

## Orman says Albertans need a voice in electricity transmission issues

SHERWOOD PARK, Alta. (August 25, 2011) – Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta leadership candidate Rick Orman says it's time to rethink electricity transmission in Alberta.

“As I have traveled across Alberta during the past few months, many people have expressed to me their frustration about legislative changes they say have removed checks and balances previously in place for the construction of new power lines,” said Orman on Thursday morning during a news conference in Sherwood Park, Alta.

“Our electricity transmission infrastructure must keep pace with Alberta’s electricity demands. Reliability in supply and transmission are basic requirements for economic growth and stability,” added Orman. “But it’s also important that the public be engaged in planning for the future — and, when it comes to transmission lines, that they have a right to participate in the scrutiny of how these lines are built, and in determining whether some of the lines should be run underground in critical areas of the province.”

Orman noted that over the past few years, significant discussion has focused on the possibility of burying high-voltage power lines in some circumstances — such as their close proximity to schools, or densely populated residential areas. While the capital costs of burying a high-voltage power line may be higher than those for above-ground lines, these expenditures are offset by lower maintenance and loss-of-transmission costs for an underground line throughout its lifetime.

“Many Albertans who are concerned about any negative impacts of above-ground transmission lines have told me they are OK with buried lines,” said Orman, “and there are specific circumstances where burying a segment of a new line makes sense.

“For example, when a proposed power line runs close to a very densely populated residential area, a buried line can address most of the concerns of nearby residents, as is the case with the Heartland Electricity Transmission Line,” he added.

“We certainly don’t need to bury all of our new transmission lines, but in very specific and unique situations, this technology should be considered. Some high-voltage power lines have already been successfully buried in Edmonton,” said Orman.

To read Orman’s full array of vision statements, concerning everything from health care to education, from fiscal responsibility to First Nations, please visit [www.voterickorman.com](http://www.voterickorman.com)

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To access and download Rick Orman candidacy material, including photos, news releases, news conference notes, audio files, and more, please visit the Rick Orman campaign FTP site at <http://ftp.zginc.ca:84/rickormanmedia> For media, the user ID is rickorman and the password is mediarelease (both are case sensitive).

High-definition Rick Orman video can be accessed through the Rick Orman YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/RickOrman>

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