

**Rational Dissent and Informed Consent - Climate Change Dialogues in Calgary:**

**Responding to Haney (2022)**

**Revised November 26, 2023**

Michelle Stirling

Independent

**Author Note**

This is an independent work. The author acknowledges a professional connection to Friends of Science Society.

Contact: [stirlingmi2@gmail.com](mailto:stirlingmi2@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Social scientists have been active participants in assessing and debunking climate change denialism. This paper applies the Scientific Method (Armstrong & Green 2022) to deconstruct the work of Haney (2022) who theorized that the massive 2013 flood in the City of Calgary, home to many oil sands and oil/gas industry head offices, would be understood by those well-to-do energy industry executives, living alongside the rivers, as evidence of climate change. Haney's analysis of interviews with 40 such individuals assumes that it is a case of confirmation bias related to their livelihood or fear of change, that these people continue to hold dissenting views on climate. This paper will expose the bias, flaws, and lack of research integrity in Haney (2022). Stirling, the author of this paper, acknowledges a direct connection to Friends of Science Society, referred to by Haney, though this is an independent work of hers.

*Keywords:* Climate Change, science, denial, Canada, oil and gas

## Rational Dissent and Informed Consent - Climate Change Dialogues in Calgary:

### Responding to Haney (2022)

Revised November 26, 2023

*“Science is not a democracy. Science is about evidence.” – Dr. Nir Shaviv*

In Haney (2022) ‘Scientists don’t care about truth anymore’: the climate crisis and rejection of science in Canada’s oil country (Haney, 2022), the author (and associates) conducted forty in-depth interviews with residents of Calgary, Alberta who live along the Bow and Elbow rivers, which catastrophically flooded in 2013. Many of the residents of these areas, some of whom live in very high-end real estate properties, work directly or indirectly in Alberta’s energy sector. Many oil sands and oil/gas companies are headquartered in Calgary. Canada has the third largest oil reserves in the world, much of it in the Alberta oil sands. The results of the 1-to-3-hour interviews by Haney and his team were then transcribed and coded into NVivo transcription software to provide the material for their qualitative research project. Haney’s quest in 2021, six years after the interviews were done, was to determine whether or not people who work in the fossil fuel industry, when directly affected by an extreme weather event, would “continue to deny the scientific consensus on climate change and distrust climate scientists even after themselves experiencing a catastrophic flood?” Haney further posits that this event would motivate affected individuals (especially those employed by or aligned with the energy sector) to comply with the presented consensus view that humans are the principal cause of climate change. Haney assumes that the fossil fuel industry and use of their products drives extreme weather events, and that mitigating the use of fossil fuels would stop such natural disasters. Haney’s paper concludes that the results of his research prove his thesis and shows “how fossil fuel dependence shapes these [dissenting] views.” Haney makes passing reference to the Climategate emails, as a reason for people losing trust in science and scientists. Subsequently, he pejoratively associates conservative and free market views with conspiracy ideation and climate change ‘denial.’ This paper will demonstrate that the Haney paper does not prove his thesis, nor does it meet the standards of the Scientific Method. The Haney work also suffers from bias, assumption, factual flaws, and lack of research integrity. The paper will show that there is a large, extremely well-funded coordinated effort to push a singular climate change narrative, and that

the Climategate emails illustrate how scientific integrity has been damaged. In the Haney work, there are five pejorative references to “Friends of Science,” an independent, volunteer-run, Calgary-based non-profit which has been providing climate science and related energy policy insights to the public, free of charge, for twenty years. Friends of Science Society was founded in 2002 by a group of earth, atmospheric, solar scientists, Professional Engineers, and citizens to address their scientific, economic, and energy security concerns about the Kyoto Accord (a similar international agreement to the 2015 Paris Agreement). This author (Stirling) acknowledges that she is the Communications Manager for Friends of Science Society and has worked with Friends of Science Society for the past decade; is co-creator of the billboard campaigns pejoratively referred to by Haney and is the principal public spokesperson for the organization in presentations, media interviews, and YouTube videos. Thus, due to this Conflict of Interest in critiquing Haney’s work, Stirling enlisted the aid of Dr. Kesten Green, co-author of “The Scientific Method; A Guide to Finding Useful Knowledge” (Armstrong & Green 2022) to provide an evaluation of Haney (2022).

### **Methodology**

Using the analytical framework described in “The Scientific Method...” (Armstrong & Green 2022) as a guide, various elements of Haney (2022) will be deconstructed in this paper. It should be noted that according to a co-founder of Friends of Science, the original name for “Friends of Science” was to be “Friends of the Scientific Method” (of using evidence-based methods to prove hypotheses), however there were not enough spaces in the non-profit registration form, so the name was shortened. According to Armstrong & Green, ‘as derived from the words of famous and pioneering scientists’ there are eight criteria which can summarize the Scientific Method (p. 11).

#### **Eight Criteria of the Scientific Method (Armstrong & Green 2022)<sup>1</sup>**

1. Study important problems
2. Build on prior knowledge
3. Provide full disclosure
4. Use objective designs
5. Use valid and reliable data
6. Use valid simple methods
7. Use experimental evidence
8. Draw logical conclusions

Based on these, Armstrong & Green developed a quick True-or-False check-list which can be used on any research paper to evaluate, in a brief period of time, whether or not the paper complies with the standards of the Scientific Method.

The author of this paper (Stirling) communicated with Dr. Kesten Green by email, asking if he would provide an applied example of his research by evaluating Haney (2022) according to that checklist, as a ‘proof of concept,’ and he agreed to do so. Green spent about 30 minutes on the checklist. No financial compensation was offered to Green by Stirling; no funding was exchanged for this service.

## Results

The following summarizes the results of Green’s checklist assessment, with Green identified as the ‘External Reviewer’ (ER). The original completed checklist follows this written overview.

### Evaluation

#### 1. Problem is important for decision making, policy or method development

ER found that the importance of the problem is clear from Haney’s title, abstract, result tables or conclusions, but did not think the findings add to cumulative scientific knowledge. The uses of the findings were not clear to ER, nor did he see how the findings could be used to improve people’s lives without resorting to duress or deceit.

#### 2. Prior knowledge was comprehensively reviewed and summarized

ER did not see the paper as describing objective and comprehensive procedures used to search for prior useful scientific knowledge but did find that the paper did describe how prior substantive findings were used to develop hypotheses and research procedures.

**3. Disclosure is sufficiently comprehensive for understanding and replication**

ER did not find that Haney's methods were fully and clearly described so as to be fully understood by all relevant stakeholders including potential users. The data was not easily accessible using information provided in the paper. The sources of funding were described.

**4. Design is objective (unbiased by advocacy)**

ER found that prior hypotheses were clearly described by Haney, but not all reasonable hypotheses were included in the design. Likewise, revisions to hypotheses or lack of revisions were not noted.

**5. Data are valid (true measures) and reliable (repeatable measures)**

ER found that data were not shown to be relevant to the problem. All relevant data were not used, including the longest time-series. The reliability of the data was not assessed. Other information needed for assessing the reliability of the data was not provided (such as adjustments, known shortcomings and potential biases).

**6. Methods were validated (proven fit for purpose)**

ER found that methods were not explained clearly nor shown valid, though the methods were sufficiently simple for potential users to understand. Multiple validated methods were not used, nor did the methods use cumulative scientific knowledge explicitly.

**7. Experimental evidence was used to compare alternative hypotheses**

ER found that experimental evidence was not used to compare hypotheses under explicit conditions, nor was predictive validity of hypotheses tested using out-of-sample data.

**8. Conclusions follow logically from evidence presented**

ER found that conclusions in the Haney paper go beyond the evidence in the paper and that the conclusions appear to be the product of confirmation bias. ER found that he does commit logical fallacies (false, because he does not avoid them).

**Describe the most important scientific finding in your own words.**

*ER: It seems that the author learned nothing from interviewing people who were more scientifically skeptical and better informed on the diversity of scientific opinion and motivations regarding the dangerous man-made global warming alarm than he. The paper describes an advocacy research study, and makes no scientific contribution.*

**Sum the criteria (1-8) rated True for compliance: [0] of 8**

Checklist 1: Compliance With Science Checklist

Paper title: Haney (2022) 'Scientists don't care about the truth...' Reviewer: K Green      Date: 5-Jan-2022 Time spent (minutes): 30		5. Data are valid (true measures) and reliable (repeatable measures) <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?
<b>Instructions for Raters</b> 1. Skim the paper while you complete the checklist <i>as a skeptical reviewer</i> . 2. Rate each lettered item, below, marking the relevant checkbox to indicate True if the research complies, F/? (False/Unclear) if the research does <i>not</i> comply, or if you are unsure. <b>IMPORTANT:</b> If you are <i>not convinced</i> that the paper complied, rate the item F/? 3. If you rate an item True, give reasons for your rating in your own words. 4. Rate criteria 1-8 as True by marking the checkbox only if all lettered items for the criterion are rated T.		a. Data were shown to be relevant to the problem <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. All relevant data were used, including the longest relevant time-series <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Reliability of data was assessed <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. Other information needed for assessing the validity of the data is provided, such as adjustments, known shortcomings and potential biases <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>First assess whether the paper complies with the lettered items under each criterion below. Then assess whether it complies with each of the eight criteria based on compliance with the lettered items. Avoid speculation.</b>		6. Methods were validated (proven fit for purpose) and simple <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?
1. Problem is important for decision making, policy, or method development <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?		a. Methods were explained clearly and shown valid—unless well known to intended readers, users, and reviewers, and validity is obvious <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Methods were sufficiently simple for potential users to understand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> c. Multiple validated methods were used <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. Methods used cumulative scientific knowledge explicitly <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Importance of the problem clear from the title, abstract, result tables, or conclusions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> b. Findings add to cumulative scientific knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Uses of the findings are clear to you <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. The findings can be used to improve people's lives without resorting to duress or deceit <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		7. Experimental evidence was used to compare alternative hypotheses <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?
2. Prior knowledge was comprehensively reviewed and summarized <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?		a. Experimental evidence was used to compare hypotheses under explicit conditions <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Predictive validity of hypotheses was tested using out-of-sample data <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. The paper describes objective and comprehensive procedures used to search for prior useful scientific knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. The paper describes how prior substantive findings were used to develop hypotheses (e.g. direction and magnitude of effects of causal variables) and research procedures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		8. Conclusions follow logically from the evidence presented <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?
3. Disclosure is sufficiently comprehensive for understanding and replication <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?		a. Conclusions do not go beyond the evidence in the paper <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Conclusions are not the product of confirmation bias <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Conclusions do not reject a hypothesis by denying the antecedent <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d. Conclusions do not support a hypothesis by affirming the consequent <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. Methods are fully and clearly described so as to be understood by all relevant stakeholders, including potential users <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Data are easily accessible using information provided in the paper <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Sources of funding are described, or absence of external funding noted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Describe the most important scientific finding in your own words. It seems that the author learned nothing from interviewing people who were more scientifically skeptical and better informed on the diversity of scientific opinion and motivations regarding the dangerous man-made global warming alarm than he. The paper describes an advocacy research study, and makes no scientific contribution.
4. Design is objective (unbiased by advocacy) <input type="checkbox"/> True T F/?		Sum the criteria (1–8) rated True for compliance: [ 0 ] of 8
a. Prior hypotheses are clearly described (e.g., regarding directions and magnitudes of relationships, and effects of conditions) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> b. All reasonable hypotheses are included in the design, including plausible naïve, no-meaningful-difference, and current-practice hypotheses <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Revisions to hypotheses are described, or absence of revisions noted <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		From Armstrong, J. S., & Green, K. C. (2020) <i>The Scientific Method</i> . Forthcoming.

A true copy of Dr. Green's evaluation of Haney (2022) abstract. See full reference for Scientific Method book at [thescientificmethod.info](http://thescientificmethod.info)



## Discussion

Haney (2022) is premised on the notion that the catastrophic Calgary flood of 2013 is evidence of climate change. A single extreme weather event does not meet the definition of climate change.

