

December 30, 2011

All Alberta Government MLAs

Dear MLAs:

Re: Strathcona County's Applications Regarding the AUC Heartland Transmission Project Decision

This is our formal letter of support and agreement with Strathcona County's recent application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for a Review and Variance of its Heartland Transmission Project Decision and the associated application by Strathcona County for a Suspension of this Decision until the Review and Variance application has been fully dealt with.

As well, The Colchester Parents' Association supports the recent Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties' (AAMDC) request of the Alberta Government to put all critical transmission projects on hold until a comprehensive cost benefit review is completed.

The AUC Heartland Decision released November 1, 2011 will directly and adversely affect all students and staff at Colchester Elementary School. This decision will ultimately close the school down as no parent wants to take the chance of harming their children, no matter how low the risk may appear to the applicant. Colchester Elementary School has been at the current location over 50 years, much longer than the area was every called a TUC (Transportation Utility Corridor). Now a decision has been made to place a 500KVA overhead power line less than 200 Metres away from the school which will affect all Colchester Elementary School families. This decision, according to Elk Island Public School Board, will cost Alberta taxpayers an estimated \$20 Million to move the Colchester cohort.

On October 21, 2011, the Colchester Parents' Association received a letter from the AUC stating that the Honorable Ted Morton, Minister of Energy and the Government of Alberta was reviewing its approach to three critical transmission infrastructure projects, including the Heartland Transmission Project. Minister Morton requested that the Commission suspend or adjourn its consideration of the applications for these three projects, including the Heartland application, while the government's review is ongoing; A copy of Minister Morton's letter was also attached.

This was the great news for Albertans and even better news for Colchester Elementary School parents', as it appeared that our newly formed Government was listening to our concerns. Only to find our dreams were shattered when the Honourable Premier Alison Redford quickly overturned a decision to suspend the Heartland Transmission Project on the same day as the announcement, stating that the Honourable Ted Morton had simply made a mistake. No formal letter was ever received by the Colchester Parents' Association regarding this overturned decision, just Premier Redford's brief comments to the news media that afternoon.

Our MLA David Quest has also let down Colchester Parents' Association and his constituents by not actively representing our concerns about our school regarding the heartland line which will adversely affect our children's health, safety and environment. Our message was loud and clear from the beginning: "If the line must be built near our school, then bury it!"

Gabriel Chemello,

Acting President, Colchester Parents' Association

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