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FOS MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER No. 12
“FOS is dedicated to providing the public with insight into Climate Change”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The new Liberal Party Leader, Stéphane Dion, has established one thing. Kyoto is a dog.

Our current minority Conservative Government is getting a rough ride over their proposed clean air legislation. Your Board supports the idea of minimizing the discussion on the carbon dioxide issue and focusing on an environmentally friendly program promoting clean air and water. Unfortunately the opposition is not buying into the plan and are attempting to force the government into carbon dioxide control measures. We will continue to put forward the science side of the debate however, at the moment; our arguments seem to be falling on deaf ears.

Barry Cooper of the University of Calgary and Tim Patterson of Carleton University are arranging a conference in Ottawa on the science of global climate change. The date will be April 19 & 20th. Friends of Science is providing backup support for the event. It is planned to bring together advocates of both sides of the Kyoto debate. It is anticipated the conference will result in a well-publicised discussion demonstrating that the science of global warming is far from settled, in spite of what the Kyoto supporters would have us believe.

Our society is in the final stages of preparing an annotated bibliography of recent peer reviewed scientific material, which contradicts the IPCC backed man made global warming argument. We plan to circulate this material widely to offset the claim that the “scientific consensus” is overwhelmingly on the side of the Kyoto protocol. Dr. Madhav Khandekar, a retired Environmental Canada researcher, was commissioned by Friends of Science to produce this report.

Finally, I would like to alert you to our forthcoming spring luncheon to be held in Calgary on May 16, 2007. Our speaker will be Dr. Tim Patterson, a professor and director of the Geosciences Centre at Carleton University. His talk is entitled “The Sun as Primary Driver of Climate Change.” He will discuss the relationship between his work on marine sediments and current research linking cosmic radiation with solar activity and the resulting impact on global climate. Dr. Patterson is an excellent speaker, so bring along a “doubting Thomas” friend.

Douglas Leahey, PhD
President, Friends of Science

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

This latest period has seen many political developments which overshadow any sane debate on climate science.

Firstly it is abundantly clear that the worldwide concerted effort by Kyoto advocates to convince their publics that the science is settled continues. The increasingly strident tone of these efforts may (hopefully) be linked to an emerging welcome trend in the mainstream media to question this nostrum. On the International scene the significant stumbling blocks to universal Kyoto accord remain India & China. India is adamant that it is not their problem, and China, while sympathetic to the idea of emission reductions, continues to build new coal fired electrical generation plants at close to two a week. They are however willing to receive any carbon credits on offer.

Perhaps the most significant development is the battle shaping up on the European scene where countries are now running smack into the problems of the CDM – the Clean Development Mechanism, aka Carbon Trading. Trading is going seriously wrong so far. Individual countries started the ball rolling by allocating too many free credits to Large Energy Emitters who gamed the system making huge windfall profits selling on credits. Their customers meantime suffered large increases in their utility bills. European Governments are now scrambling for ways to circumvent further emission restrictions that have been demanded by the European Commission. Stay tuned for further developments

There are huge lessons for the US and Canada in all of this. Pressure on the US will likely increase with the changing of the guard in the Congress. The possible response to the moves toward Kyoto by the N.E. States and the Terminator in California when Senator Inhofe is no longer Chairman of the Environmental Committee is worrisome.

For Canada, as we await the unfolding of the details of the New Government's environment policy, a certain unease is justified as we hear mutterings from our Environment Minister about the possibility of carbon credit trading.

Let us hope that in the tradition of McKenzie King it will be “trading if necessary but not necessarily trading”.