### Climate change definition:

IPCC – “A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings, or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.”<sup>1</sup>

Calgary saw eight of the worst floods in its history prior to 1933. This is well documented on the Calgary Public Library’s website “Calgary Flood Story.”<sup>2</sup> Though prior work by Haney<sup>3</sup> refers to Calgary’s flood history, the exclusion of this fact from Haney (2022) is misleading to readers.

Furthermore, the Calgary flood of 2013 was strictly a rare, but known, meteorological event, as discussed by The Weather Network at the time<sup>4</sup> and by Milrad et al (2015).<sup>5</sup> However, it is a favorite event for climate activists, politicians, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and even some climate scientists, to use as an example of ‘climate change.’

An example of a climate scientist misattributing the Calgary flood to climate change is that of Dr. Katharine Hayhoe. In 2018, she and ‘Climate George’ Marshall conducted a public workshop

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://archive.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX-Annex\\_Glossary.pdf](https://archive.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srex/SREX-Annex_Glossary.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://floodstory.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://3km.ca/2021/12/04/why-are-homes-still-being-built-along-rivers-flooded-residents-disagree-on-the-solution/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/news/articles/calgary-floods-it-could-happen-again/8295>

<sup>5</sup> <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/mwre/143/7/mwr-d-14-00236.1.xml>

for the City of Calgary's Climate Symposium.<sup>6</sup> This author was present. Dr. Hayhoe discussed with the audience how climate change does not seem relevant until it touches you personally and asked the audience how many people were affected by the Calgary flood. Most of the audience raised their hands. Though primarily residents alongside the river were directly affected by the flood, many bridges and roadways were closed, access to the downtown core (where thousands of people worked at that time) was cut-off for weeks, and access to services on either side of the river was limited or impossible for some time for many Calgarians. Dr. Hayhoe then asked the audience to break into groups to discuss the impact of the flood and their fears and feelings about climate change. This author was in a group with two other women who expressed great fear about what happened and how things will get worse. This author then told the two women that the worst floods in Calgary's history had been before 1933, and that the Calgary flood of 2013 was a rare meteorological event, combined with a significant snowpack in the nearby Rockies, leading to extremely heavy runoff and flooding. This information immediately and completely changed the mood and perspective of the two women.

Contrary to Dr. Hayhoe's and Haney's claims regarding extreme weather events as climate change, Dr. John Harper, FGSA, FGAC, PGeol., former director of the Geological Survey of Canada, said in a 2016 interview:

*"...the average individual doesn't live long enough<sup>7</sup> to even see the impact of the slightest of changes. If you had more days than a year what would that mean for climate? In the Cambrian, it's been documented we had somewhere around 450 days in a year. We've only got 365 days now, so what does that mean? Does that mean that the Earth has slowed down or the Earth's become bigger or the earth is farther away from the*

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://youtu.be/LFYo44CO3TY>

<sup>7</sup> Climate change occurs over periods of 30, 50, 100 and millennial time frames.

*Sun? What does it mean and that's an aspect that it isn't even brought into the whole climate change story and it's been quite well documented.*<sup>8</sup>

### **Problem is important for decision making, policy or method development**

Climate change has become an overwhelming public policy issue, a \$1.5 trillion-dollar global industry, a frightening obsession for children,<sup>9 10</sup> and a multi-billion-dollar challenge for taxpayers.<sup>11</sup> Public focus on climate change as an overriding issue has grown since the 2008 formation of the ClimateWorks Foundation. This behemoth of philanthropic funding has driven the popularizing of climate change as a *personal cause* through funding the many Environmental Non-governmental Organizations (ENGOS). Associated with ClimateWorks “Design to Win”<sup>12</sup> plan is the global management firm, McKinsey and Company. In turn, historically, McKinsey and Enron are related to the cap-and-trade and carbon pricing movements.<sup>13 14</sup> These powerful forces use their might to enact commercial and socio-economic goals; to institute cap-and-trade systems world-wide, impose a price on carbon dioxide emissions, to install wind and solar renewable energy worldwide and to have electric vehicles (or other non-emitting propulsion engines) entirely replace Internal Combustion Engine vehicles. An ultimate goal is for many climate activists<sup>15</sup> and groups is for individuals to have a personal carbon ration (Nerini et al 2021),<sup>16</sup> something facilitated by the development of digital ‘vaxports’ during the global COVID lockdowns of 2020-2022.

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://youtu.be/jhBvlu80soQ?list=PLZcRTdbkGEnEqu-uF2vfDYHm8cNXdzC9q>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.stephupublishers.com/jpsr/pdf/JPSSR\\_MS.ID.000536.pdf](https://www.stephupublishers.com/jpsr/pdf/JPSSR_MS.ID.000536.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00278-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00278-3/fulltext)

<sup>11</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2019/05/07/environmental-charities-a-compilation-of-reports-on-their-finances-power-and-implications-for-canada/>

<sup>12</sup> [https://web.northeastern.edu/matthewnisbet/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Nisbet2018\\_ClimatePhilanthropy\\_WIREsClimateChange\\_Final.pdf](https://web.northeastern.edu/matthewnisbet/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Nisbet2018_ClimatePhilanthropy_WIREsClimateChange_Final.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/analysis-and-features/mckinsey-how-does-it-always-get-away-with-it-9113484.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://ep.probeinternational.org/2009/05/30/enrons-other-secret/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.monbiot.com/2006/10/31/heres-the-plan/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00756-w>

Nisbet (2018) reports that over \$600 million a year has been invested by the large ClimateWorks philanthropic partners in funding ENGOs (many of which are tax subsidized charities), in funding academic research and financially supporting amenable alternative media to achieve these goals. Each of the ClimateWorks partners have also separately doled out millions of dollars to various ENGOs and climate activist groups worldwide.

There are numerous fellow travelers on this mission as Nemeth (2019) reported for the Alberta Inquiry into the Tar Sands Campaign.<sup>17</sup> Some seek social justice, some seek the collapse of capitalism and Western society; Haney appears to be in the latter camp.<sup>18</sup> The Alberta Inquiry, supported by forensic accounting by Deloitte,<sup>19</sup> revealed that millions of dollars had flowed into Canada and Alberta to various ENGOs with the express purpose to demarket Alberta's oil sands products, to block the development of pipeline access to tidewater, with the fundamental 'cause' behind the anti-Alberta oil activity shifting over time from one of alleged local/regional environmental concern to that of global climate change.

Thus, there is a conflict in public policy between those who advocate for the growth and development of Alberta (and Saskatchewan) energy industries and those who, as climate activists, oppose such development.

Therefore, Haney (2022) addresses an important problem by attempting to discern the climate science views of individuals who were affected by the catastrophic Calgary flood of 2013, many of whom work directly or indirectly in the energy sector, to see how their views align with the alleged consensus view of climate change. It should be noted that the present Liberal government

---

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.offsettingresistance.ca/TarSandsCoalition-StrategyPaper2008.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://medium.com/@HaneySociology/might-covid-cause-the-collapse-of-global-capitalism-with-any-luck-yes-522ffc76f31b>

<sup>19</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/11/02/has-no-one-read-the-deloitte-report/>

holds climate change as fundamental to their policy platform and declared a “Climate Emergency” on June 17, 2021.<sup>20</sup>

Thus, it may be useful to assess the rationale for opposition to such a federal policy. However, regarding Haney’s paper, external reviewer Green *“did not think the findings add to cumulative scientific knowledge. The uses of the findings were not clear to ER [Green], nor did he see how the findings could be used to improve people’s lives without resorting to duress or deceit.”*

While my original reading of the Haney paper led me to conclude that he *chose* to interview the selected subjects without asking direct questions about climate science or climate change, in rereading his paper it is clear that *“Scientists don’t care...”* is a product of content mining a series of interviews done in 2014-15 for the purposes of a report to the City of Calgary on flood evacuation/emergency awareness and preparedness. The original research had almost nothing to do with climate change and the level of ‘informed consent’ at the time appears to have only been for the purposes of edifying city emergency planners about the mindset and experiences of flood plain residents *during the flood emergency* in a report called *“Rising Waters, Difficult Decisions”*<sup>21</sup> which was published on March 21, 2018, by Mount Royal University’s Centre for Community Disaster Research.<sup>22</sup> As informed consent is not a ‘one-time’ thing, but, according to research ethical guidelines, must be continuously updated, it is this author’s opinion that participants were very unlikely to have agreed to have their casual interview comments exploited in this kind of secondary use by Haney. From the many hours of discussion captured in 2014-15, for the 2022 paper Haney then drew conclusions about what the people actually think. This means that, based on numerous ethical guidelines for publications, the research was conducted in an ethically inappropriate,

---

<sup>20</sup> <https://globalnews.ca/news/5401586/canada-national-climate-emergency/>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.mtroyal.ca/Research/pdfs/pdf\\_rising\\_waters\\_report.pdf](https://www.mtroyal.ca/Research/pdfs/pdf_rising_waters_report.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/rising-waters-difficult-decisions-findings-and-recommendations-calgary-flood-project>

deceptive manner and the reported conclusions are based on assumptions of the researcher. I will discuss this phenomenon in the following new section added to this paper. Without a clear statement of the questions asked, there is no way to repeat this research, nor to verify with any individual if what they are purported to *mean* is true from what they said.

“We did not ask questions specifically about participants’ views on science or scientists. Instead, we asked broadly about their environmental views, and we asked about what actions should be taken to mitigate or adapt to climatic changes (taking anthropogenic climate change itself as a given). Nevertheless, many participants spoke at length about these issues, and the topic of this paper arose in a grounded theory fashion, from the data themselves.”  
(Haney, 2022)

### **Revision – Addition:**

Recently, my findings in the original version of this paper have been disputed, causing me to return to the original research paper by Haney to see if I had erred. In that paper we find that Haney states the source of the material as being:

“The analyses that follow are based upon data derived from 40 in-depth interviews with residents of Calgary who were affected by the 2013 flood. Interviews took place in the Fall of 2015, two years after the flood.”

This statement suggests that material was gathered for another purpose in 2014-15, that being the writing of the report “Rising Waters, Difficult Decisions.”<sup>23</sup>

Haney’s paper states that, “The study was approved by the Human Research Ethics Board at Mount Royal University.”

---

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.mtroyal.ca/Research/pdfs/pdf\\_rising\\_waters\\_report.pdf](https://www.mtroyal.ca/Research/pdfs/pdf_rising_waters_report.pdf)

The ethical guidelines for work in Canada which receive federal funding such as the , which the Haney work reportedly did,<sup>24</sup> are outlined in TriCouncil Policy Statement Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS2-2018).<sup>25</sup> Mount Royal University's guidelines regarding Responsible Conduct in Research refer to the 2022 edition.<sup>26</sup> The 2018 edition is referenced herein as it would have been active at that time. Aside from the detailed description of the parameters of *Informed Consent* for participants, the document makes it clear that consent is not a 'one-time' thing:

**“Consent Shall Be an Ongoing Process Article 3.3**

Consent shall be maintained throughout the research project. Researchers have an ongoing duty to provide participants with all information relevant to their ongoing consent to participate in the research.”

Page 28 and forward of TCPS2-2018 outlines the requirements for informed consent. This researcher does not believe these conditions were met if the interviews were done in 2014-15, related to the Calgary flood and for the original research purpose to evaluate the public's emergency awareness/preparedness for the "Rising Waters" document above. It is not clear that on-going consent was given by the 40 participants to have Haney re-evaluate and re-use the material in 2021 to mine the interviews for views on climate change views. Few energy industry professionals would grant approval to be maligned in public about climate change after offering their time and personal comments with goodwill about a flood to assist the City of Calgary in future emergency management planning and implementation, particularly when their cherry-picked responses from conversations of six years earlier are framed in a way that appears to be intentionally damaging to

---

<sup>24</sup> Haney: “This work was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada [435-2014-1008].”

