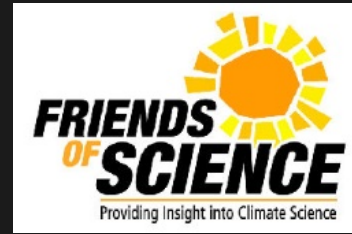


Friends of Science

friendsofscience.org
climatechange101.ca



Press Release



September 17, 2020

Call for Retraction of University of Alberta Report by Friends of Science Society

(Calgary, Alberta) In an [open letter to University of Alberta President Bill Flanagan](#), Friends of Science Society calls for the retraction of a U of A report entitled "[Assessing Barriers to Renewable Energy Development in Alberta: Evidence from a Survey on Wind Energy with Rural Landowners](#)". Friends of Science Society states that the report, written by students and professors in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology and funded by taxpayers through SSHRC, makes false and disparaging remarks about the society whose membership includes many U of A alumni in earth sciences, engineering, and management. Furthermore, the report inaccurately frames Alberta as a laggard in wind energy, when in fact the province was the first jurisdiction in Canada to have a wind farm, dating back to 1993.

The letter also points out several technical and scientific inaccuracies in the U of A report with regard to climate change and electrical power generation.

Friends of Science letter says that "it is curious that these University of Alberta professors and grad students state that "[Concerns about anti-climate action interest groups \[referring to Friends of Science and Grassroots Alberta\] spreading misinformation are pressing in Alberta...](#)" when it is obvious that the more pressing concern is the foreign funded, taxpayer subsidized, ENGOS, spreading false and misleading information about the Alberta oil sands..."

Friends of Science letter highlights the fact that Environmental Defence, a federally registered charity that is quoted in one of the report's references, has been identified as part of the Tar Sands Campaign that has decimated Alberta's economy and university funding. A recent Friends of Science Society report "[Protest vs Trade War](#)" provides substantial evidence of a coordinated campaign against Alberta's energy sector, rebutting Environmental Defence claims to the contrary.

It is disturbing that the U of A report "[Assessing Barriers...](#)" attempts to identify angles to convince rural communities and residents to buy into wind farms, when wind turbines kill hundreds of rare raptors and bats every year, which are crucial to agricultural pest control.

While the U of A report "[Assessing Barriers...](#)" paints a favorable picture of wind farms for power generation in Alberta, Friends of Science letter shows that the authors are "[In the Dark on Renewables.](#)" Wind costs taxpayers

billions of dollars in hidden subsidies and infrastructure like transmission lines, integration, and back-up natural gas plants. Links are provided to a number of reports on renewables showing why 'green' cannot lead to a 'resilient recovery'. These reports by Robert Lyman, Ottawa energy policy consultant and former public servant and diplomat, are entitled "[Broken Promises](#)", "[Empty Wallets](#)", "[Empty Pockets](#)". As Google engineers found out several years ago, wind and solar farms do not address climate change, which is typically the rationale for building them.

On the topic of climate change, Friends of Science letter directs readers to "[Facts vs Fortune Telling](#)" – their rebuttal to the NDP-commissioned report "Alberta's Climate Future", prepared by Prof. Katherine Hayhoe.

Contrary to the derogatory statements in the U of Alberta report, Friends of Science Society is 'pro-climate science information' and opposed to poor climate or energy policies based on myths that humans can control the climate of earth by taxing people.

Friends of Science Society is presently running a billboard campaign in Edmonton featuring a dynamic image of the sun and a majestic solar flare reaching out toward a tiny earth with the statement "Climate – Change your Mind. Is it you? Is it really CO₂?" Friends of Science Society holds the position that the sun is the main direct and indirect driver of climate change, along with natural cyclical factors like ocean and atmospheric cycles.

Friends of Science Society advocates for open, civil debate on climate science and related energy policies, and full cost-benefit analysis of proposed mitigation.



About:

Friends of Science Society is an independent group of earth, atmospheric and solar scientists, engineers, and citizens who are celebrating its 18th year of offering climate science insights. After a thorough review of a broad spectrum of literature on climate change, Friends of Science Society has concluded that the sun is the main driver of climate change, not carbon dioxide (CO₂).

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