

This letter is addressed to the Presidents of Canadian Veterans Associations.

Association Basse-Normandie Environnement
Member of the Fédération Environnement Durable (FED)
<www.environnementdurable.net>
and of the European Platform Against Windfarms (EPAW)
<www.epaw.org>

6th of June 2009

Dear President,

You are no doubt, as we are in France, in favour of the development of renewable energies in the war against the greenhouse effect. However, in our country the effort from the government is focused uniquely and unthinkingly on the massive development of gigantic wind farms. This gives rise to serious problems, one of which concerns yourselves as you will see further on.

You know that in Canada the inhabitants have asked that the windmills be set up far away and out of sight. Here in France we have them within 500 yards from people's homes.

You have a very vast country, it is possible, but our country is very small and highly populated in comparison to yours. Just imagine from your window you were surrounded on all sides by very tall windmills (more than 120 meters high) turning night and day, the three blades of each windmill occupying a half hectare of your vision and the flashing lights going on and off every second 24/7.

Building wind farms in inhabited areas is always a great disturbance for the people living there. They transform forever their living environment, their skyline, the natural landscape they are used to. Favourite walks have been spoiled ; you can no longer enjoy the sunsets, the sky and the stars. (It wouldn't be so bad if they were of any use...)

The uselessness of industrial wind farms in France

Before we ask you our favour, we have to briefly explain that in France, the production of wind farm electricity is not only bad for the local inhabitants and very costly for the tax-payer, but over and above all totally useless.

- We used to think that the electricity produced by these industrial wind farms was going to reduce the gases of the greenhouse effect. Alas, in France it is not possible because here the gases come from central heating, road transport, industry and very little from the production of electricity. Having a country full of wind farms would resolve absolutely nothing, but would ruin our landscape forever.

- To reduce the effect of greenhouse gases in a country like ours, there are two solutions :

1. Economy of energy, insulate houses and public buildings, etc.
2. The development of solar energy and photovoltaic, heat pumps, Canadian airshafts, biomass, etc.

These are the solutions we are fighting for.

This is the reason why the Canadian veterans are concerned.

You are also concerned by this very serious situation : in 1944 it was the Canadian army which contributed to the liberation of that part of Normandy, running from Juno Beach to Falaise. Your troops won the terrible Battle of the Laizon 14th August (operation *Tractable*) during which Major Styffe lost his life in Maizières. This village gave his name to its main street in 2001 at a grand ceremony attended by his family and representatives of his Lake Superior Regiment from Thunder Bay (Ontario).

Last summer, a tourist bus filled with Canadian visitors stopped at the Canadian monument erected in memory of the British Columbia Regiment, which is located on a hill called "Cote 111" belonging to the village of Rouvres. To the west of the plain is the Canadian military cemetery at Cintheaux/Bretteville-sur-Laize where Major Styffe is buried alongside 3 000 of his comrades.

They were surprised and shocked to see 8 windmills turning and flashing at 10 kilometers to the north and 10 others at 10 km to the south. They considered it to be a desecration. Since then 14 other machines have been erected to the north and 14 to the east of the Caen Plain. More are to be built since this region of Lower Normandy has been chosen to house the wind farms – anything between 200 and 500, no-one is sure of the numbers.

Here in France a lot of wind farms are being built everywhere and especially anywhere without taking into consideration historic sites. We feel we are again invaded as we were by the stakes (then called "Rommel's Asparagus") driven into the ground by the German Army to fend off the allies. Today the offending stakes are replaced by wind farms.

Consequently, we would be most obliged if you would write a letter expressing how grieved you are to learn that the Caen-Falaise Plain forever connected with the memory of the Canadian armed intervention is to be entirely desecrated by a massive industrialized complex. This project cannot be justified either from an economic or an ecological point of view.

Kindly address your letter to the following and address us a copy (laizonenvironnement@nordnet.fr) :

Monsieur Christian LEYRIT

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Rue Saint-Laurent
14000 Caen
France

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Monsieur Laurent BEAUVAIS

Président de la région Basse-Normandie
Place Reine Mathilde
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<www.cr-basse-normandie.fr>

We would like to renew our thanks for your help in 1944 .

Yours faithfully,

Hervé Texier

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Le Val
14260 Courvaudon
France

Christiane Alexis

Comité Major Styffe
2, chemin de Fossard
14190 Maizières
France

Corinne Bourdon

Laizon Environnement
12, chemin de la Croix-Nicolas
14190 Maizières
France

P. S. : Here are the main against windfarms associations in Canada you can consult on the web :

Québec : <http://eoliennes-infos.com>

Nova Scotia : Preserve Wentworth Valley

Ontario : Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County / Blue Highlands Citizens Coalition /

Chatham-Kent Wind Action Group / Essex County Wind Resistance / Essex County Wind Action Group /

Grey Highlands Wind Action Group / Guildwood Village / Innisfil Wind Watchers /

No Sydenham Windfarm / Save Our Skyline, Renfrew County / Wind Concerns Ontario /

Wolfe Island Residents for the Environment (WIRE)

Prince Edward Island : The Complete Picture Campaign to preserve Malpeque.



Canadian military cemetery on the Caen plain
Cintheaux village, Calvados
Normandy, France
April 2009



Caen plain
Quatre Puits
in Vieux-Fumé village
Calvados, Normandy
France
April 2009



Caen plain
Fierville-Bray village
Calvados, Normandy
France
April 2009



Caen plain

View from the Canadian Memorial dedicated to
the British Columbia Regiment
Rouvres village, Calvados, Normandy, France
April 2009



View from the town of Falaise

Calvados, Normandy
France
April 2009



Caen plain

One of many similar street plates to be seen in our villages



Dedication
of Maizières main street
to Major Edward G. Styffe
(Lake Superior Regiment)
in presence of Roy Lamore,
President of Veterans Association
of Thunder Bay (Ontario)
Maizières, Calvados,
Normandy, France
8th of May 2001