<sup>25</sup> <https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/documents/tcps2-2018-en-interactive-final.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.mtroyal.ca/Applications/PoliciesAndProcedures/view/1N-tpm7Bqu12iPJdxOH22eOYAbZzxGYeM>

their reputations and industries. Since the source interviews are not available for review, no one can know if the comments published, and conclusions drawn by Haney (2022) are appropriately representative of what people actually said.

Likewise, on the topic of publishing ethics, the publisher of the Haney work is Taylor & Francis. According to the Taylor and Francis website,<sup>27</sup> there are some other ethical considerations which, in my opinion, do not appear to have been met by Haney (2022):

**“Participant consent to publish & consent to publish identifiable Information**

Researchers have an ethical obligation to ensure that **participants have a clear and complete understanding of how the findings of a study will be used and distributed.**

[Bold emphasis added]”

“Authors should include within the manuscript a statement confirming that Consent to Publish was obtained from research participants. **Consent to Publish is a journal requirement and cannot be exempted by an ethics committee.** [Bold and underlined emphasis added]”

Given the derogatory and dismissive tone toward the interviewees which is prevalent throughout the Haney paper, concerning the comments gleaned from the 2014-15 informal interviews (where no direct questions were asked about climate change), this author finds it very unlikely that any business professional in any industry (let alone 40 individuals in the close-knit energy industry city of Calgary) would grant permission for the publication of six year old comments made by them that have been selected and interpreted by someone else, as if the

---

<sup>27</sup> <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/editorial-policies/research-ethics-guidelines-for-arts-humanities-and-social-sciences-journals/>



comments fairly represented the participant's views. This appears to be a breach of fundamental research and publishing ethics.

The 2014-15 interviews were not about climate change.

There is no clarity in the Haney paper as to how the original interview material could have been used without further informed consent. As other applicable ethical guidelines, posted on the Taylor & Francis website for author reference such as the British Sociological Association Ethical Guidelines:<sup>28</sup>

**18. As far as possible participation in sociological research should be based on the freely given informed consent of those studied. This implies a responsibility on the sociologist to explain in appropriate detail, and in terms meaningful to participants, what the research is about, who is undertaking and financing it, why it is being undertaken, and how it is to be distributed and used. [Bold and underline added]**

19. It should also be borne in mind that in some research contexts, especially those involving field research, **it may be necessary for the obtaining of consent to be regarded, not as a once-and-for-all prior event, but as a process, subject to renegotiation over time.** In addition, particular care may need to be taken during periods of prolonged fieldwork where it is easy for research participants to forget that they are being studied. [Bold added]

Also found in the Taylor and Francis guidelines for authors is the matter of human dignity.

---

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.britisoc.co.uk/media/24310/bsa\\_statement\\_of\\_ethical\\_practice.pdf](https://www.britisoc.co.uk/media/24310/bsa_statement_of_ethical_practice.pdf)

*Human Dignity*

*All human beings, living and deceased, should be treated with dignity and respect in academic research. Ethical research practices require that researchers are vigilant in ensuring that their work **minimizes risk and avoids harm to participants.** [Bold Added]*

*All researchers should be prepared to answer questions about study design, ethics approval, and the informed consent process, along with any other questions that may arise, even after publication. [Bold added] They should be prepared to present anonymized data and documentation of ethical approval to the journal's editorial office upon request. To this end, researchers should be sure that these materials are stored accessibly and securely.*

**Harm or Risk**

A further ethical consideration is that of harm or risk.

In 2014-15, climate change was not as a significant factor in investment decisions, regulatory affairs, federal, provincial and international trade policies or tendentious public discourse as it became by 2022.

TCP2-2018 acknowledges the ethical risks of harm. [bold emphasis added]

“Risks

Because research is a step into the unknown, its undertaking can involve harms to participants and to others. Harm is anything that has a negative effect on the welfare of participants, and the nature of the harm may be social, behavioural, psychological, physical or economic.”

Page 21

**“The magnitude or seriousness of the harm Potential harms in research may span the spectrum from minimal (e.g., inconvenience of participation in research) to**

**substantial (e.g., a major physical injury or an emotional trauma).** Harms may be transient, such as a temporary emotional reaction to a survey question, while other types of harm may be longer lasting, **such as the loss of reputation** following a breach of confidentiality, or a traumatic experience. The perspective of the participants regarding harm may vary from that of researchers. Participants themselves may vary in their reaction to the research. Researchers and REBs should attempt to assess the harm from the perspective of the participants to the extent possible. Research in certain disciplines, such as epidemiology, genetics, sociology or cultural anthropology, may present risks that go beyond the individual and may involve the interests of communities, societies or other defined groups.

- **The probability of occurrence of the harm This refers to the likelihood of participants actually suffering the relevant harms.** An assessment of such probability may be based on the researcher's past experience conducting such studies, on the review of existing publications that provide rates of the relevant harms in similar issues, or on other empirical evidence. And while researchers should attempt to estimate the occurrence of the relevant harms, this may be more difficult, or not possible, for new or emerging areas of research where no prior experience, comparable research or publications exist. Certain accepted research paradigms bring inherent limitations to the prior identification of risk. For example, when research in the social sciences employs emergent design, the manner in which the research project will proceed and **any associated risks may be known only as the project unfolds** (Chapters 3 and 10).<sup>27</sup>

### Reputational, Economic and Personal Harms

Alberta has been subjected to a 30-year foreign-funded multi-billion dollar on-going ‘Tar Sands Campaign’<sup>29</sup> – effectively a ‘green trade war’ - against the oil sands industry, the third largest reserves in the world. This has caused tremendous risks and harms in terms of personal risk to oil/gas/oil sands workers and management, facility risk (Greenpeace activists have chained themselves to facilities), public risks (Greenpeace activists rappelled off the Calgary Tower to hang a banner, imperiling the lives of citizens below and their own lives, forcing the closure of many blocks in the downtown core), corporate and executive risks (oil/gas/oil sands corporations and some of their sub-contractors have had to have enhanced physical and electronic monitoring security); activists in the field have chained themselves to pressure valves;<sup>30</sup> sometimes attempting or succeeding to turn them off – with a potential explosion as a result; activists have claimed to secretly vandalized the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline.<sup>31</sup> Coastal Gaslink Pipeline workers were brutally attacked, terrorized and millions of dollars of heavy equipment was vandalized by activists, many of whom conflate gas infrastructure with ‘tar sands’ energy development. This occurred in Feb. 2022, just 5 months after the on-line publication of the Haney paper).<sup>32</sup>

Thus, a paper with an incendiary title like *‘Scientists don’t care about truth anymore’: the climate crisis and rejection of science in Canada’s oil country* literally adds ‘fuel’ to the social flame and creates more public and personal dangers. It should be noted that the paper is published as a paid ‘open access’ article, meaning the author or institution paid a surcharge to Taylor & Francis so that no fee is

---

<sup>29</sup> <https://corpethics.org/the-tar-sands-campaign/>

<sup>30</sup> <https://youtu.be/AQsToYhOfXE>

<sup>31</sup> <https://thetyee.ca/News/2023/03/01/Activists-Sabotage-CGL-Pipeline/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/rcmp-coastal-gaslink-bc-violence-investigating-1.6356257>

required to read the paper. To date, it has garnered some 4,324 views making it one of the top 28 ‘most read’ articles in the Journal of Environmental Sociology.<sup>33</sup>

Taylor & Francis website explains:

“You have the option to publish open access in this journal via our Open Select publishing program. Publishing open access means that your article will be free to access online immediately on publication, increasing the visibility, readership and impact of your research. Articles published Open Select with Taylor & Francis typically receive 45% more citations\* and over 6 times as many downloads\*\* compared to those that are not published Open Select.

Your research funder or your institution may require you to publish your article open access. Visit our [Author Services](#) website to find out more about open access policies and how you can comply with these.

You will be asked to pay an article publishing charge (APC) to make your article open access and this cost can often be covered by your institution or funder. Use our [APC finder](#) to view the APC for this journal.”<sup>34</sup>

### **Potential Personal Harms**

Though Calgary is a large city of ~1.4 million people, the participants of the survey, while anonymized, are geolocated by the study in the relatively small flood zone along the Elbow River and Bow River. Some individual identities might be ferreted out by people living in or near those communities who may be active in the community associations that connected these individuals to

---

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/showMostReadArticles?journalCode=rens20>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=rens20#open-access>

Mount Royal University for the original research project. There is a wide diversity of views on climate change and the oil sands in Alberta and many vociferous opponents to oil/gas/oil sands development. Dissenting views are fine and to be expected in a democracy, but it is unclear why taxpaying energy corporations and individual industry professionals must underwrite academic work that destroys jobs and investment and personal/corporate reputations with false representations.

While Prof. Haney may personally favor degrowth or fossil fuel phase-out, as a sociologist, is he blind to the devastating socio-economic impacts of job loss which is a significant reputational risk from a work like his? Is the planet more important to him than the people living on it?

In Alberta, during the sudden downturn in the energy industry in 2015, which was due to a combination of the Tar Sands Campaign blocking pipelines and driving off investment, global drop in oil prices and the institution of carbon taxes and burdensome climate policies, about 100,000 people lost their jobs in Alberta along with thousands of others across Canada in the domestic oil sands supply chain. In 2016, \$50 billion in investment fled the province.<sup>35</sup> About 600 people in Alberta committed suicide. Imagine the on-going socio-economic harm and psychological suffering and grief for the families who lost their loved one – typically the male wage-earner!

The point is that the risks of harm from such misuse of the interview materials is extremely high.

Likewise, there is a significant risk of potential disinvestment due to the impression Haney leaves with his cherry-picked interview comments from 2015. The investment worldview related to climate change has dramatically changed since 2015. Haney's work creates an impression that Calgary energy executives don't care about climate change policies or environmental initiatives. If investors take Haney's word for it, this could have a ripple effect of harm, resulting in disinvestment

---

<sup>35</sup> <https://calgaryherald.com/business/energy/yedlin-50b-drop-in-oilpatch-investment-demands-action>

again – this would mean provincial revenues would drop, meaning a restriction of social services. Prior to 2015, the Calgary corporate energy sector was a generous funder of charitable causes, food banks, medical charities, and the arts; this has all but dried up due to the impacts of the Tar Sands Campaign and the downturn then, to the detriment of all people. In fact, Alberta was the first jurisdiction in North America to have comprehensive climate change and environment legislation (2003). Corporate environmental concern, innovation, reclamation, and compliance is very high in Alberta. This fact is distorted by the Haney work.

Haney boldly supports the ‘climate consensus’ view of Anthropogenic Global Warming, but in the Taylor & Francis publishing ethics references for authors, we are directed to the British Sociological Association’s Ethical Guidelines. Sociology is a ‘soft’ science and does not provide climate science credentials, but Haney freely critiques and mocks the views of interviewees (who were not asked direct questions about climate change) some of whom have credentials in the physical sciences. Haney is not qualified in this area, according to his CV,<sup>36</sup> and interview snippets are inadequate evidence for the conclusions he draws. The BSA notes:

“7. In their relations with the media, sociologists should have regard for the reputation of the discipline and **refrain from offering expert commentaries in a form that would appear to give credence to material that, as researchers, they would regard as comprising inadequate or tendentious evidence.**”

Suffice to say there appear to be significant ethical issues with the Haney paper. This statement concludes my revision/addition of Nov. 26, 2023.

---

<sup>36</sup>

[https://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/Arts/Departments/SociologyAnthropology/Faculty/Vitae\\_Haney\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/Arts/Departments/SociologyAnthropology/Faculty/Vitae_Haney_2020.pdf)

### Grounded Theory Approach Questioned

Though Haney claims this is a ‘grounded theory’ approach, which is typically used when there is no existing theory that explains the phenomenon being studied,<sup>37</sup> Haney refers to existing research in his literature review which presents the theory that climate change skeptics are defending their economic interests; “a body of existing literature demonstrates how dependence on fossil fuels affects beliefs about climate change.” Haney’s study reploughed this field and appears grounded in confirmation bias from the outset. No new theory was discovered from the Haney work. Grounded theory is also supposed to closely represent the real-world data. The original research files (transcripts) are not available to people reviewing the Haney paper and readers are to be satisfied with very short, selected quotes from a few anonymized individuals.

