of day on house walls inside & reflections on windows”

Number 088
“Now all I see is flickering blades and blinding red lights. The sunsets have disappeared into money hungry pockets of our government.”

Number 089
“My various levels of govt has deserted me and ignore my concerns.”

Number 097
“It is equally disturbing to know that our politicians and so called “leaders” have such blatant disregard for individual lives. This is also applicable to so called neighbours.”

Number 098
“The blinking red lights at night just depresses me and ticks me off. I might as well be at an airport landing strip. The same goes when I just look around.”

Number 106
“I cannot go a day without thinking about Wind Turbines. They are everywhere you look, noisy, lights flashing.”

Number 108
“I had, and still have a hard time understanding how this could have happened without me knowing…. A modern day David and Goliath. The giant(s) win again… I no longer look forward to coming home…”

Number 109
“It is difficult when you want to visit your loved ones, however, you know that you are going to an environment that will cause you harm. Not a choice anyone should have to make!”

Number 110
“…feel violated… we trusted township and [wind company]”

Number 115 - Young Child
Form completed by parent

“[Child’s name] describes “bees” in his ears – I believe ringing ringing from W.T.s [wind turbines]
[approached doctor] …does not have knowledge of WTS but has heard some comments from local public health.”

[sleep disturbance] sleeps but does not seem rested.

“I feel both my children are “different” in their behaviour – two happy, well-behaved children have become irritable and unreasonable w/tempers and agitation…This is compounded by the fact that my husband and I are affected and sleep deprived and I imagine have lower patience, tolerance and are irritable also.”

Number 117
“I just want to move.”

Number 119
“Our anguish is great. We feel betrayed. There is no help. This is our home, our refuge, but we can hardly stand to be here.”

Number 127 - Young Child
Form completed by parent

“…feel violated… we trusted township and [wind company]”

[approached doctor] …does not have knowledge of WTS but has heard some comments from local public health.”

[sleep disturbance] sleeps but does not seem rested.

“I feel both my children are “different” in their behaviour – two happy, well-behaved children have become irritable and unreasonable w/tempers and agitation…This is compounded by the fact that my husband and I are affected and sleep deprived and I imagine have lower patience, tolerance and are irritable also.”

Number 129
“I just want to move.”

Number 134 - Young Child
Form completed by parent

“…feel violated… we trusted township and [wind company]”

[approached doctor] …does not have knowledge of WTS but has heard some comments from local public health.”

[sleep disturbance] sleeps but does not seem rested.

“I feel both my children are “different” in their behaviour – two happy, well-behaved children have become irritable and unreasonable w/tempers and agitation…This is compounded by the fact that my husband and I are affected and sleep deprived and I imagine have lower patience, tolerance and are irritable also.”

Number 135
“I just want to move.”

Number 139 - Young Child
Form completed by parent

“…feel violated… we trusted township and [wind company]”

[approached doctor] …does not have knowledge of WTS but has heard some comments from local public health.”

[sleep disturbance] sleeps but does not seem rested.

“I feel both my children are “different” in their behaviour – two happy, well-behaved children have become irritable and unreasonable w/tempers and agitation…This is compounded by the fact that my husband and I are affected and sleep deprived and I imagine have lower patience, tolerance and are irritable also.”

Number 140
“I just want to move.”