

The Corporation of the
County of Prince Edward



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NEWS RELEASE

FCM Supports County of Prince Edward Resolution re Wind Energy

Picton, ON – The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) National Board of Directors has adopted the County of Prince Edward resolution of December 2008, regarding the public health implications of industrial wind turbines. FCM has advised the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and the Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities of its adoption of the resolution, and requested the federal government to undertake measures to assess the latest research and provide results on the health impact of low frequency noise and electrical and electromagnetic disturbances of industrial wind turbines.

In his letter, FCM President Basil L. Stewart states the following, "There is tremendous support provincially and federally for the development of wind energy across Canada and many communities are looking to develop wind farms in their municipalities. However, there is contrasting research on the health impacts of low frequency noise and electrical and electromagnetic disturbances of wind turbines. As a result, many communities are finding themselves divided between those residents that support renewable energy development and those that are concerned about the community's health and safety."

"Regardless of where opinions lie on the issue of wind energy development, we can all agree that the health and wellbeing of our residents is our responsibility," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "FCM's added voice to health concerns related to wind turbines is extremely valuable and hopefully will help raise the profile of the issue at the highest levels."

The resolution was identified by FCM as a Category A – National Municipal Issue. It was moved by South Marysburgh Councillor Monica Alyea and seconded by Hillier Councillor Peggy Burris at the December 15, 2008 Council meeting, and circulated to: The Ontario Ministries of Health, Environment and Energy, Medical Officers of Health at Public Health Units, Environment Canada, Health Canada, all MPPs and MPs, The Premier's Office, The Prime Minister's Office, The Association for Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and all municipalities and native territories in Ontario, requesting their support. 71 municipalities indicated support.

The full text of the County resolution is attached.

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For more information, contact Mayor Leo P. Finnegan at 613-476-2148.

County of Prince Edward Resolution 2008-605

WHEREAS Prince Edward County is an island municipality located in Lake Ontario just west of Kingston and has been identified for significant wind farm development, both onshore and offshore; and

WHEREAS currently six (6) wind turbine development companies have publicly signaled a desired presence with three (3) applications in place at the formal planning application stage (1 of these at the Ontario Municipal Board); and

WHEREAS the need for renewable energy sources is recognized at the federal, provincial, municipal and local community levels; and

WHEREAS wind-generated power is an established source of renewable energy being created globally; and

WHEREAS populated and publicly owned and occupied lands and waters are being identified for industrial wind turbine development; and

WHEREAS discrepancy exists on the health effects potentially created by the presence of industrial wind turbines; and

WHEREAS this discrepancy on the potential health effects is proving to be destructive and divisive to the social and cultural fabric of rural communities; and

WHEREAS other Ontario municipalities, being the Township of Loyalist and the Township of Dawn-Euphemia, have passed resolutions expressing concern with the health effects association with wind turbines;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward requests that the Federal and Provincial government agencies responsible for public health, energy creation and energy management complete the following:

1. Dedicate resources to the necessary scientific research to consider the impact of
 - a) low frequency noise, and
 - b) electrical and electromagnetic disturbancesin areas of industrial wind turbines with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications; and
2. Create and provide authoritative regulations and guidelines for the locating of wind turbines to municipalities and wind energy developers;

THAT the resolution of the Township of Loyalist dated September 25, 2008 be supported; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded with a request for action to:
The Ontario Ministries of Health, Environment and Energy, Medical Officers of Health at Public Health Units, Environment Canada, Health Canada, All MPPs and MPs, The Premier's Office, The Prime Minister's Office, The Association for Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and

THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities and native territories in Ontario requesting their support.