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**From:** Camelot [info@camelot-connection.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2013 9:21 AM  
**To:** Commission Secretary BCUC:EX  
**Subject:** BC Hydro smart meter choices program

**Importance:** High

Attn. Ms. Erica Hamilton  
Commission Secretary  
BC Utilities Commission  
6th Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

And to:

Janet Fraser  
Chief Regulatory Officer  
BC Hydro and Power Authority  
16th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

As registered interveners in BC Hydro's application for approval of charges in the Meter Choices Program, we are submitting the following letter:

The liberal government had bypassed the BCUC years ago by approving the smart meter program without any supervision and without any public consultation.

Now the liberal government is again stripping the BCUC of any decisional power in the matter by ordering it not to interfere with the program.

The only glimpse of the "independent body" left to the BCUC by the government is the ability to set the amount of the opt-out fees and therefore we would like to focus on this aspect instead of writing at length about this whole undemocratic process which is being forced on the citizens of BC with absolutely no regard for civil rights, human rights, safety and privacy issues, critical health issues, opinion polls and by totally ignoring the science and the experience of other jurisdictions with similar programs. . It bears repeating, though, that the "opt out" participants have real serious concerns about microwave wireless radiation proven in thousands of double blind, peer reviewed scientific studies, in addition to real serious concerns about security and safety.

These “opt-out fees” have been “justified” by BC Hydro by using fictitious arguments and bogus reasons which we are not going to waste our time analyzing.

There is only one comment to make about these fees, and that is they are totally unjustified and have been clearly made up for the sole purpose of forcing more people who cannot afford paying them to “accept” a smart meter, and this by the minister’s own admission.

The proof that these fees are unjustified is the simple fact that in many other jurisdictions in Canada and the US where the opt-out option has been allowed in the smart meter program, there is either no fee at all or much lower ones. There cannot be any possible reason why the alleged “extra costs” claimed by BCH are so much higher than everywhere else. In fact, the smart meters used are very similar, the infrastructure is very similar and the utilities operate very similarly all over North America.

Furthermore, the reading costs have always been included in the service, in fact opt-out houses should be given a credit for not using more expensive equipment which will be redundant before they have even paid for themselves.

It is obvious that the only reason for these outrageous fees is to blackmail customers into accepting a smart meter.

Therefore, we ask you to use to the full extent the only glimpse of decisional power left to you by reducing the proposed fees to a nominal \$1.00 monthly fee. If you do that, you will send a very clear message to BCH and the government that the BCUC is still there to protect the interests of the customers. If, on the other hand, you approve the proposed fees, then you will be sending an equally strong message that you approve of the undemocratic methods used by BCH and the liberal government of which you will become an accomplice.

We hope that you will do the right thing in the name of fairness and democracy.  
Thank you.

Respectfully,

Prof. R. Spogliarich  
Shelley Spogliarich

