

November, 5th 2016 Rally at the McDougal Centre, Calgary

Intro:

Michelle Stirling is the Communications Manager for Friends of Science Society. She formerly worked at Alberta Environment in 2005 – the year the Sierra Club gave Alberta an “F” and Ontario a “B+” - that was when Elizabeth May was running Sierra Club. Michelle is also the author of the Kindle book “My Tar Sands Tipping Point with CBC.”

Michelle Stirling:

Thank you very much.

Hello, Alberta. Great to see all of you here, standing up for this wonderful province. My roots go deep in Alberta. In 1912, my grandmother, just arrived from England, spent her honeymoon here at the first Calgary Stampede. She and my grandfather homesteaded out by Hanna and over the years, their descendants have spawned a flock of Alberta farmers, teachers, nurses, business people – you name it - who work hard to make this a great place to live.

So – it matters to me that the Alberta Climate Plan and carbon tax will put over a hundred years of progress at risk. It’s personal.

I’m also here because it’s professional.

I have been working with Friends of Science Society since 2012. Friends of Science is a small, mostly volunteer-run non-profit - started in 2002 to protest and question Kyoto!

Since that time, for 14 years, the retired scientists of the core group have patiently churned out dozens of reports and commentaries to educate the public and policy-makers on the broader aspects of climate science, and potential impacts on the economy. Free!

One of our co-founders, is 90 years old – and still actively informing the public about how the sun affects climate change.

That’s our position – the sun is the main direct and indirect driver of climate change. Consequently, how can a carbon tax or greenhouse gas reduction policies stop climate change?

Are we funded by Big Oil or Big Coal? No. Our annual budget is about \$150,000 and we’re funded by individual members, people like you, most of whom are Albertans and many of whom are experts on climate, economics, engineering and geology.

Speaking of geology, imagine, just 10,000 years ago, where you stand today, was under two miles of ice. It all melted, and here we are. Thanks to natural global warming, we can live here.

The forces of nature were so powerful, that those Ice Age glaciers pushed the Okotoks Big Rock – a sacred symbol to the Blackfoot Nation – all the way from the Jasper area to where it is today.

You can go to Okotoks and see for yourself. THAT's climate change. That's the power of nature.

Could a carbon tax have stopped that ice melt? Never.

In fact, if anything, that 'global warming' made it possible for us to live here and become...farmers, ranchers, teachers, doctors, nurses and business people.

The Alberta Climate Plan is, in our opinion, a deeply flawed document. We believe the climate panel to have been too one-sided, with undue influence of environmental groups and institutional investors, some of them funded by foreign interests or apparently acting as proxies -with commercial conflicts of interests.

The climate plan and carbon tax proposed by the Alberta government, and that of the Canadian government, will impose untenable costs on all of us.

The wind and solar plans to 'replace' coal-fired power will create costly, virtually unworkable power system issues because wind and solar are intermittent and unreliable.

The cost of the Alberta coal-phase out, today, based on estimates from independent experts, is more than \$22 BILLION... \$22 BILLION dollars...

Billions of dollars....for blackouts. That's what so much wind and solar can do to a power grid. Blackouts. That's what closing coal plants before building new natural gas plant or hydro capacity can do. Why should we pay MORE for a LESS reliable power system?

Now, the story we've been told is that we must phase-out coal to protect health. In fact, we looked at the health statistics from Alberta Health Services of over 152 Primary Care Networks – there is no evidence to support the health claims against coal use in Alberta.

That's what we do at Friends of Science Society. We look at the EVIDENCE over the Ideology.

I worked at Alberta Environment. I know! Alberta – and our major cities - have some of the cleanest air in the world – mostly because Alberta industries worked hand in hand with the government over the past 20 years on reducing noxious emissions. That's what every country should be doing – not chasing carbon dioxide – but instead, improving air and water quality, like we did.

The push by foreign-funded anti-coal activists is a perfect example of how 'climate change' and exaggerated health claims based on 'green' ideology, take over the evidence.

The evidence shows that Albertans lived to about age 50 in the 1930's. Today, we live into our 80's and 90's – thanks in large part to affordable power. Affordable, RELIABLE coal power – to run our hospitals. Can you imagine heart surgery on wind power? Of course not.

Medical services and many key industries need reliable power – affordable power.

And the most affordable power comes from coal.

Alberta has LOTS of high quality coal – in fact, Lethbridge was founded upon it - used to be called “Coal Banks.” Our pioneering ancestors were HAPPY to find abundant coal, oil and natural gas here.

They suffered mightily from the cold; our mothers and fathers, grandparents and great-grandparents benefitted from the development of fossil fuels – to the point that today, economists have calculated that coal, oil and natural gas give each one of us the equivalent of 97 servants.

In Alberta, most of the baseload power, about 70% – that's the bulk of our daily power requirements – comes from coal-fired power. If we go to natural gas power plants – which we MUST do in order for wind and solar to operate, we will face a significant rise in power prices. Natural gas is a market commodity that has seen wild swings in cost, – perhaps not today, but soon, yes.

If we add wind and solar, based on evidence world-wide, we will find power prices doubling or tripling or more – just look at Ontario.

Alberta is cold and dark in winter. Affordable, reliable power SHOULD be a human right in this country.

But you and I, the electorate of Alberta, are being snubbed. Green crony capitalists are attempting to cash in on 20 year wind and solar contracts and subsidies...from YOUR pocket. Large wind and solar farms will deface Alberta as a tourism destination – and destroy valuable agricultural farmland. This is the world's breadbasket – let's not turn it into basket case of wind turbine towers.

Taxing carbon dioxide and closing Alberta's modern, world-class supercritical coal plants won't change the climate - but will destroy the economy – put 7,000 coal industry people out of work – destroy 30 communities that our ancestors founded – and leave your children with billions of dollars in debt.

In a bigger picture, Friends of Science has pointed out that our resource industries are under attack in a geopolitical trade war – ‘cloaked in green.’ Think about it. We are an open

democracy, blessed with abundant oil, natural gas and coal, and we are very nice people, always willing to say sorry.

So, when someone tells us it is our fault the Marshall Islands are drowning – do we question that? No. We say “sorry”...so in terms of geopolitics, we are a push over. We have recently sent an open letter to the Prime Minister asking him to expose and investigate this trade war against us, and get Canadian industry and our people back to work.

We often hear talk of ‘climate refugees.’

WE are the climate refugees. Why do millions of Canadians leave the dead of winter for the south? What will a carbon tax do to your travel costs – and to the Alberta business success of WestJet? What would a carbon tax do to our world-class tourism industry in general?

Warming is not a crisis - cooling would be...and perhaps will be - that's what solar scientists foresee. Based on 400 years of observations and the sun's current low cycle of activity, there is a likelihood that we could see another Little Ice Age with global or regional temperatures dropping 1 or 2 degrees. The last Little Ice Age was 500 years long, fraught with wild, unpredictable weather – and many women were burnt at the stake as witches for the crime of ‘weather cooking.’

There was famine and social chaos – that sparked the French Revolution.

Albertans and Canadians must recognize that climate changes, all the time, warmer or cooler – and we MUST be prepared for either.

For Albertans – we must be prepared with reliable, affordable power. A carbon tax won't save us from whims of Mother Nature. Affordable, reliable coal-fired power will.

Sign the petition.

Protect your children from a carbon tax and coal phase-out climate hustle...and a debt load of Billions for Blackouts.

Thank you so much.