

# Lake Superior Action Research Conservation

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Lake Superior Action Research Conservation ([lsarc.ca](http://www.lsarc.ca)) is concerned that the proponents of wind power continue to disseminate information regarding Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT) which is demonstrably false. Or misleading. The wind marketing group CanWEA has just demonstrated this distressing tactic with a Power Advisory Report prepared in February but released now, in what seems to be damage-control, to counter the Fraser Institute's, "Environmental and Economic Consequences of Ontario's Green Energy Act".

CanWEA's ploy as usual fails to accurately tally all the costs; add on gas plants to make up for wind's lapses which then are forced to yield to wind's excesses when we may also spill our cheap, clean Hydro and steam-off Nuclear, all of which must be paid not to produce. We also pay to export excess electricity and for additional transmission lines.

[lsarc.ca](http://www.lsarc.ca) has already seen this sort of deliberate omission of costs in an MNR document, by the Crupi Consulting Group, titled "Economic Impact of the Greenwich Wind Farm" dated June 2012.  
[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@renewable/documents/document/stdprod\\_098657.pdf](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@mnr/@renewable/documents/document/stdprod_098657.pdf)

Consultation with environmental economics expert Dr. Ross McKittrick, who was then in the process of authoring the Fraser Report resulted in criticism on 9 points, all cautionary, but the second of which states,

"...I am at a loss to understand how a study could claim to have quantified the net economic benefits of a public project without having taken account of its costs, including the direct and indirect tax burdens, the marginal cost of public funds, electricity price increases for consumers, reductions to the rate of return to capital for the mining and forestry sectors, the costs of building new grid capacity to remote generating sites, and so forth. These should have been elementary components of the project evaluation and I am mystified not only at how they could all have been overlooked, but at the fact that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has attached its imprimatur to such a flawed analysis. "

Those of us who have attended wind developer's public consultations are all too familiar with this sort of work and lack of proper oversight by the Province. .

Northern Ontario has had the Prince Wind Farm in operation since 2006; one of the first and largest in the Province, it stands in reality as an a perfect example of the insuperable flaws of low density, intermittent, highly variable and unreliable wind energy. Prince Wind farm has helped us spot the shoddy reports and outright deceit in the proposed projects. The local, experience as you can see and hear in the 'Voices of Prince Video', has not been one which deserves repeating and the Bow Lake video shows some of what we have to lose if we do.

The Green Energy Act (GEA) itself avoided proper cost/benefit analysis but the worst transgression may be political rather than either environmental or economic. Some municipalities are not even aware that the GEA removed planning authority with respect to renewable energy from the municipal purview. Many Southern Ontario municipalities have learned the truth about turbines the hard way while desperately trying to find some means of protecting their communities.

The United States Constitution requires that higher levels of government co-ordinate legislation and regulation with local government; there is no such Constitutional protection in Canada so the GEA's erosion of local democracy is critical. Currently we are in a desperate situation. A government which will not follow proper business protocols is not one which should be allowed to trade the wilderness allure which is the foundation of our sustainable northern tourism industry for a failed energy experiment which is unsustainable without subsidies.

Every rural community is at risk of having unwanted industrial energy projects forced on them, but the proposed wind developments on Lake Superior's majestic shores will blight one of the most scenic coastal routes in the Province. Again the Government has not fully assessed the costs. LSARC's appraisal, based on weeks of interaction with tourists on the Alona Bay scenic lookout, is that there will be a pervasive negative effect on regional tourism.

The accompanying documents are herewith delivered to inform Council and to support this request for the opportunity to make a presentation to Council at your earliest convenience, on the matter of a resolution for a return of local democracy, a proper cost/benefit assessment of the GEA and a moratorium on all industrial wind developments until such time as the Health Canada study on adverse health effects of industrial wind turbines is completed.

Further supporting documents can be found at [www.lsarc.ca/documents](http://www.lsarc.ca/documents). Should you require more information please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@lsarc.ca](mailto:research@lsarc.ca)

Sincerely,

George Browne  
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