SCIENCE NEWS

There have been many peer-reviewed publications over the last few months in support of our contention that observed global warming is due almost entirely to natural forces. A summary of the three, arguably, most interesting papers are given below:

***On global forces of nature driving Earth's Climate. Are Humans involved?
L F Khyliuk, G V Chilingar. Environ. Geol. (2006) 50: 899-910***

Abstract

The authors identify and describe the following global forces of nature driving the Earth's climate:

- (1) solar radiation as a dominant external energy supplier to the Earth,
- (2) outgassing as a major supplier of gases to the World Ocean and the atmosphere, and, possibly,
- (3) microbial activities generating and consuming atmospheric gases at the interface of lithosphere and atmosphere. The writers provide quantitative estimates of the scope and extent of their corresponding effects on the Earth's climate.

Quantitative comparison of the scope and extent of the forces of nature and anthropogenic influences on the Earth's climate is especially important at the time of broad-scale public debates on current global warming. The writers show that the human-induced climatic changes are negligible.

Scafetta, N. and West, B.J. 2006b. Phenomenological solar signature in 400 years of reconstructed Northern Hemisphere temperature record. Geophysical Research Letters 33: 10.1029/2006GL027142.

In a compelling new paper, Scafetta and West (2006b) used the Northern Hemispheric temperature reconstruction of Moberg et al. (2005), three alternative total solar irradiance (TSI) proxy reconstructions - developed by Lean et al. (1995), Lean (2000) and Wang et al. (2005) - together with the scale-by-scale transfer model of climate sensitivity to solar activity changes created by themselves (Scafetta and West, 2005, 2006a) to make a strong case for the proposition that most of the major temperature fluctuations of the prior millennium were driven by changes in solar activity

CAPE-Last Interglacial Project Members. 2006. Last Interglacial Arctic warmth confirms polar amplification of climate change. Quaternary Science Reviews 25: 1383-1400.

The 25 authors of this major review paper "present," in their words, "quantitative estimates of circum-Arctic Last Interglaciation (LIG) summer air and sea-surface temperatures reconstructed from proxy records preserved in terrestrial and marine archives," including beach morphology, beetles, benthic foraminifera, chironomids, coccoliths, δD , $\delta^{18}O$, dinocysts, insects, invertebrates, Mg/Ca ratio, mollusks, nanofossils, needles, ostracodes, planktic foraminifera, plant microfossils, pollen, soils, spores, tephra, and treeline position.

The research team reports that "quantitative reconstructions of LIG summer temperatures suggest that much of the Arctic was 5°C warmer during the LIG than at present." With respect to the impacts of this warmth, they say that Arctic summers of the LIG "were warm enough to melt all glaciers below 5 km elevation except the Greenland Ice Sheet, which was reduced by ca 20-50% (Cuffey and Marshall, 2000; Otto-Bliesner *et al.*, 2006)." In addition, they note that "the margins of permanent Arctic Ocean sea ice retracted well into the Arctic Ocean basin and boreal forests advanced to the Arctic Ocean coast across vast regions of the Arctic currently occupied by tundra."

DO YOUR PART TO PROMOTE SENSIBLE PUBLIC POLICY

Get involved with Friends of Science

- 1) Volunteer. We need people who can help us carry out the day-to-day tasks that a volunteer organization requires to get jobs done. To offer a few hours of time, call Douglas Leahey at 243-6969.
- 2) Help us grow. Pass our website address to friends, family and people at work, then encourage them to get involved in Friends of Science by taking out a membership. Talk your business colleagues about the possibility of corporate donations to Friends of Science. A membership and donation form can be downloaded at www.friendsofscience.org
- 3) Make a donation. Your membership is critical to us and we are grateful for it. However, we intend to do more than disseminate information internally. We want to get the word out aggressively – and that costs money.

Please consider donating directly to the Friends of Science at the following address:

**Friends of Science
PO Box 23167, Connaught PO
Calgary, AB T2S 3B1**

Alternatively a tax-deductible donation may be made to the Science and Technology Fund through the Calgary Foundation. www.thecalgaryfoundation.org or Tel: (403) 802-7700.

Thank you for your support of Friends of Science. Global warming myths are just one example of politicians and media ignoring common sense and expert opinion in the quest to drive an agenda. It's time to take the agenda back.