A Message for Friends of Science

As we celebrate our 15th year of service to the public and policymakers, providing insights on climate science, policy and economics, we are publishing our first formal Annual Report.

This report combines the contents of the presentation of our Communications Team with some relevant financial information.

We hope you will find this compilation of some of our 2015-2016 accomplishments of interest and that it will help you appreciate the tremendous volume and scope of work our team of volunteers and consultants put out every year.

Our challenge is great. The media love catastrophe stories – “if it bleeds, it leads” as the adage goes, so every weather event becomes another notch on the belt of the climate ‘catastrophe.’

As this Annual Report goes to publication, sure enough we have Mr. Gore, the Climate Catastrophe Evangelist claiming “TV News has become ‘a nature hike through the Book of Revelations.’”

Well, thanks to a successful year in 2016, we will be fighting back on that in 2017.

Enjoy this review. As always, we welcome comments and suggestions from members and the general public.
Now Playing!
On YouTube.
Everywhere.

An Inconvenient Challenge!
GOREHAM vs GORE! Now Playing!

https://youtu.be/mtHreJbr2WM
#BeInconvenient #BeInquisitive

Look for the results in our 2018 Annual Report.
2016 - BANNER YEAR

- Annual Event with Ezra Levant and Dr. John D. Harper saw 450 participants, almost double typical numbers
- Twitter account and followers significantly increased
- Facebook followers expanded
- 33 Press releases
- 79 video clips on YouTube with 207,354 views in total
- Numerous reports and commentaries on our blog (82)
- Plain language web-site - CC101 live in French and English

This special 15th Anniversary edition Annual Report is our first report to be publicly released. Past reports consisted solely of financial information with no operational or context regarding the volume of work. Consequently, in this document, we take the time and space to tell you our story.

We hope you will support our efforts to have an honest debate on climate science, policy and the socioeconomic implications.

Thanks to all our loyal members for your unwavering support and contributions.

Onward.
In 2002, a small group of retired and semi-retired earth, atmospheric and solar scientists got together in Calgary, concerned about the proposed Kyoto Accords.

The scientific premises of Kyoto seemed nonsensical based on their years of study, field experience, and teaching. The economic implications seemed dire, especially for a cold, vast country like Canada, which is shrouded in snow and extremely cold winters for half the year, where natural resources are our greatest wealth, particularly fossil fuels.

This innocent group of elders felt perhaps a bridge from the evidence-based physical sciences to the public and policy-makers was required to help inform climate change policy.

So it was that Friends of Science Society was born, a novel idea of scientists hoping to counter extraordinary ideological claims of the ‘green’ movement. But what to name the non-profit? Friends. Friends of the Scientific method. And so our now 15 year odyssey began. No one dreamed we would end up here today, still presenting the evidence over the ideology.

As many founders and members are professionals in the sciences, their codes of ethics obligate them to speak out when they see a danger to society or misrepresentations of costs or feasibility of proposed projects. On a moral basis, all Friends of Science members have families, many with children and grandchildren. They should inherit a better planet, with effective, affordable energy for power and transportation, unburdened with debt for green crony capitalist delusions, or overtaxed for trying to capture carbon dioxide molecules instead of Carbonbaggers. We press on for them and for all of society. We must be grounded in reality, not delusion.

As is Calgary’s motto, we say – Onward!
Expanding Horizons

In 2002, the founders of Friends of Science Society concentrated their efforts on climate science and some of the implications.

Over time, particularly in the past decade, we have seen a need to have a voice that challenges some ‘pie-in-the-sky’ green rhetoric on the viability of renewable energy and related socio-economic themes.

By default, we have become that voice.

Our strength in these commentaries comes from the international network of scientists, economists, professional engineers, policy experts and members who have informed us of the often tragic consequences of poorly conceived climate change policies in the EU and UK.

As a scientific group, dedicated to evidence, it is concerning that ‘green’ groups, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs), and their related charities hold tremendous sway over public opinion but they are:

• Unelected
• Unaccountable
• Partisan
• Not fiscally responsible for negative outcomes (i.e. Ontario’s GEA)
• Not bound by any similar regulatory requirements of the resource or energy industries that they demonize. Some appear to be proxies for offshore interests.

We make modest efforts with our reports, blog posts, press releases and videos to hold these groups to account by providing factual information, economic and mathematical assessments of their proposed energy alternatives, and plain language explanations of ‘how things work.’ The public is generally ‘energy illiterate’ and these groups take advantage of their naivety.
Friends of Science Society reaches out to the world on climate science issues in general. We provide some materials in both French and English.