Haney states that interviews ranged from between 1 hour to 3 hours, meaning that there are about 7,800 words for a 1-hour session<sup>38</sup> to 23,400 words for a 3-hour session<sup>39</sup> over a group of forty people (31,200 divided by 2 = 15,600 x 40 = 642,000 avg total words) which are vaguely represented by a handful of what appear to be verbatim quotes and a handful of comments explained by Haney.

Ironically, it is this kind of deceitful, unethical,<sup>40</sup> and unrepeatable approach to research (which, in the process, appears to slander the individuals involved who contributed their time and thoughts in good faith) that leads people to exactly what Haney refers to: ‘*distrust the motivations of [climate] scientists*’ and to work ‘*discursively to protect the oil industry.*’

---

<sup>37</sup> <https://delvetool.com/groundedtheory>

<sup>38</sup> <https://capitalizemytitle.com/speech-length/3-hours/#:~:text=Answer%3A%20At%20the%20normal%20speaking,will%20have%20about%2023%2C400%20words%20>

<sup>39</sup> <https://capitalizemytitle.com/speech-length/3-hours/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/editorial-policies/research-ethics-and-consent/>



Haney's opinion of interviewees who do not agree with his views on climate change is that they are solely motivated by their own base economic interests, but he ridicules those interviewees who conversely question if climate alarmist scientists are impurely motivated by money or fame.

The summary statement of Green, regarding the research, was that it was an 'advocacy research study.'

This author concurs.

Though quite a thorough literature review was done by Haney, it was all literature confirming the "climate change deniers are protecting their fossil fuel industry" thesis.

Haney states that *'the province with the highest proportion of climate change skeptics and deniers is Alberta'* without recognizing that Alberta also has (had) the highest per capita ratio of Professional Geoscientists and Professional Engineers in Canada. During the oil sands boom, there were some 70,000 Professional Geoscientists and Professional Engineers in Alberta as members of APEGA. In 2017, Alberta had nine engineers for every 1,000 persons, the highest concentration in Canada and about double the national average of 4.6.<sup>41</sup> This suggests that a high proportion of Albertans have superior education and analytical skills to assess complex issues of climate science.

For clarity on the matter of analytical skills, an anecdotal example is offered by this author related to an email exchange with Prof. Dr. Istvan Marko of Belgium<sup>42</sup> in 2017 prior to his untimely passing, regarding a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) press release about the 'hottest year on record.'

"The World Meteorological Organization - another emanation of the United Nations and which is also, like the IPCC, an intergovernmental forum - declares 2016 to be the year the

---

<sup>41</sup> <https://engineerscanada.ca/reports/national-membership-report/2018>

<sup>42</sup> <https://rsbelgium.blogspot.com/2019/10/>

warmest in history.<sup>43</sup> Knowing that 2016 is supposedly hotter by  $0.02^{\circ}\text{C}$  than 2015 [two hundredths of a degree] and that the margin of error on this value is  $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  [one tenth of a degree], we see all the absurdity of this statement. For those who don't immediately understand it, this means that the variation in temperature could be  $+0.12^{\circ}\text{C}$  (twelve hundredths of a degree global warming) or  $-0.08^{\circ}\text{C}$  (eight hundredths of a degree global cooling). In short, we can't say anything and the WMO has simply lost its mind.” - Istvan

Marko *By email March 8, 2017*

While ordinary citizens read the headline ‘hottest year on record’ with fear – experienced scientists, engineers and analysts calmly and skeptically ask: *‘Hotter by how much?’ ‘What is the period of record?’ ‘What is the margin of error?’ ‘What is the original temperature data set and who manages it?’*

Professional Engineers and scientists know that you cannot accurately measure any temperature below  $0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  [one tenth of a degree], therefore the claim that a two hundredths of a degree Celsius rise in temperature means it is the ‘hottest year on record’ immediately raises doubt. That such a claim comes from a body appointed as the scientific expert on world meteorology further deepens the skepticism and concern by knowledgeable, skeptical experts in Alberta and elsewhere, that the naïve public and policymakers are being manipulated. The claim is unscientific, and no person can detect such an immeasurable rise in temperature.

### **Rebutting Haney’s Assumptions**

There are numerous, unfounded assumptions within Haney’s work, most of which are enumerated below.

---

<sup>43</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-confirms-2016-hottest-year-record-about-11-c-above-pre-industrial-era>

*Assumption* vs Reality.

- 1) ***Consensus is scientific or that it proves anything.*** It does not. All the consensus studies are simply social proofs that ‘*statisticulatè*’ and are flawed.<sup>44</sup>
- 2) ***Extreme weather is evidence of climate change.*** It is not.<sup>45 46</sup>
- 3) ***Humans can control climate change and extreme weather events by stopping the use of fossil fuels (more properly known as ‘hydrocarbons’).*** We cannot. This is magical thinking. Pushing this narrative is doing tremendous damage to our children.<sup>47</sup> As Judith Curry, Atmospheric Scientist writes: “*Thinking that catastrophes like major hurricane landfalls, massive forest fires etc. will be ‘cured’ by eliminating fossil fuel emissions is laughable. Well, it’s not really funny. Thinking that eliminating fossil fuel emissions will ‘solve’ the problem of extreme weather events is very sad, sort of on the level of doing rain dances. Everything that goes wrong, they blame on fossil fuel driven climate change. Imagine how surprised they would be if we were ever to be successful at eliminating fossil fuel emissions, and then we still had bad weather.*”<sup>48</sup>
- 4) ***Certain areas of the world are ‘highly dependent on fossil fuels’ while others are not.*** The world runs on about 84% hydrocarbons, using 3 Cubic Miles of Oil (CMO) Equivalent energy each year, 1 CMO of which is oil. The entire world and all of Canada is ‘highly dependent on fossil fuels.’<sup>49 50</sup>

---

<sup>44</sup> [https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/97\\_Consensus\\_Myth.pdf](https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/97_Consensus_Myth.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> <https://judithcurry.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/curry-senatetestimony-2014-final.pdf>

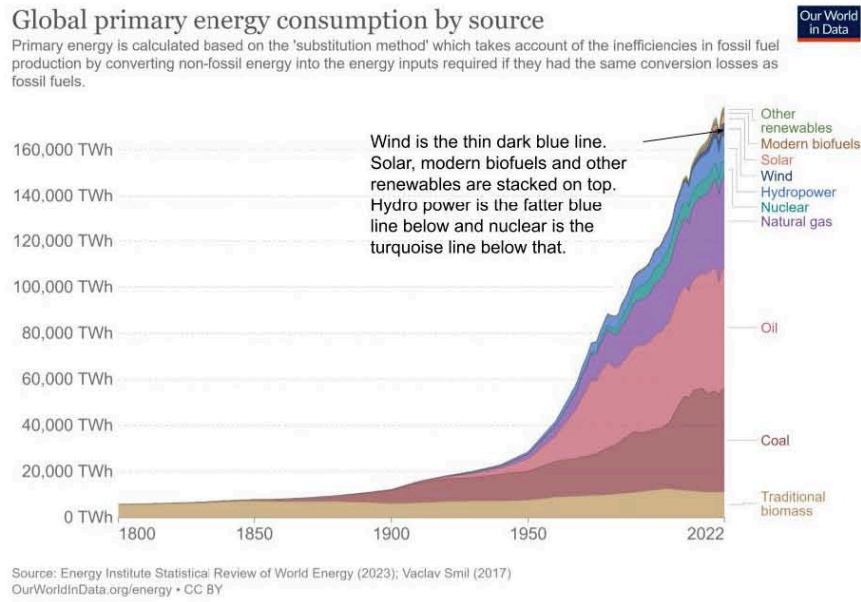
<sup>46</sup> <https://archive.ipcc.ch/report/srex/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://judithcurry.com/2022/12/13/misperception-and-amplification-of-climate-risk/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://judithcurry.com/2019/02/07/climate-hypochondria-and-tribalism-vs-winning/>

<sup>49</sup> [https://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/static\\_files\\_project/media/downloads/publications/OPEC\\_WOO2020.pdf](https://www.opec.org/opec_web/static_files_project/media/downloads/publications/OPEC_WOO2020.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/12/30/natural-resources-canada-inconvenient-facts-for-climate-activists/>



*Annotation added.*

- 5) ***Dissenting voices are solely or primarily motivated by economic/employment concerns.*** Most are motivated by responsible conduct in research – to question, challenge, doubt, confirm and to continue this cycle as this is how science progresses.
- 6) ***Dissenting voices are not competent to argue against the alleged consensus.*** People with high level math skills, those who have studied the 4.5 billion years of Earth's climate change, Professional Engineers and Professional Geoscientists who have had to make critical design or operational decisions, some of them involving life or death for thousands (in terms of safety), which may involve many millions or billions of dollars and thousands of jobs, have well-honed applied skills as well as an ability to sniff out hypes, scams and 'statisticulation.' They are not fooled by Hockey Stick graphs (common to investment scams) or *doomer* statements of climate activists, certainly not statements of the sadly frightened and exploited 16-year-old teenagers.<sup>51</sup>
- 7) ***Dissenting voices are engaging in confirmation bias.*** They are dissenting due to rational consideration of the facts and evidence. That is how science works.

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.amazon.ca/Manufacturing-Greta-Thunberg-Cory-Morningstar/dp/3749464758>

- 8) ***Dissenting voices are not competent to evaluate the Anthropogenic Global Warming theory or data or relevant inconsistencies.*** Ironically, climate activists claim, on the one hand, that ‘the science is settled’ and that it is ‘simple physics’ – but when people with scientific and mathematical skills point out deficiencies, anomalies, and inconsistencies, climate alarmists respond by saying ‘you’re not a climate scientist.’ However, they are happy to put Greta Thunberg on the front page of the newspapers as if she is. Greta, in fact, testified to the US Congress that there is no science behind her statement “I want you to panic.”<sup>52</sup> Greta’s visit to Alberta’s oil country was similarly used against the industry by climate activists and misinformers.<sup>53</sup>
- 9) ***Albertans and Calgarians, especially those associated with the energy sector, are unconcerned about environmental issues or climate science.*** Alberta was the first province in Canada to have an environment minister (Ralph Klein), the first to have an Environment Ministry, the first jurisdiction in North America to have comprehensive climate change and environment legislation (2003), replete with the first greenhouse gas emissions tax and reduction requirements for large emitters. Reclamation is the law.<sup>54</sup> Canada even has national reclamation awards ceremonies.<sup>55</sup>
- 10) ***Questioning or rejection of a scientific theory is unscientific or driven by employment, political viewpoint.*** The National Academy of Sciences in the US published the book “On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct in Research”<sup>56</sup> in which it stated: “*Science has progressed through a uniquely productive marriage of human creativity and hard-nosed skepticism, of openness to new scientific contributions and persistent questioning of those contributions and the existing scientific consensus.*” Skepticism is integral to the Scientific Method.
- 11) ***There are viable, market-ready alternatives to the use of oil, natural gas and coal.*** There are none. Further, **the materials supply chain for the proposed Net Zero goals of OECD nations does not exist and cannot be fulfilled for dozens to hundreds of years.**<sup>57</sup>
- 12) ***That there would be no significant consequences for stopping the use of fossil fuels.*** Millions of people would die without the present energy and product stream provided by

---

<sup>52</sup> [https://youtu.be/t\\_hfwOGciH4](https://youtu.be/t_hfwOGciH4)

<sup>53</sup> <https://journal-of-insurance-and-financial-management.com/index.php/JIFM/article/view/248>

