

May 2006

FOS MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER No. 10

“FOS is dedicated to providing the public with insight into Climate change”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Sincere thanks to all Friends of Science members who took the time to attend our recent luncheon with Prof. Chris De Freitas. As with previous luncheons, interest was high and the event was a sell-out. I’d like to thank our luncheon committee who did an admirable job of organizing.

For those of you who could not attend, Prof. de Freitas made a cogent and dispassionate case, for dispassionate science. As someone who is intimately familiar with the workings of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) de Freitas convincingly exposed the admission by the full IPCC report that there is no proven correlation between man-made emissions and climate change. On the other hand, the summary to policy makers, which is read by government, is a startlingly different, emotional and fear filled document that plays up the needs to fight man-made global warming.

The FoS luncheon followed on the heels of an eye opening presentation made to members of the Alberta PC Calgary Caucus by Dr. Tim Ball. The Calgary Caucus is an influential body, and we were pleased that several Ministers, including Energy Minister Greg Melchin, were in attendance. That presentation on the lack of science underlying Kyoto has lead to another presentation to be held this month in Edmonton to the Standing Policy Committee on Energy. I look forward to reporting back to you on that.

The “friends” sponsored a booth at the recent Engineering Institute of Canada’s “Climate Change Technology Conference”. It was manned by Dr. Madhav Khandekar, one of our SAB members and by Bryan Thomas from Fleishman Hillard. We had a much more enthusiastic reception than at the recent Montreal COP11 conference which concerned the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. (This is probably because engineers are more interested in the science of things than are policy makers.)

You may have heard about our radio ad campaign in Ontario, now that campaign has reached the airwaves of Alberta. Starting the week of May 15, FoS ads hit the airwaves in Edmonton and Calgary. We want Conservative members of Parliament to know that Friends of Science is actively educating Canadians. I believe we are nearing a tipping point regarding Kyoto. While there is still media bias against the sceptical view of climate change, and while the federal Government still refers to the importance of reducing “emissions” as opposed to pollution, there is no question that the government has moved Canada in the direction of a made in Canada environmental program to replace Kyoto.

The “Friends” will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday June 7, 2006 at 07:30 PM at the South Calgary Community Centre, 3130 16 St. SW. There is business to transact with respect to constitutional amendments, approval of financial statements, and election of the Board of Directors. We will be honoured to have Dr. Barry Cooper, professor of political science at University of Alberta, give us an address on the politics of science. It is very important that FoS members attend the meeting to give us their support, encouragement and guidance.

Douglas Leahey PhD

KYOTO AND FOS NEWS

60 LEADING SCIENTISTS CALL ON HARPER TO REVIEW THE SCIENCE

A major volley in the climate change debate was fired when 60 of the worlds leading climatologists issued an open letter to the Prime Minister in the National Post. For the full text of the letter, go to the home page of www.friendsofscience.org

FOS LAUNCHES RADIO ADS IN ALBERTA

After the controversial and successful launch of a radio ad campaign in Ontario, FOS is taking its message to the airwaves in Alberta. This short but intense ad campaign is designed to send a message to Alberta MP, MLAs and the public that science matters. To listen to the ad, check out our home page at www.friendsofscience.org

FOS FUNDS SCHOLARSHIP AT THE U OF C

Friends of Science have announced a \$10,000 bursary to a Master Degree student focusing on the relationships between science and public policy. More details will follow in the coming months.

FOS ATTACKED

A group calling themselves “Manitoba Wildlands” has issued a email statement accusing FOS of being tools of “Big Oil”. They offered no evidence to support that charge. They certainly haven’t called us to ask where we get our funding. (For a good chuckle, go to www.manitobawildlands.org, then use the search bar to search “friends of science”. What you won’t find in the attack statement is the link between Manitoba Wildlands and the World Wildlife Federation. Nor will you find their annual statement where they gladly receive funding from none other than “Big Oil”. You can find that at www.wwf.ca/AboutWWF/WhoWeAre/AnnualReport/2005/)

COMMENTS

Public opinion is still strongly in favour of reducing CO₂ emissions as a way of controlling climate. Canada is under intense pressure from the UN. Scientists who have been defending Kyoto science will not simply roll over and declare that they were wrong. Environmental groups who have literally banked on climate change are increasing the level of rhetoric.

The “Friends” have helped generate some momentum, but to maintain and increase that momentum, we need to continue to work to change public opinion. That means that FoS, as always, needs your help. Please write your MPs and MLAs, and support FoS financially as it launches advertising campaigns across Canada. We have never been this close to winning. Help us marshal the resources necessary to get the job done.

SCIENCE NEWS

LITTLE ICE AGE SOLAR INFLUENCE ON PRECIPITATION

CO2 Science Magazine, Volume 9, Issue 18

www.co2science.org/scripts/CO2ScienceB2C/subject/s/summaries/liasolarpcp.jsp

This article summarizes relationships that have been demonstrated between significant periods of high and low precipitation to fluctuations in solar activity and reviews some of the scientific studies that address this other important aspect of global climate change during the Little Ice Age.

ORIGIN OF PAST (AND FUTURE) ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE

CO2 Science Magazine, Volume 9, Issue 18

Wunsch, C. 2006. Abrupt climate change: An alternative view. *Quaternary Research* **65**: 191-203.

Abrupt climate change: An alternative view. Theories and predictions about the imminent shut down of the Gulf Stream are all the rage these days and such underlying assumptions are examined in this recent paper.

www.co2science.org/scripts/CO2ScienceB2C/articles/V9/N19/C1.jsp

REPORT RECONCILES ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURE TRENDS FIRST OF 21 REPORTS FROM THE U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE PROGRAM SIGNIFICANTLY REVISES, UPDATES CONCLUSIONS FROM PREVIOUS KEY REPORTS

NOAA Magazine, May 2, 2006 - REPORT RECONCILES ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURE TRENDS
First of 21 Reports from the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Significantly Revises, Updates
Conclusions from Previous Key Reports

You may wish to consult this document at www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2623.htm to decide for yourself, if in view of the many caveats and rationales for data set manipulations, whether or not the fanfare is justified.

The reader may also be interested to learn that at the same time the IPCC people have lowered their warming projections to about 1.8 degrees and are no longer talking about their max of 5.8 or 6.1 degrees