

## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES

### The Myth:

*Albertans are not concerned about overhead high voltage power lines and are not willing to pay to get them buried.*

### The Facts:

- Results of an objective public opinion survey conducted by Leger Marketing (a national pollster), indicating the views of Albertans on electricity transmission, were released November 3, 2009.
- A telephone survey of 900 randomly selected Alberta households from across the province was conducted between October 16 and 26, 2009, and results are accurate to within  $\pm 3.3$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
- 83% of Albertans are concerned (62% very concerned) about the safety of small children associated with above ground high voltage power lines, and 70% indicate concern about health effects on children from exposure to power line electromagnetic fields.
- 71% of Albertans indicate concern about the noise and appearance associated with above ground high voltage power lines.
- While a majority of Albertans agree high voltage power lines can be located below ground by homes, schools or daycare centres, significantly fewer agree that power lines can be located above ground near these locations.



- On average, Albertans are willing to pay an additional \$3.55 on their monthly power bill to have high voltage power lines buried in the province of Alberta when they run close to people's homes or schools.
- A large majority of Albertans (79%) feel that the value of a home is decreased when it is located near an above ground high voltage power line, and on average, Albertans believe the home is devalued by 16% (note that this average also includes those who felt the value of a home would stay the same and includes the opinions of both homeowners and renters).
- Detailed results of the Leger Marketing opinion survey, including a demographic profile, can be found at [www.reta.ca](http://www.reta.ca).

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go to [www.reta.ca](http://www.reta.ca)

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