

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET**

BYLAW NO. 013-2012

Being a bylaw for prescribing the minimum setback distance for the construction of all Industrial Wind Turbines, also known as Wind Turbine Generators, to be erected within the borders of the Township of Wainfleet, **AND** to require that any such construction, in compliance with this bylaw or not, shall also provide indemnification for any loss of property value or adverse health effect therefrom to the extent of 100%.

WHEREAS government Ministers, Ministries, Agencies and Municipalities have an ethical duty and legal obligation to protect the health, safety, quality of life and well being of citizens and their properties;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in *114957 Canada Ltée (Spraytech, Société d'arrosage) v. Hudson (Town)*, 2001 SCC 40. File No.: 26937, held that Municipalities, in addition to specific powers conferred by statute, also have included in that authority "general welfare" powers, upon which Municipalities can draw to enact bylaws genuinely aimed at furthering goals such as public health and safety, protection of Property and the like;

AND WHEREAS s.9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, SO 2001, c 25*, grants Municipalities Powers of a natural person;

AND WHEREAS the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, being Part 1 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, confers specific rights and freedoms on all Canadians, including that of Due Process, which rights and freedoms are to be protected by all levels of government, including the Municipal;

AND WHEREAS s.130 of the *Municipal Act, 2001, SO 2001, c 25*, in force until July 1, 2012, still states "A municipality may regulate matters not specifically provided for by this Act or any other Act for purposes related to the health, safety and well-being of the inhabitants of the municipality";

AND WHEREAS ss.128 – 129 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* confer powers to regulate *Public Nuisances, Noise, Odour, Dust, etc.*;

AND WHEREAS s.128 (2) also states "The opinion of council under this section, if arrived at in good faith, is not subject to review by any court";

AND WHEREAS s. 11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* confers broad authority on the Municipality, including the passing of bylaws, *inter alia*, for the "Economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality" and for the "Health, safety and well-being of persons";

AND WHEREAS s.1 (1) of the *Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E-19* states that:

“adverse effect” means one or more of;

- (a) *impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it*
- (b) *injury or damage to property or to plant or animal life,*
- (c) *harm or material discomfort to any person,*
- (d) *an adverse effect on the health of any person,*
- (e) *impairment of the safety of any person,*
- (f) *rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for human use,*
- (g) *loss of enjoyment of normal use of property, and*
- (h) *interference with the normal conduct of business; (“consequence préjudiciable”),*

and further states,

“contaminant” means any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration, radiation or combination of any of them resulting directly or indirectly from human activities that causes or may cause an adverse effect (“contaminant”);

AND WHEREAS s.3 of the *Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E-19* also states “*The purpose of this Act is to provide for the protection and conservation of the natural environment*”;

AND WHEREAS there is mounting documented evidence of the adverse impact of IWT technology on humans, wildlife and livestock;

AND WHEREAS the *World Health Organisation* recommends ambient noise levels be less than 30dB (a) inside a Property dwelling;

AND WHEREAS several jurisdictions worldwide have enacted or recommended laws or bylaws to regulate Setback distances of 2 to 10km for Industrial Wind Turbines;

AND WHEREAS more than 70 Ontario Municipalities, including Wainfleet, as well as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, have asked for a Moratorium on wind power development and for more and better studies on the impact of wind power;

AND WHEREAS some Ontario realtors have asserted that properties within sight and sound of IWT's are available at prices 20 to 40% lower than those properties without IWT interference;

AND WHEREAS restrictions in the laws of Ontario governing Municipalities and the Environment variously contradict one another and restrictions in the laws governing Alternative Energy generation do the same;

AND WHEREAS nothing in this bylaw frustrates the purpose of the laws governing alternative energy generation, it being the Municipality's concern to promote the responsible use of alternative energy in a manner that does no harm to persons, wildlife and livestock;

AND WHEREAS s.92 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* provides further that the "Exclusive Powers of Provincial Legislatures" includes upholding *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, being Part 1 of said Act;

AND WHEREAS the fundamental rights of Canadian persons cannot be extinguished or modified except by s.33 ("*Notwithstanding*", clause) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The Constitution Act, 1982*;

AND WHEREAS it is reasonable and prudent for the protection of the Municipality's citizens;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet
HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Definitions:

1. In this By-law, the listed words have the following meanings:
 - (a) "Setback" means a horizontal radial distance;
 - (b) "Industrial Wind Turbine" (IWT), means a wind turbine power generator using blade technology with a hub height exceeding 30 metres;
 - (c) "Property" means property line, vacant land, dwelling or structure and their inhabitants of all species used for private or business or public purposes;
 - (d) "Municipality" means the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet;
 - (e) "Construction" includes placement, erection, alteration, repair, dismantling, demolition, structural maintenance, painting, moving, land clearing and cleaning, earth moving, grading, excavating, the laying of pipe and conduit whether above or below ground level, street and highway building, concreting, equipment installation and alteration and the structural installation of construction components and materials in any form or for any purpose and includes any work in connection therewith.
 - (f) "Noise" means unwanted sound, vibration, or both, emitted by or related to an Industrial Wind Turbine or Turbines;
 - (g) "Developer" means any person or business or company involved in the development, Construction and operation of an Industrial Wind Turbine, including the legal owner of said Turbine; AND, person, business, company, Turbine and owner can be construed in the singular and in the plural;

Application:

This bylaw applies to all property within the territory of the Municipality.

This bylaw applies to all property owned by the Municipality.

Prohibition:

1. For the Construction, erection or operation of any IWT inside the Municipality, there shall be a minimum Setback of a distance of 2km from any property measured from the tip of the rotor blade in horizontal position;
2. In any case, noise emitted by the IWT shall not exceed 32dB at the nearest property;
3. The Developer shall provide an indemnification of 100% for any loss of property value or adverse health effect directly or indirectly caused by an IWT.

Severability:

If a portion of this bylaw is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed section.

Force and Effect:

This bylaw shall come into force and take effect on the day of its Final passing.

BYLAW READ A FIRST TIME THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH, 2012.

BYLAW READ A SECOND TIME THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH, 2012.

BYLAW READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 10th DAY OF APRIL, 2012.

A. Jeffs, MAYOR

T. Lamb, CLERK

TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

RESOLUTION


Moved by Betty Konc

No. C-177-2012

Seconded by David Wyatt

Date: April 24, 2012

THAT the Clerk be directed to circulate Bylaw No. 013-2012, being a bylaw for prescribing the minimum setback distance for the construction of all Industrial Wind Turbines, also known as Wind Turbine Generators, to be erected within the borders of the Township of Wainfleet, and to require that any such construction, in compliance with this bylaw or not, shall also provide indemnification for any loss of property value or adverse health effect therefrom to the extent of 100%, to all Ontario municipalities to demonstrate Council's support for the health and safety of its residents and request that fellow municipalities support Wainfleet's initiative by adopting a similar bylaw.

Carried  Lost
Mayor (Chairman)

Recorded on
Request of: _____

Councilor / Staff Member	Yeas	Nays
Alderman Dykstra		
Alderman Hessels		
Alderman Konc		
Alderman Wyatt		
Mayor Jeffs		

Carried _____ Lost
Clerk