<sup>54</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2016/10/20/albertas-first-climate-leadership-plan-was-established-in-2002/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.clra.ca/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsible-conduct-in>

<sup>57</sup> [https://tupa.gtk.fi/raportti/arkisto/42\\_2021.pdf](https://tupa.gtk.fi/raportti/arkisto/42_2021.pdf)

hydrocarbons. Modern medicine would end overnight. Within hours and days, cities would become Apocalyptic nightmares; in cities, food supply would run out within ~three days without just-in-time deliveries of supply by diesel-fueled truck and train. Indeed, with the present conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the UN states that a "record 345 million acutely hungry people are marching to the brink of starvation."<sup>58</sup> This is expected to get worse as natural gas is required for the production of fertilizer and that market is constrained by an energy production gap – *not enough energy supply online anywhere in the world*. This production gap was created by ~30 years of divestment and green/climate movements attempting to shut down fossil fuels entirely. Thus, over the next few years, agricultural supply will be greatly reduced. Many people will also die of heat-or-eat poverty this winter in Europe<sup>59</sup> and their situation will be worse next year and likely for years to come.<sup>60</sup>

### Pejorative References to Friends of Science Society

*In this author's personal and professional role, as the Communications Manager for Friends of Science Society, it is incumbent upon me to address the comments made by Haney about Friends of Science Society. I will, of course, be advocating for the organization and my/our point of view, which is a criticism that Green had of the Haney paper – "an advocacy research study." I hope that the facts and evidence presented will show this is not simply an exercise in advocacy, but one of setting the record straight.*

Ironically, Haney is a faculty scholar at Mount Royal University, a venue which hosted one of the first Kyoto climate debates presented by Frontier Center for Public Policy, back in the day (2011) when climate change was about science and not cult dogma.<sup>61</sup>

Haney claims that environmental disasters like the Calgary flood decreases climate skepticism, citing (Sarithchandra and Haltinner 2020) and refers to Calgarians' experiences as:

“The flood exposed gaps in their knowledge and changed their views. This is particularly relevant given the misinformation campaigns aimed at Albertans, often undertaken by

---

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/un-record-345-million-people-marching-to-the-brink-of-starvation/a-62389284>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.economist.com/interactive/graphic-detail/2022/11/26/high-fuel-prices-could-kill-more-europeans-than-fighting-in-ukraine-has>

<sup>60</sup> <https://time.com/6226587/energy-crisis-next-winter/>

<sup>61</sup> <https://fcpp.org/files/1/Marshall-Clark%20Debate%20Nov-29-11.pdf>

industry-supported think tanks such as ‘Friends of Science’ who boast on Calgary billboards that ‘The sun is the main driver of climate change. Not you. Not CO<sub>2</sub>,’ as well as ‘Global warming stopped naturally 16+ years ago.’ Discourses like these have come to dominate in Alberta.”

Haney, despite being a resident of Calgary, and despite having accessed Friends of Science Society’s website to find the subsequent reference to this one, failed to contact us to confirm the information he published about us. For example, he cites an Athabasca University Press publication (Hanson and Kahane 2018) which incorrectly claims the Friends of Science Society’s billboards were jointly sponsored by three groups. This is false. Friends of Science Society’s billboards were independently created by our internal Communications Team and sponsored by our organization’s funding from our membership, most of whom provide donations of under \$100. Haney references the Ecojustice call for inquiry by the Competition Bureau into Friends of Science.

“This came to a head in 2015 when Ecojustice filed a complaint with the federal Competition Bureau asking it to investigate false and misleading claims by a number of right-wing organizations including Friends of Science, the International Climate Science Coalition, and the Heartland Institute (Hanson and Kahane 2018, p. 11).”

The Competition Bureau complaint filed by Ecojustice on behalf of several high-profile people in the world of climate science and activism.

Ecojustice filed the complaint of behalf of Stephen Lewis, the former Canadian Ambassador to the UN and chair of the 1988 World Conference on the Changing

Atmosphere<sup>62</sup>; Tzeporah Berman, author and adjunct professor at York University; and Thomas Duck, an atmospheric scientist at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Other complainants are David Schindler, the Killam Memorial professor of ecology at the University of Alberta; and Danny Harvey, a University of Toronto professor and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change lead author.<sup>63</sup>

Lewis is father to Avi Lewis who is married to high-profile climate activist Naomi Klein, who has also received foreign funding for anti-oil/oil sands activity.<sup>64</sup>



<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/12/03/news/breaking-ecojustice-files-complaint-competition-bureau-against-climate-denial-groups>

It is unknown what triggered this inquiry. Aside from our billboards, Danny Harvey had issued a paper (Harvey 2013) which claimed that wind energy could displace fossil fuel and nuclear energy in Canada,<sup>65</sup> substantially relying on wind resources in Alberta and an ‘east-west grid’ connection and that this could be done by 2035. In Friends of Science Society’s submission to the federal government in advance of COP21 in Paris,<sup>66</sup> our Professional Engineering team (with

<sup>62</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/cialertvol1-3fall1988-climate-alert-climate-institute.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/12/03/news/breaking-ecojustice-files-complaint-competition-bureau-against-climate-denial-groups>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2014/7/post-53280dcb-9f2c-2e3a-7092-10cf6d8d08df>

<sup>65</sup> [http://faculty.geog.utoronto.ca/Harvey/Harvey/papers/Harvey%20\(2013,%20Wind\).pdf](http://faculty.geog.utoronto.ca/Harvey/Harvey/papers/Harvey%20(2013,%20Wind).pdf)

<sup>66</sup> <https://friendsofscience.org/library/policies-economics-and-ethics/clear-the-air-in-paris-submission-by-friends-of-science.html>



working experience on the Alberta grid) had debunked that proposal on engineering, technical and economic grounds. An ultimate risk of the east-west national grid plan is that of national blackouts.

Likewise, the theme of climate activists at COP21 appeared to be trying to paint dissenting voices as “climate criminals”, suggesting this may have been a coordinated strategy. Naomi Klein and Bill McKibben prosecuted Exxon *in absentia*.<sup>67</sup> High-profile American climate catastrophe dissenters, Myron Ebell and Marc Morano, were labelled climate criminals on posters placed throughout Paris.<sup>68</sup>

Ecojustice et al claimed that Friends of Science Society had ‘deep pockets’ from industry for funding, that the organization was an industry proxy and that it coordinated efforts with the other groups named. In fact, the Competition Bureau did not find such evidence; the inquiry was shelved. Friends of Science Society operates independently on ~\$150K/year from member/subscribers with average donations being under \$100. Friends of Science is not a tax-subsidized charity, nor does it receive government funding, unlike the major ENGOs.<sup>69 70 71</sup> Ecojustice had demanded an ‘honest debate’ on climate science. Friends of Science offered to engage in one.<sup>72</sup> Ecojustice ran away.

As an example of lack of research integrity, Friends of Science has no record of Haney ever contacting Friends of Science Society for us to confirm, deny or clarify the several claims he makes about our organization.

Many of the participants instead felt that climate change is a natural and incorrigible process.

As Derek tells us, ‘climate change is a mostly natural process that we have very little control

---

<sup>67</sup> <https://youtu.be/uRdXDFFXNmU>

<sup>68</sup> <https://cei.org/blog/cop21-ceis-myron-ebell-and-chris-horner-branded-as-climate-criminals-for-threatening-bogus-consensus/>

<sup>69</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2019/05/07/environmental-charities-a-compilation-of-reports-on-their-finances-power-and-implications-for-canada/>

<sup>70</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2021/11/02/has-no-one-read-the-deloitte-report/>

<sup>71</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2022/03/16/canadian-charities-need-more-oversight/>

<sup>72</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2016/05/26/an-honest-debate-on-climate-science-its-time/>

over.’ Upon further prompting, he said that he believes the sun and solar radiation are the largest drivers of climate change, a message consistent with the Calgary climate-change-denying think tank named ‘Friends of Science’ who contends on billboards that ‘The sun is the main driver of climate change. Not you, not CO2’ (Plait 2014).

If Haney had read the Friends of Science position statement<sup>73</sup> or consulted with the organization, he would not have erred by claiming that Friends of Science is a ‘climate-change-denying think tank’ – nothing could be further from the truth!



---

<sup>73</sup> <https://friendsofscience.org/position-statement.html>



*Examples of Friends of Science Society's billboards.*

### Consensus and Statisticulation

Haney refers to ‘consensus’ some fifty times in his paper. It is doubtful he has ever examined these studies in detail. He references the NASA page that lists a number of consensus studies. One of the most referenced ‘consensus’ studies is that of Doran & Zimmerman (2009). If one reviews the source material of this study, Margaret Kendall Zimmerman’s MA Thesis “The Consensus on the Consensus (Zimmerman),”<sup>74</sup> one finds quite a different story than the claimed 97%. Of the database of some 10,000 earth scientists surveyed, some 3,146 responded, of which Zimmerman selected 79 (self-designated as ‘climate scientists’ of unknown qualifications) who claimed to be presently publishing on climate change. They were asked two opinion questions with no empirical parameters. 77 and 76 responded in the affirmative to these questions. This was claimed as 97% consensus.

---

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.lulu.com/shop/m-r-k-zimmerman/the-consensus-on-the-consensus/paperback/product-4281091.html?page=1&pageSize=4>

...76 agreed with the opinion ('risen') in the first question: *Q1: "When compared with pre-1800's levels, do you think that mean global temperatures have generally risen, fallen, or remained relatively constant?"*

...77 agreed with this opinion statement: *Q2: "Do you think human activity is a significant contributing factor in changing mean global temperatures?"*

The word "significant" cannot be quantified. The IPCC AGW statement is that GHGs cause more than 90% of the warming. The IPCC declaration singles out GHGs from human activity but does not ascribe all human activity (which includes land disturbance, urban warming and black soot on snow, etc.). **Neither of the two questions mentions human caused GHG emissions, so neither can evaluate the agreement with the IPCC AGW statement.**<sup>75</sup>

From the emails Zimmerman received from respondents, many of whom expressed outrage at attempting to use an opinion survey on an empirical topic, there are 36 responses which state that the Sun is the main driver of climate change (summarized in "Infiltration"<sup>76</sup>) and indeed, most curious of all, Zimmerman herself wraps up her 'consensus' study with these words:

"I can honestly say that I have heard very convincing arguments from all the different sides, and I think I'm actually more neutral on the issue now than I was before I started this project."

