

HEALTH CANADA AND HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES

The Myth:

Health Canada will protect the Canadian public from the negative health impacts of overhead high voltage power lines and associated electromagnetic fields (EMFs).

The Facts:

● High voltage power line transmission companies such as EPCOR and AltaLink consistently indicate that Health Canada has concluded that EMFs from power lines pose no health risk.

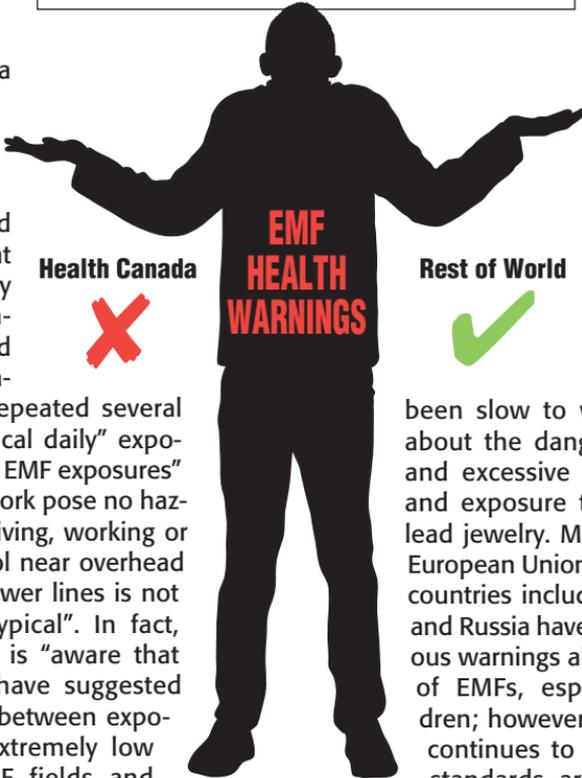
● Health Canada (2004) stated, "There is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposures at levels normally found in Canadian living and working environments." They repeated several times that "typical daily" exposures or "typical EMF exposures" at home or at work pose no hazard. However, living, working or attending school near overhead high voltage power lines is not "normal" or "typical". In fact, Health Canada is "aware that some studies have suggested a possible link between exposure to ELF (extremely low frequency) EMF fields and certain types of childhood cancer." They also state, "More studies are needed to draw firm conclusions." The various statements by Health Canada, taken together, certainly is not the same as saying there is no risk of living, working or attending school near high voltage overhead power lines.

● Since the Health Canada statement in 2004, significant new research and many analyses of existing research have been conducted which show "conclusive links" and "causal correlations" between EMFs and dozens of diseases,

afflictions and other negative health outcomes including death.

● It is important to note that much has been written about Health Canada being "offside" and "out of touch" when compared to warnings and precautions issued by other agencies, governments and scientific organizations about the negative impacts of various products, pollutants and EMFs. For example, Health Canada has been slow to warn Canadians about the dangers of smoking and excessive cell phone use, and exposure to asbestos and lead jewelry. More recently, the European Union and many other countries including China, India and Russia have issued very serious warnings about the impacts of EMFs, especially on children; however, Health Canada continues to suggest that no standards are necessary for exposure to ELF EMFs emitted by high voltage power lines.

● Dr. Havas, a Trent University, Ontario scientist who has conducted significant research on health impacts of EMFs, indicated that Health Canada "is more concerned in protecting the electric utility than it is in protecting the health of Canadians" (Havas 2006).



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