



Canadian Environmental Law Association
L'Association canadienne du droit de l'environnement

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PRESS RELEASE

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FUNDING SOUGHT FOR INTERVENORS IN HYDRO TRANSMISSION LINE HEARINGS

The Hydro Consumers Association, Pollution Probe - Ottawa, Energy Probe and the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) joined today in seeking funding from the Ministry of the Environment for intervenors in the hearing regarding Ontario Hydro's application for the construction of two 500 KV transmission lines through eastern Ontario.

The environmental groups stressed that the right to participation in Environmental Assessment hearings is merely window-dressing where the resources of the participants are as disparate as those of Ontario Hydro and the intervenors.

Without adequate funding the notion of meaningful public participation is undermined. The hearing would become a modern day version of Christians v. Lions.

The intervenors intend to call evidence on the environmental effects of constructing the hydro lines, and provide sounder alternatives to Hydro's proposals.

In order to ensure that all the evidence gets before the Hearing Board, the Ministry must adopt a policy that provides funds for intervenors.

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Letter to The Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of the Environment, is attached.