



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Councillor John Filion, Chair
Toronto Board of Health

**Re: Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Study
of proposed East Toronto Transmission Line**

Dear Councillor Filion and members of the Board of Health

It has emerged that the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is may move forward with a high-voltage, \$600 million transmission line moving through East Toronto and potentially impacting residents in Wards 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 37, 39, 40 and 41.

As power frequency magnetic fields (such as those produced by power systems) are recognized to be possibly carcinogenic, this transmission lines are a considerable potential hazard to the health of nearby residents from electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure.

Many studies have found a link between exposure to EMF and cancer: for example, a recent study from the Childhood Cancer Research Group at Oxford University concluded that there was a "raised risk of childhood leukemia" in children living in closer proximity to high voltage lines. In addition to cancer, some studies have suggested that exposure to EMF could also result in an increase risk of miscarriages, neurodegenerative conditions, and behavioural effects.

Given the potential for this new transmission line to increase exposures to EMFs in Toronto, I ask that the Board of Health request the Minister of Energy and Minister of Environment to direct the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to fund a health impact assessment study regarding the proposed transmission lines for Toronto, and that this study be overseen by the Toronto Medical Officer of Health. This assessment would consider alternative routings and approaches. As well, that the Board request OPA to provide funding to Toronto Public Health so that it has the resources to provide the necessary oversight.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor, Ward 30

