

Sound Familiar?

In 1954, the tobacco industry published the following statement:

"We believe the products we make are not injurious to health." And, incredibly, they added: "We always have and always will cooperate with those whose task it is to safeguard the public health."

This statement contradicted the medical consensus that tobacco use caused cancer and respiratory illnesses. Furthermore, the industry had not produced any evidence, nor conducted any independent public study, to prove their product was not injurious to health. **Sound familiar?**

Rather than cooperating, as promised, with "those whose task it is to safeguard the public," they pursued a strategy of non-disclosure and misinformation. With this strategy they:

- criticized studies by independent scientists that revealed the health risks;
- said there was a lack of scientific consensus on the hazards;
- misrepresented the risks by continuing to say their products were safe;
- deliberately manipulated the data to promote their strategic intent;
- referenced studies that were nameless and out of date.

Sound familiar?

It took 40 years for the tobacco industry to be held accountable for its misleading claims. How long will it take for a responsible government – either local or Provincial – to ensure your health, safety, environment, natural heritage and property values are not exposed to unnecessary risk and nuisance?

When AIM PowerGen cites a "study" that purports to support their views, why are they all nameless? Why are they all years out-of-date and highly selective? Ask yourself: why has the industry refused to conduct a full, independent health study of its own to prove its many claims?

Asbestos manufacturers told us it was a safe building material when they knew otherwise. The wind industry refuses to undertake research on health risks, preferring instead to tell us it's just "all in our heads."

Pro-wind lobby groups tell us property values increase because of wind turbines when common sense surely indicates otherwise. They don't tell you about the many owners who cannot sell their homes at any price. The studies they use look at property values within a 16 mile radius of wind turbines. Sixteen miles!! Do you detect something fishy in their data?

If our elected politicians aren't holding wind developers accountable, or holding them to a higher standard (on setbacks), then who's looking after your interests? Ask questions and get involved before it's too late. Much like cancer, remedies "after the fact" can be both painful and expensive.

A public service message paid for by citizens who seek to preserve the quality of life in Grey Highlands.