---

<sup>75</sup> [https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/97\\_Consensus\\_Myth.pdf](https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/97_Consensus_Myth.pdf)

<sup>76</sup> <https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Infiltration2015.pdf>

### Umbrage on Arrogance

*“Non-scientists tend to think of scientists as brash and boastful.”*

– C.P. Snow, *The Rede Lecture 1959*

Scientist and writer C.P. Snow wrote many influential pieces on the great divide between the literary/intellectual community and the scientific community. This appears to be a fundamental problematic element of the Haney work and most of the papers cited in his literature review. He is a professor of sociology – one of the ‘soft’ sciences versus hard physical sciences like physics, chemistry or engineering. Haney a member of the Mount Royal University’s “Institute for Environmental Sustainability”<sup>77</sup> (which appears to be deeply imbued with concerns about the Anthropocene), Haney’s apparent umbrage that informed citizens dispute the climate dogma narrative or challenge the view that humans can control climate change seems to align with C.P. Snow’s observations above. Haney comments on some of the interviewees’ statements:

“She was not alone in her attribution of arrogance, with Graham adding ‘I don’t think we are going to get control of this world . . . . I think that is arrogant. Do I believe humans can greatly harm and therefore having created the harm, then reverse it and cause good? Yeah absolutely.’ This attribution of arrogance by climate scientists (and the members of the public who accept the consensus) is consistent with messaging from ‘Friends of Science,’ who wrote as recently as March 2021 that ‘Model-based predictions of global warming continue to be wrong, only proving an overabundance of **arrogant** confidence by their proponents’ (emphasis added) (Friends of Science 2021)”

As early as 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) wrote:

---

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/InstituteForEnvironmentalSustainability/index.htm>

“In climate research and modelling, we should recognize that we are dealing with a coupled non-linear chaotic system, and therefore that long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible.” – IPCC Third Assessment Report, Section 14.2.2.2. pg. 774

The view that climate models are flawed is shared by climate scientists like Hans von Storch,<sup>78</sup> climate researcher and economist Ross McKittrick,<sup>79</sup> the late physicist Freeman Dyson,<sup>80</sup> climate modeller Motokama Nakamura,<sup>81</sup> NASA-award-winning scientist John Christy,<sup>82</sup> and even climate change Golden Boy Gavin Schmidt, who said of the most recent model developments that:

“Already scientific papers are appearing using CMIP's<sup>83</sup> unconstrained worst-case scenarios for 2100, adding fire to what are already well-justified fears. But that practice needs to change, Schmidt says. *"You end up with numbers for even the near-term that are insanely scary—and wrong."*<sup>84</sup>

As noted in one of Friends of Science Society's early press releases: ‘According to a 2007 study by Armstrong and colleague Dr. Kesten Green of the University of South Australia, they "...concluded that their (IPCC model) methods violated 72 of the 89 relevant forecasting principles in the Principles of Forecasting handbook. **Even a single violation could render a forecast useless.**' (bold emphasis added) Armstrong and Green state that the claim of a precautionary principle for ‘immediate action’ on climate change is political, and not scientific.’<sup>85</sup>

---

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/interview-hans-von-storch-on-problems-with-climate-change-models-a-906721.html>  
 “Climate experts have long predicted that temperatures would rise in parallel with greenhouse gas emissions. But, for 15 years, they haven't. In a SPIEGEL interview, meteorologist Hans von Storch discusses how this "puzzle" might force scientists to alter what could be "fundamentally wrong" models.

<sup>79</sup> <https://youtu.be/g30JfQIK6GA?list=PLZcRTdbkGEnHfU8-dkQfGnO67K6p1m8rh>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.marijnpoels.com/single-post/2019/03/05/we-don-t-understand-climate-its-very-complicated-and-were-only-at-the-beginning-to-under>

<sup>81</sup> [https://c-c-netzwerk.ch/images/ccn-blog\\_articles/717/Confessions-Nakamura.pdf](https://c-c-netzwerk.ch/images/ccn-blog_articles/717/Confessions-Nakamura.pdf)

<sup>82</sup> <https://youtu.be/I8hdE3eZ6vs>

<sup>83</sup> Coupled *Model* Intercomparison Project

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.science.org/content/article/un-climate-panel-confronts-implausibly-hot-forecasts-future-warming>

<sup>85</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1260/095830507782616887>

### **We are in the Meghalayan – Not the Anthropocene**

Haney references the 2018 IPCC SR1.5 report, quoting this:

“human influence has become a principal agent of change on the planet, shifting the world out of the relatively stable Holocene-period into a new geological era, often termed the Anthropocene. (p. 53)”

In fact, in July of 2018, the ~1-million-member International Union of Geological Science (IUGS) issued a statement that we are now in the Meghalayan stage of the Holocene Epoch, tweeting that the term Anthropocene is not a stratigraphic term but rather a sociological term. They note that although there is an Anthropocene Working Group within the IUGS, they have not submitted a proposal... “*ask yourself why.*”

As discussed in vibrant detail in an article in *The Atlantic* (2018) the evidentiary standards for claiming the Anthropocene as a new geological era are not clear or are subject to dispute.<sup>86</sup> It should be noted, despite wide ‘consensus’ within the IUGS on the defining of the Meghalayan stage, there is still much discussion and rejection by ‘Meghalayan deniers’ within the IUGS and even by a Czech historian.<sup>87</sup> Those scientists who disagree are accepted and not rejected from membership for holding dissenting views; nor are they called names, to our knowledge.

It is unfortunate that Haney did not pick up on this important advance in scientific knowledge to include in his paper. Likewise, due to the lengthy peer-review process, Haney’s work was submitted for publication in February of 2021 and published in August of 2021, the same month that the most recent IPCC report was issued. Though UN Sec-Gen Antonio Guterres made

---

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/07/anthropocene-holocene-geology-drama/565628/>

<sup>87</sup> <https://phys.org/news/2018-09-historian-angers-group-late-holocene.html>

headlines claiming the report showed there was a climate change “Code Red for humanity,” the full >4,000-page IPCC AR6 Working Group I Physical Sciences report says nothing of the kind. The words ‘climate emergency’ and ‘climate crisis’ only appear once in reference to media coverage of climate change.

This situation of conflicted messaging arises because the IPCC also issues a “Summary for Policymakers,” a 40-page document, written and approved line by line over the course of a high-pressure week by political delegates to the IPCC approval process. This is typically the only document most climate activists and policymakers ever read. The contents rarely reflect ‘the science’ of the several thousand-page scientific report accurately; it is a political document.

The IPCC AR6 SPM featured a new ‘hockey stick’ graph, which likely led to Guterres’ hyperventilating claims, but this graph does not appear in the full scientific document. Climate science analyst Steve McIntyre who, with Ross McKittrick, ‘broke the original Hockey Stick’ graph, found that this ‘son of Hockey Stick’ representation was extremely misleading and contrived.<sup>88</sup> By accessing the original data used to construct the graph, he found it was made up of cherry-picked temperature data proxies, comprising of small sections from here and there around the world, to create the illusion of a flat line of Holocene temperature with little change, and a sudden uptick at about 1800 years (aka ‘pre-industrial’ time). The contrived nature of the graph may be why it does not appear in the science document.

When the IPCC AR6 report was released, Roger Pielke, Jr., long-time climate policy analyst, reported that “Good News! The extreme scenario that IPCC saw as most likely in 2013 is now judged low likelihood!”<sup>89</sup> and he wondered why this was not front-page news.

---

<sup>88</sup> <https://climateaudit.org/2021/08/11/the-ipcc-ar6-hockeystick/>

<sup>89</sup> <https://rogerpielkejr.substack.com/p/how-to-understand-the-new-ipcc-report>



Pielke, Jr. refers to the fact that the IPCC no longer sees the implausible scenario known as Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 (RCP 8.5) as our likely future.

Since green billionaires and various ENGOs had published “Risky Business” in 2013,<sup>90 91</sup> presenting the implausible RCP 8.5 as if ‘business-as-usual,’ the RCP8.5 scenario had proliferated throughout academia and the world of finance.<sup>92</sup> The RCP scenarios were designed strictly for research purposes,<sup>93</sup> to compare the relative warming impact based on the concentration of carbon dioxide (and other variables). These were not designed for policymaking and were not intended to offer ‘pathways’ to any climate goal. But the influence of the Risky Business report and the flood of academic papers using RCP 8.5 as the norm and as if it determined a certain future created the foundation of the claimed “Climate Emergency” where, in fact, no such emergency exists.

The misuse of the RCP scenarios has skewed our understanding of climate science and society’s future. (Pielke, Jr. & Ritchie 2021 (Pielke J. R., 2021)).<sup>94</sup> Examples of the misuse of RCP8.5 can be seen in the Friends of Science Society’s rebuttal to Dr. Katharine Hayhoe’s “Alberta’s Climate Future” entitled “Facts vs Fortune Telling”<sup>95</sup> and in this video of her misrepresenting RCP 8.5 as if ‘business-as-usual.’<sup>96</sup>

The reason why Pielke’s news was not on the front page is that there is media collusion to style climate change as a catastrophe. The Columbia Journalism Review has a project in conjunction with the Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas called “Covering Climate Now”<sup>97</sup> which involves some 400 media signatory outlets, reaching an audience of 2 billion. In the spring 2020

---

<sup>90</sup> <https://isen.northwestern.edu/risky-business-project-reports-on-economic-risk-of-climate-change>

<sup>91</sup> <https://unfccc.int/news/risky-business>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/rogerpielke/2020/01/02/how-billionaires-tom-steyer-and-michael-bloomberg-corrupted-climate-science/?sh=1e99c6b8702c>

<sup>93</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-011-0148-z>

<sup>94</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2214629620304655>

<sup>95</sup> <https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Alberta%20Climate%20Future%20rebuttal.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> <https://youtu.be/HjVvKNI2Q>

<sup>97</sup> <https://coveringclimatenow.org/>

edition of CJR's "The Climate Issue," they interviewed the film director of the dystopian "Mad Max" who offered journalists advice on 'how to make climate fear compelling.' (p. 104)

According to the Guardian:

"When she created the institute, Neilson said she supported "evidence-based journalism and the pursuit of truth in an increasingly complicated and confusing world".

"I am delighted to support the establishment of this Institute and I will look to experienced journalists and other experts to manage and guide its work," she said in 2018.

"I know that traditional forms of journalism are going through massive change and Australian journalism and intellectual life needs a shot in the arm.""<sup>98</sup>

In Canada, journalists have recently decided, based on an opinion poll, that there is a climate crisis and reporting should reflect that.<sup>99 100</sup>

Canadian media is deeply engaged with the large ENGO community from which it gets its catastrophic headline news – 'if it bleeds, it leads' – its plain language commentators, and from which it also earns advertising monies from government agencies, ENGOs, and 'green' corporate messaging. A case in point is that of Boothroyd Agency which had this to say about its role and that of ENGOs in the 2015 election in Canada:

"Strathmere Group (Greenpeace, Pembina Institute, WWF-Canada et al): In 2014, we planned and facilitated the Toronto skills-building workshop Campaigns and Communications 2014, where directors from Canada's 12 leading environmental

---

<sup>98</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2022/jun/21/judith-neilson-institute-head-says-events-spiralling-out-of-control-as-independent-directors-quit>

<sup>99</sup> <https://j-source.ca/the-climate-coverage-in-canada-report/>

<sup>100</sup> <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/media-should-cover-climate-as-a-crisis-say-scientists-and-journalists-836588074.html>

organizations learned from leading market researchers, journalists and organizers, and agreed to work on shared frames and messages in advance of the 2015 federal election.<sup>7</sup>

Parker Gallant, former international banker and commentator on energy and ENGO policies has written extensively on the Strathmere Group, a coalition of ENGOs formed by Pembina Institute under Marlo Reynolds,<sup>101 102</sup> which runs under the radar in Canada.

Those on the opposing side of eco-charities and Greenpeace might wonder what is “The Strathmere Group” about and what are the initiatives they plan to develop? Trying to find specific information on the “group” is difficult beyond what the McConnell Foundation has under their grant message. They note the 11 member organizations “*have over 358,000 members, 420 staff and annual budgets totaling over \$50 million.*”<sup>103</sup>

Gallant describes the membership as follows:

Pembina Institute, World Wildlife Fund, Ecojustice Canada, Nature Canada,\* Sierra Club of Canada, Pollution Probe, Greenpeace, Environmental Defence, Equiterre, David Suzuki Foundation and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

\*Nature Canada dropped out and Equiterre (a charity) replaced them and the Climate Action Network Canada (CAN-RAC), a not-for-profit was added.