**Our scientific position is that the sun is the main direct and indirect driver of climate change.** The sun drives ocean heating and cooling and related atmospheric oscillations. Human emissions of carbon dioxide play a small role in global warming, but the catastrophic claims about human activity are not supported by scientific evidence.

To better ‘save the planet’ Friends of Science Society thinks climate change monies and efforts should be directed to managing noxious emissions (NOx, Sox, mercury, etc) and other pollutants (i.e. untreated sewage) world-wide and to provide energy dense power sources to all people, in order to elevate living standards for the 3 billion people living in abject poverty. This would benefit the West and Canada. For example, according to Environment Canada some 95% of airborne mercury in Canada comes from foreign countries! Meantime, Canada has significantly reduced mercury emissions from industry through innovative technologies. Canada’s technology can and should be applied elsewhere to ‘save the planet’ - literally.

Our areas of focus include outreach to the world on climate science, outreach and education on climate policy and implications for Canada, education and public challenges to provincial policies in Alberta (as a significant number of our members are based in this province), and likewise we challenge certain urban climate change policies in the city of Calgary, our home base.

Friends of Science Society does not represent any industry, nor are we industry funded. Individual memberships and their donations fund our operations. Our annual budget is a paltry $150K; we accomplish our work with the help with a small cadre of enthusiastic volunteers and part-time consultants for contracted project work.
In the spring of 2015, a group of activists aligned with Naomi Klein gathered in Toronto and wrote up the “LEAP Manifesto.” We felt it was important to offer the public a critical review and an alternative.

The “LEAP Manifesto” has gained some popular currency. Authored by various intellectuals, activists and artists it calls for sweeping and rapid changes to Canada, including a 100% renewable grid - and that these changes be enacted and financed by government “now”. [https://leapmanifesto.org/en/theleap-manifesto/](https://leapmanifesto.org/en/theleap-manifesto/) We see this as dangerous ideology over evidence and offer this counter manifesto.

Consequently, we developed the “Look Manifesto” as in “LookB4ULEAP” posted on tumblr: [https://lookb4uleap.tumblr.com/](https://lookb4uleap.tumblr.com/)
We produced a video. [https://youtu.be/JKPNNIIVGOg](https://youtu.be/JKPNNIIVGOg)
1. We start from the premise that Canada is a great country facing a world in crisis — no matter what our past sorrows or successes, only by working together as one people, can we heal wounds and face the challenges ahead.

2. Thanks to our industrious and inventive people, we survive in this extreme climate in comfort — we feed the world with farm goods, house the world with our lumber and minerals, power the world with our oil, gas and coal, enhance the world with our hi-tech, aerospace, geosciences and bio-tech innovations, and so we can afford to be the third most generous, charitable nation in the world. As well, we welcome Foreign Workers whose earnings send some $24 billion dollars back home annually, directly to family members who need this help. Little or none of it is lost in the pockets of corrupt intermediaries.

3. We honor and respect our scientists, engineers, policy-makers and monitoring agencies who, together have steadily reduced Canada’s noxious emissions and set high standards for environmental quality in air, land and water. We have a vast, modern, industrialized nation. We are distant from world markets and feature a sparse population, widely spread out, meaning transportation emissions are a given — yet, per capita GDP, our GHG emissions are less than those of the tiny Pacific Islands. To have a healthy environment and support the vulnerable, we need a strong economy.

4. Some people claim we could live in a country fueled 100% by renewables, they say that we should ‘leap’ into that. We say to them — look before you LEAP. Take the advice of power generation engineers and experts. Think common sense. “If it sounds too good to be true, it is.”

5. Canada is the country most nations would love to be We do have current and historic challenges. However, through thoughtful policy, born out of respectful dialogue and careful consideration of public concern, and by applying the evidence-based Scientific Method, we will address and resolve these one by one.

6. All countries have sovereign equality under the UN Charter (Article 2.1) — we should guard our own rights carefully; the UN is not accountable to us or elected by us. The UN is an external body made up of a majority countries that do not share our democratic, economic or social-cultural values.

7. Canada is rich in resources, making us a target in international trade wars, often fronted or disguised as environmental issues (not applied anywhere else!)

8. Careful assessment in advance can reduce or eliminate unpleasant or disastrous unintended consequences. Take time to do things right the first time.

9. Climate change science is filled with uncertainties that are reported by the IPCC. Environmental groups and news media hype a catastrophic scenario, not supported by the evidence. Climate change is a largely natural process that is affected by humans. Carbon dioxide is a nominal factor in warming; it is necessary for life itself. Pollution and poverty are more important issues to address.

