

Letters to the editor

Teen's open letter to Premier Ed Stelmach

Hello, my name is Maria Vendel, and I am 14 years old and a Grade 9 student at Clover Bar junior high school in Sherwood Park. I understand that you are thinking about putting up the power lines in the TUC west of Sherwood Park. I live in Haythorne Place, and that is only two blocks away from the "danger" area of the power lines.

One thing that I would really like to know, is why would you even think to put the power lines above ground? I'm guessing it's because you don't want to spend the extra money that it takes to put them underground.

If you put the power lines up then that means that I am going to have to move houses. That's going to be very difficult for me seeing as how my family and I have already lived in our house for eight or nine years. It will take a very long time to get used a new house for me.

My youngest sister has lived in our house for her whole life; moving is going to make it even more difficult for her than it will be for me.

Six years ago I met my best friend, and she just happens to be my neighbor. We are still best friends today. We see each other every single day. If you put the power lines up I won't see her anymore and her parents won't want to move just because the power lines are going up.

I will have to risk not seeing her, as well as her maybe getting cancer, just because some people don't want to pay the extra money to bury the power lines. If they do bury them, then I won't even have to worry about that, but I do have to right now because you are still thinking about it.

Another disadvantage of moving is, right now I am in walking distance of my school. I walk to and from school every single day. If we move then my two sisters, one brother, and I would either have to be driven everywhere (which causes

pollution) by my mom, who still has to drive to work, or my siblings and I would have to take the bus (which costs more money).

All of this could be changed if you decide to bury the power lines. It would save many lives and would make many people in your community very happy. You are our premier!

Putting up these power lines will also harm our wildlife. Birds will be flying into these power towers and hanging dead from them. Other wildlife could get diseases and no one can help them. We don't need anymore of the animals in the world to be extinct.

There are many people that can't afford to move right now. And lots of those people have newborn babies or are elderly and can't handle, or aren't strong enough, to go through chemotherapy.

Did you know that the radiation given off from the power lines could give babies leukemia? Leukemia is cancer of the blood. You don't want that kind of blood on

your hands do you? The radiation increases the incidence of brain tumors, Parkinson's, migraines, and numerous other health problems.

My grandparents mean the world to me and I don't want them to have to go through more health problems. I can't stand to lose them, or anyone else, in my family to your power lines. I would be devastated and not the same person anymore.

Premier Stelmach, you would make so many people in Sherwood Park very happy if you buried the power lines. It is stated that many people in Sherwood Park would pay the increase of the cost to bury the power lines. How much money is a person's life really worth to you?

I have heard and read that it isn't even necessary to put these outrageously huge power towers up. What do you have to say to this? How would you feel if these power lines were put up in your backyard, and you had to risk your life and the lives of people that you love?

So I really hope that you read this

through thoroughly and understand how the power lines will affect me and many other citizens in Sherwood Park. You know that you have the choice to put them underground, so do it, and save many lives.

Thank you very much for your time to read my letter of concern. Please reply to me because this is the most important thing to me right now. Thank you very much.

Maria Vendel
Sherwood Park