It should be noted that CAN-RAC is an umbrella organization of over 100 climate activist ENGOs and unions. Clearly this is the broad network of media and citizen believers who are the climate ‘mob’ which can be activated by the click of an email to attack any dissenting voices,

---

<sup>101</sup> <https://muttart.org/reports/prepare-your-non-profit-organization-to-help-create-a-wave-of-positive-change/>

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.pembina.org/blog/leader-who-gave-pembina-institute-room-grow>

<sup>103</sup> <https://parkergallantenergy Perspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2020/09/08/the-strathmere-group-part-1/>

shredding media reputations via social media of any organization daring to publish a dissenting viewpoint. This is what happened to Friends of Science Society when, in 2014, the foreign-funded Sierra Club of Canada launched its point-and-click attack against the Friends of Science billboards.<sup>104</sup>

Parker Gallant did a bit more research on the money tree of the Strathmere Group and found this:

"Gross Revenue for the Strathmere Group

Curiosity about the revenue generated by the 10 charities and the two not-for-profits led me to examine the former's filings with the CRA but they only contain the 5 most recent year-end filings so I used Blumbergs charity data site and found everything needed to determine gross revenue, tax receipted donations, etc., etc. Gross revenue for the last 10 years of filings for the 10 charities was \$797 million with tax receipted donations of \$411 million or just over 51% of gross revenue. If one includes the Greenpeace Canada revenue for the 8 years, they make available on their website, the gross revenue becomes \$893 million and if one also includes the Climate Action Network revenue for the three years they post, it increases to \$894 million. The 10 charities received government grants of \$90 million, donations from other charities of \$98.5 million and offshore gifts of \$68 million. Collectively the 10 charities spent just under \$323 million on compensation or 40.5% of their gross revenue. To put the latter in context the Red Cross charity spent 29% of gross revenue on compensation and the United Way Toronto spent just over 21% of gross revenue on compensation in their most recent filings."

---

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.sierraclub.ca/en/here-comes-the-sun>

Do Canadian taxpayers, like the people interviewed by Haney, realize where their taxes are going and what is being done with them?

### **Climategate**

Haney makes passing reference to the Climategate scandal of 2009, where thousands of emails between prominent climate scientists revealed that a small bevy of scientists who hold the view that Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) is catastrophic and driven by greenhouse gas emissions, principally carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), were acting as ‘gatekeepers’ on whose work got published in peer-reviewed journals. This included discussions on how to smear, bully and delegitimize scientists holding dissenting views or those who provided scientific papers that demonstrated the Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming theory was either wrong or exaggerated.

Climategate is quite relevant to Friends of Science Society. Two key figures in the emails were scientific advisors to Friends of Science Society in the early days.

In 2005, Dr. Sallie Baliunas was guest speaker at Friends of Science Society’s Second Annual Climate Science Event. She was then an astrophysicist with the Harvard / Smithsonian Laboratory and scientific advisor to Friends of Science Society. Dr. Baliunas’ presentation,<sup>105</sup> ironically, was about Witch Hunts during the Little Ice Age, a time of erratic weather conditions and climate patterns where innocent, eccentric individuals were often accused of ‘weather cooking with the help of Satan.’ They were then burnt at the stake. The carnage was horrific, in the tens of thousands of people, most of the victims were women. Then, as now, extreme weather events were seen as ‘signs

---

<sup>105</sup> <https://friendsofscience.org/library/events/friends-of-science-second-annual-luncheon.-with-dr.-sallie-baliunas.html>

of wonder' with Apocalyptic meaning, beautifully documented in the illuminated manuscript of the 1600s, the Augsburg 'Book of Miracles.'<sup>106</sup>

Friends of Science Society was not in a financial position to videotape Dr. Baliunas' presentation at that time, but a similar presentation can be viewed here.<sup>107</sup> It is interesting to note that then, as now, the societal rage whipped up against dissidents, even by highly educated people, and the similarity of divisive, heinous epithets and language used to describe perceived 'offenders' who dispute the claimed consensus view. Likewise, note the active efforts to exclude, delegitimize and punish people who hold rational, dissenting views on climate science, which challenge the alleged consensus. See also Behringer (1999). This unscientific, emotional, and superstitious response can be seen in both climate science and is echoed in public commentary on COVID about those who complied with vaccinations and government mask and lockdown mandates and those who rejected, questioned, or protested them.

In 2002, Dr. Baliunas had participated in a written debate about the science and politics of the Kyoto Accord (a forerunner to the Paris Agreement) between two members of the foreign-funded ENGO, Pembina Institute. Arguing the science case along with Dr. Baliunas, were Dr. Tim Patterson, and Allan McRae, P. Eng. The debate was published in "The Peg" – the journal of the Association of Professional Geologists and Engineers of Alberta (then "APPEGA", now "APEGA").<sup>108</sup> The view presented, shared by Friends of Science Society, was that the Sun is the main driver of climate change. Pembina argued the politics of the IPCC. Shortly thereafter Dr. Baliunas became Friends of Science Society's first scientific advisor.

---

<sup>106</sup> [https://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/classics/all/44613/facts.the\\_book\\_of\\_miracles.htm](https://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/classics/all/44613/facts.the_book_of_miracles.htm)

<sup>107</sup> <https://youtu.be/wcAy4sOcS5M>

<sup>108</sup> <https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/KyotoAPEGA2002REV1.pdf>

Also joining the Friends of Science Society's scientific advisory board at the time was Dr. Chris De Freitas. Dr. Madhav Khandekar remains as scientific advisor to Friends of Science to this day.

However, when one examines the Climategate emails, one finds numerous efforts to block the work of Dr. Baliunas from publication, to delegitimize her work to senior politicians as they claim the skeptics have an 'in' at the White House (i.e., President George W. Bush April 24, 2003: email 1051202354).

The following excerpts are from Lavoisier's annotated ClimateGate emails.<sup>109</sup> These were edited and annotated by scientist John Costello. He added explanatory commentary to help the naïve reader appreciate the significance of what is going on in these interactions. The indented sections are verbatim quotes from emails. The background of verbatim excerpts and John Costello's annotations are highlighted in pale grey to differentiate from this author's commentary.

One such email [March 11, 2003: email 1047388489] from a scientist reads (referring to a science journal where Chris De Freitas was editor):

The Soon and Baliunas paper couldn't have cleared a "legitimate" peer review process anywhere. That leaves only one possibility—that the peer-review process at *Climate Research* has been hijacked by a few skeptics on the editorial board. And it isn't just De Freitas; unfortunately, I think this group also includes a member of my own department... The skeptics appear to have staged a "coup" at *Climate Research* (it was a mediocre journal to begin with, but now it's a mediocre journal with a definite "purpose").

---

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.lavoisier.com.au/articles/greenhouse-science/climate-change/climategate-emails.pdf>

In other words, the publication of a *single paper* critical of their work—which is how any healthy discipline of science is supposed to work—is, automatically, evidence of a “hijacking” of an entire peer-reviewed journal.

Then one of the scientists suggests black-balling the journal that dared to challenge their authority:

So what do we do about this? I think we have to stop considering *Climate Research* as a legitimate peer-reviewed journal. Perhaps we should encourage our colleagues in the climate research community to no longer submit to, or cite papers in, this journal. We would also need to consider what we tell or request of our more reasonable colleagues who currently sit on the editorial board...

So it's OK for their gang to control the “peer review” process, but not OK for skeptics to have any say?

On March 11, 2003: email 1047474776 - these scientists conspire to destroy the reputation of the journal that Dr. Chris De Freitas is editing, also proposing to change the reference time periods for the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age as these natural warming and cooling periods, which Dr. Baliunas references in her work, present pesky evidence that it was warmer in the past than today...thanks to Mother Nature and... the Sun.

The plotting continues.

April 23, 2003: email 1051156418

Tom Wigley writes to a large number of recipients, building on the idea that every critical or skeptical paper published in the peer-reviewed literature must be due to a “conspiracy of skeptics”:



Danny Harvey and I refereed a paper by skeptic Pat Michaels and co-workers and said it should be rejected. We questioned the editor (de Freitas again!) and he responded, saying:<sup>32</sup>

*The manuscript was reviewed initially by five referees. ... The other three referees, all reputable atmospheric scientists, agreed it should be published subject to minor revision. Even then I used a sixth person to help me decide. I took his advice and that of the three other referees and sent the manuscript back for revision. It was later accepted for publication. The refereeing process was more rigorous than usual.*

On the surface this looks to be above board—although, as referees who advised rejection, it is clear that Danny and I should have been kept in the loop and seen how our criticisms were responded to.

Again, Wigley perpetuates the arrogant myth that this small club of scientists should have the right to interfere with, and ultimately veto, the review and publication process for each and every paper published in their field. Such censorship is not how a healthy discipline of science operates; indeed, any discipline that operates in this manner is not “science” at all.

Wigley continues:

I suspect that de Freitas deliberately chose other referees who are members of the skeptics camp. I also suspect that he has done this on other occasions. How to deal with this is unclear, since there are a number of individuals with genuine scientific credentials who could be used by an unscrupulous editor to ensure that “anti-greenhouse” science can get through the peer review process (Legates, Balling, Lindzen, Baliunas, Soon, and so on). The peer review process is being abused, but proving this would be difficult.

This is a damning admission by Wigley: he acknowledges that these skeptics have impeccable scientific credentials; the only reason that they should be banned from reviewing papers for journal publication is that they don't buy into their dogma of global warming! This email dispels any doubt

that this cosy [sic] club redefined “peers” to mean “scientists who agree with us”—which makes a mockery of the entire idea of “peer review”.

The ultimate irony in all this, of course, is that skepticism is not a scientific insult, but rather an essential tenet of the scientific method. Only in debates within dogmatic theology are sceptics branded as heretics. April 24, 2003: email 1051190249

Tim Carter, research professor at the Finnish Environment Institute, suggests to Tom Wigley a way of ensuring that no papers get published without their ability to veto:

On the *Climate Research* issue ... I wonder if a review of the refereeing policy is in order. The only way I can think of would be for all papers to go through two Editors rather than one, the former to have overall responsibility, the latter to provide a second opinion on a paper and reviewers' comments prior to publication. A General Editor would be needed to adjudicate in the event of disagreement. Of course, this could then slow down the review process enormously. However, without an editorial board to vote someone off, how can suspect Editors be removed except by the Publisher (in this case, Inter-Research, the publishers of *Climate Research*).

Tom Wigley replies:

Re *Climate Research*, I do not know the best way to handle the specifics of the editing [sic]. Hans von Storch is partly to blame—he encourages the publication of crap science “in order to stimulate debate”. One approach is to go direct to the publishers and point out the fact that their journal is perceived as being a medium for disseminating misinformation under the guise of refereed work. I use the word “perceived” here, since whether it is true or not is not what the publishers care about—it is how the journal is seen by the community that counts.

In other words, Wigley is unambiguously advocating a “smear campaign” against the journal.

Wigley continues:

I think we could get a large group of highly credentialed scientists to sign such a letter—50+ people. Note that I am copying this view only to Mike Hulme and Phil Jones. Mike's idea to get the editorial board members to resign will probably not work—we must get rid of von Storch too, otherwise the holes will eventually fill up with people (skeptics) like Legates, Balling, Lindzen, Michaels, Singer, etc. I have heard that the publishers are not happy with von Storch, so the above approach might remove that hurdle too.

Wonderful!

Unbelievably, the editorial work of Dr. Chris De Freitas is reviewed and found to be excellent, but this little clique of scientists cannot bear the thought and decide the journal's reputation must be destroyed.

July 3, 2003: email 1057941657

The Director of *Climate Research*, Otto Kinne, investigated the complaints about the editorial and refereeing process, and wrote:

Dear colleagues,

In my 20 June 2003 email to you I stated, among other things, that I would ask *Climate Research* editor Chris de Freitas to present to me copies of the reviewers' evaluations for the two Soon and co-worker papers.

I have received and studied the material requested.

Conclusions:

- 1) The reviewers consulted (four for each manuscript) by the editor presented detailed, critical and helpful evaluations.
- 2) The editor properly analysed the evaluations and requested appropriate revisions.

3) The authors revised their manuscripts accordingly.

Summary:

Chris de Freitas has done a good and correct job as editor.

The hubris and sickening self-dealing, self-promotion and desire for absolute veto power over publication continues in the August 19, 2003: email 1061298033

By August 19, 2003: email 1061300885 they are plotting the reputational destruction of Dr. Sallie Baliunas. Note that these scientists are not debating the scientific merits of works that they dispute, they are actively planning to denigrate, diminish and destroy the personal reputations of scientists who works they do not agree with.

Tom Crowley realizes that the gang needs more ammunition against the astrophysicists Soon and Baliunas, who seem to avoid the worst of their “peer group pressure” at in-bred scientific meetings:

We need some data on Soon and Baliunas. One of my concerns is that they only publish in low-impact journals, and completely bypass the normal give-and-take of presentations at open scientific meetings (for example, I think I have probably heard 100 presentations overall from the people on this mailing list).

His implication is that, if you repeat something enough times—to a sympathetic audience—it somehow becomes more credible. From this hypothesis, he develops an entire line of attack on these interlopers:

It is therefore very important to inquire, for the sake of our exchanges with reporters, legislators, etc, as to how often any of you may have heard Soon or Baliunas give a talk in an open meeting, where they could defend their analyses.

Please respond to me as to whether you have heard either of them present something on their climate analyses (I think I heard Baliunas speak once on her astrophysics work, but that doesn't count).

I will let you know the results of the poll so that we may all be on the same grounds with respect to the data, and reporting such information to press inquiries, legislators, etc.

Tom Wigley proposes a tactic that is pure disinformation:

Might be interesting to see how frequently Soon and Baliunas, individually, are cited (as astronomers).

Are they any good in their own fields? Perhaps we could start referring to them as "astrologers" (excusable as ... "oops, just a typo").

September 3, 2003: email 1062592331

[Ed] Cook's suggestions end with comments that are only half-humorous:

7) Publish, retire, and don't leave a forwarding address

Without trying to prejudice this work, but also because of what I almost think I know to be the case, the results of this study will show that we can probably say a fair bit about ... temperature variability within a century (at least as far as we believe the temperature proxy estimates), but that we honestly know f\*ck-all about what the ... variability was like on timescales greater than a century with any certainty (i.e. we know with certainty that we know f\*ck-all).

Cook's "calling a spade a spade" immediately endears him to my heart, and gives us confidence that he is expressing his genuine opinion. And while that opinion agrees completely with my own assessment of this field of science, it is astounding to hear it so explicitly (and colourfully), directly from the mouth of one intimately involved in this case: temperature variations within a

century can probably be reliably estimated, but we can conclude absolutely nothing about temperature variations over longer time-scales.

That, dear reader, is the absolute crux of the global warming question: whether current temperature changes are “unprecedented” over historical time periods. Here we have, in no uncertain terms, a definitive statement that we have no idea if this is the case.

**The jury is dismissed. Mankind has been found not guilty of all charges. [bold emphasis added]**

Regarding the expletives in the foregoing, one can refer to the Armstrong & Green (2007) “Golden Rule of Forecasting.”<sup>110</sup>

By October 13, 2003: email 1066337021 the damage has been done. Dr. Baliunas is portrayed as an oil-funded climate change denying incompetent by none other than “John Holdren, now Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.”

**The October 30, 2003: email 1067532918 demonstrates how the climate ‘old-boys club’ works together.**

~~~~~

As Haney’s title suggested, it is clear from the evidence in the Climategate emails that some “*Scientists don’t care about the truth anymore...*” and that skeptics are right to question what may be going on behind the scenes.

Dr. Baliunas was harassed and bullied out of her profession, despite being an award-winning astrophysicist. Scientists who claim to be experts in climate change accorded her the epithet of ‘astrologer’ but as Dr. Nir Shaviv of Hebrew University has pointed out, “...it turns out that climate is

---

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Golden-Rule-of-Forecasting-goldenruleofforecastingcom>

*affected by things which are outside the atmosphere...in particular, because the climate is affected by the sun and other things which are outside the solar system you will find that in order to understand those aspects, you need an astrophysicist.*"<sup>111</sup>

Notable items found in the Climategate emails that are also relevant to Friends of Science Society. One of the names mentioned is Danny Harvey; he was signatory to the Ecojustice call for inquiry into Friends of Science by the Competition Bureau. At the time that Ecojustice issued the call for inquiry, Friends of Science Society appealed to Margaret Atwood for intervention as she was and is an Honorary Board member of Ecojustice and at the time was Vice President of Pen International, champions of free speech and political dissidents worldwide. In the Friends of Science open letter,<sup>112</sup> Dr. Baliunas' circumstances are mentioned, hoping that Atwood, as an ardent feminist, would appreciate the tragedy of this loss of an excellent scientist and female STEM role model. Despite sending the correspondence directly to Pen International and Atwood as VP, Friends of Science Society never received a response of any kind.

### **Climategate and WWF**

*"To be totally frank," Musk told the All-in podcast, "almost every conspiracy theory that people had about Twitter turned out to be true.*

*"Is there a conspiracy theory about Twitter that didn't turn out to be true?" Musk asked. "So far, they've all turned out to be true and if not more true than people thought."*<sup>113</sup>

Haney's paper tries to associate climate realist views with conspiracy thinking. The Climategate emails confirm what many climate realists are concerned about – that unelected,

---

<sup>111</sup> <https://youtu.be/Vlp0PAVRV-k?list=PLZcRTdbkGEnGSXiJkTXu1xTcnSXuurd79>

<sup>112</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2015/12/10/an-open-letter-to-margaret-atwood-vice-president-pen-international/>

<sup>113</sup> <https://english.almayadeen.net/news/technology/musk:-all-twitter-conspiracy-theories-turning-out-to-be-true>

unaccountable, foreign-funded ENGOs are influencing supposedly scientific reports from the IPCC.

July 29, 1999: email 0933255789

Adam Markham from the WWF (formerly the World Wildlife Fund) writes to University of East Anglia climate scientists Mike Hulme and Nicola Sheard, about a paper that Hulme and Sheard had written about climate change in Australasia:

Hi Mike,

I'm sure you will get some comments direct from Mike Rae in WWF Australia, but I wanted to pass on the gist of what they've said to me so far.

They are worried that this may present a slightly more conservative approach to the risks than they are hearing from Australian scientists. In particular, they would like to see the section on variability and extreme events beefed up if possible. ...

I guess the bottom line is that if they are going to go with a big public splash on this they need something that will get good support from Australian scientists (who will certainly be asked to comment by the press).

Climategate takes on a new dimension with this revelation: political activists from an environmental lobby group are telling East Anglia climate scientists to rewrite sections of their paper, as it is less alarming than the message that Australian scientists have already presented for public consumption!

### **Who is Funded by Big Oil?**

Haney repeatedly refers to Friends of Science Society as 'industry-funded' which is untrue. One finds in the Climategate emails that climate change scientists have gone fishing in the big financial pond of Big Oil.



July 5, 2000: email 0962818260

Mike Kelly, of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, writes to Mike Hulme and Tim O’Riordan:

Had a very good meeting with Shell yesterday. Only a minor part of the agenda, but I expect they will accept an invitation to act as a strategic 18 partner, and will contribute to a studentship fund, though under certain conditions.

And they accuse skeptics of “being in the pockets” of Big Oil?

I’m talking to Shell International’s climate change team, but this approach will do equally for the new Foundation, as it’s only one step or so off Shell’s equivalent of a board level. I do know a little about the Foundation and what kind of projects they are looking for. It could be relevant for the new building, incidentally, though opinions are mixed as to whether it’s within the remit.

Sounds lucrative. Buildings don’t come cheap.

### **The Final Insult - \$50 Rona Gift Cards**

Haney’s interview project was funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), which operates under the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry. Based on an internet search, it appears that there was an Insight Development Grant/Duration: from Jun 1, 2020 to May 31, 2022 in the order of \$59,240.00 that appears to be related to the SSHRC funding for this work of Haney.

“The interviews lasted between one hour and three hours, with an average of 1.5 hours, and normally took place at a coffee shop or cafe in the participant’s neighborhood, or in a dedicated space at the university. To thank participants, we offered them a \$50 gift card to

RONA, a Canadian home improvement store. Interview recordings were then transcribed verbatim by a third-party transcriptionist, based in Calgary.”

Thus, 40 Calgarians, some of whom are the ‘movers and shakers’ who helped make Canada one of the top five oil, gas and heavy oil suppliers in the world, bringing in revenues to Alberta and Canada of billions of dollars every year, funding places like Mount Royal University and SSHRC, were rewarded for their time and good faith with a ‘gift card’ purchased with their own tax dollars. Likewise, the MRU Institute for Environmental Sustainability (IES), of which Haney is a part, states:

"Core funding of the IES was provided by generous gifts from Encana Corporation and Repsol Oil & Gas Canada Inc. We are also grateful for financial support from Progress Energy Canada Ltd., Newalta Corporation, Imperial Oil, Shell Canada Ltd and Suncor Energy. "

Some of the people interviewed, also created thousands of jobs and created the highest value “Super Cluster” of hydrocarbon development and reclamation expertise in the world, right here in Alberta. Haney, who appears to be disgusted by the thought and falsely claims that Friends of Science is ‘industry-funded,’ is clearly engaging in projection, and like many academics in Alberta, he is biting the hand that feeds him.<sup>114</sup>

After agreeing to chat in good faith about their experience as Calgary flood victims and engaging in talk on the *environment*, the Haney interview subjects were then deceived into expressing random views about climate change, which were subsequently pejoratively ‘interpreted’ by Haney in a manner that is damaging to their individual reputations and to the industry that created the funding for his project. They were given a ‘gift’ of \$50 of their own tax dollars which had already been committed on their behalf to ‘spend’ as they wish at Rona, a company headquartered in

---

<sup>114</sup> <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2020/04/04/biting-the-hand-that-feeds-you/>

Boucherville, Quebec. As if Albertans do not already send billions of dollars of oil/gas revenues in equalization payments to Quebec.<sup>115</sup>

### Conclusion

The evidence presented herein shows that there has been concerted efforts by self-interested parties, large ‘green’ philanthropies, well-funded ENGOs and government funded researchers to skew climate science, stifle open, civil debate, to denigrate rational dissent and to destroy the professional reputations of scientists and organizations that challenge the alleged consensus on climate change. This quasi-medieval witch hunt mentality is fueled by energy illiteracy and assumptions about energy industry motivations for personal gain or to cause a ‘sea change in the global economy’ (Nisbet (Climate Shift 2011<sup>116</sup>) outside the democratic, sovereign process.

Canadian taxpayers who work in the energy sectors have had their own tax monies used against their interests and the interests of society. As evidenced in Europe, the burgeoning energy crisis will lead to massive degrowth of industry<sup>117</sup> and related job loss, will decimate small business, destroy families, and cause thousands of deaths<sup>118</sup> due to heat or eat poverty. All because in fact, as shown in this rebuttal to Haney (2022), mainstream climate and social ‘scientists *don’t* care about truth anymore.’

Perhaps it is time to remind people of the following message that was part of Friends of Science Society’s billboard campaign.

---

<sup>115</sup> <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/how-alberta-pays-quebecs-bills-four-charts-that-show-alberta-picks-up-the-tab>

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/30055979/clear-vision-for-the-next-decade-of-public-debate-climate>

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.borderless.net/news/chemical-value-chain/basf-50-cut-in-gas-supply-would-shut-down-ludwigshafen/>

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.economist.com/interactive/graphic-detail/2022/11/26/high-fuel-prices-could-kill-more-europeans-than-fighting-in-ukraine-has>



~~~~~

**References:**

- Armstrong, J. & Green, K. (2022). *The Scientific Method; A Guide to Finding Useful Knowledge*.
- Haney (2022). 'Scientists don't care about truth anymore': the climate crisis and rejection of science in Canada's oil country.
- Harvey, D. (2013) The potential of wind energy to largely displace existing Canadian fossil fuel and nuclear electricity generation
- Milrad et al (2015). A Meteorological Analysis of the 2013 Alberta Flood: Antecedent Large-Scale Flow Pattern and Synoptic–Dynamic Characteristics.
- Nerini et al (2021) Personal Carbon Allowances Revisited
- Pielke, Jr & Ritchie J. (2021). Distorting the view of our climate future: The misuse and abuse of climate pathways and scenarios.
- Zimmerman. (n.d.). *The Consensus on the Consensus*.