10. Look at the evidence over the ideology. Haste makes waste. Look before you leap.
In March, 2016, Friends of Science Society issued “Keep Canada in the Black.” This report challenges the “Green Budget Coalition” false claims that fossil fuels are subsidized in Canada. The report questions how federally registered charities can engage in such joint efforts to sway public policy. In our opinion this appears to conflict with certain Canada Revenue Agency and Competition Bureau policies and regulations regarding net public benefit, non-partisan and balanced information, and misleading claims.

Alberta has gone from receiving billions in land bonus payments to perhaps a hundred million. Some of this is related to world oil prices; much is related to oil pipeline and tanker ‘Blockadia’ by ENGOs.

Alberta has been the main economic driver of Canada. Registered charities are subsidized by the tax-paying public but many ‘green’ ENGOs are actively putting Canadians out of work and damaging the reputations, financial health and viability of of key industries.

http://blog.friendsofscience.org/2016/03/15/keep-canada-in-the-black/
Green Jobs – Rhetoric or Reality

On March 24, 2016, CBC posted a tweet claiming that “Going green actually creates jobs, helps the economy: Bob McDonald.” The tweet featured an obligatory image of a wind farm.

Coincidentally, Robert Lyman, energy economist, had just submitted a new brief to us on this very topic entitled “Green Jobs -Rhetoric or Reality?” So, read it and see if what CBC says is true. GREEN JOBS march 19 FINAL

We do know from the FinAdvice report “Lessons Learned” on Germany that they did create >300,000 jobs. However, they are spending over 1,000 billion euros to effect their ‘energy transition’ – so that means these jobs were subsidized at some 35,000 euro each, or $57,000 Canadian.

Germany’s CO2 emissions are up, they are still building coal-fired power plants, and hundreds of thousands of people can’t afford their power bills anymore. Power prices spiked 37% in a decade after adopting stringent climate plans.

Oddly, we never hear about this from CBC, the tax-funded public broadcaster in Canada, whose mandate is to inform Canadians on such matters.
The Calgary Herald reported April 08, 2016 that the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers forecasts a $50 billion drop in oilpatch investment by year end.

While certainly numerous global factors like the glut of oil from OPEC countries have an effect, other factors are influencing investment decisions in fossil fuels. This is not about a ‘conspiracy’ because none of this is happening in secret. It’s all right out there in the open.

Our new report “Undue Influence – Markets Skewed” Undue Influence Markets skewed april 5 2016 FINAL ic bi reviews how financial markets and philanthropies are making claims that are not supported by climate science evidence, and some parties are moving to dramatically alter investment and reporting methods. Some of these parties appear to have significant conflicts of interest.

The parties are unelected and unaccountable – yet they wield significant control over governments and industry through their extended echo-chamber of their well-funded ENGOs who drive ‘social license’ or who harass banks. This ends up putting taxpayers out of work. And energy shares are snapped up by speculators at low market prices.

This appears to violate several principles of fair trade and competition. Many Canadians see these agenda-driven activities as nothing more than a trade war cloaked in green.
Scholars like Lewandowsky have posited that conspiratorial ideation is a factor in the mind-set of those who question the alleged ‘consensus’ on climate change. In the spring of 2016, Friends of Science Communication Manager did a corollary study of word themes drawn from complaints about our 2014 billboard campaign in Montreal.

The results reveal conspiratorial ideation and cult-like rejection of new scientific information by supporters of the hypothesis of Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW). Some 24% of word themes express conspiratorial views, 19% dismiss the statements outright as lies or misinformation, while 17% express aggression and dogmatic opposition to relevant climate science information.

Unanticipated changes in climate or climate science theory may challenge the public and policy-makers.

On Dec. 3, 2015, Ecojustice Canada Society issued a public document calling for an inquiry by the Competition Bureau of Canada into the activities of Friends of Science Society and two other organizations. On May 26, 2016, Friends of Science Society issued this public response to what we perceived to be a case of ‘law fare,’ a modern day witch hunt, designed to silence rational dissent on climate change catastrophe claims and to prevent informed public objection and debate of economically destructive climate policies.

At this time, Canadians are being led astray by unscientific climate science claims that are not founded on evidence. Canadians are being asked to empty their wallets. For what? For unreliable, unaffordable, intermittent so-called ‘renewable’ devices that have been shown to be wasteful and redundant boondoggles that do not address climate change and that cannot provide suitable energy for our modern societal needs or our extreme climatic conditions.

Canadians simply cannot afford to remain silent or to be silenced.

Link:
http://blog.friendsofscience.org/2016/05/26/an-honest-debate-on-climate-science-its-time/
News of the day claims the world is shifting off fossil fuels and Canada is being left behind. Nothing could be further from the truth. Energy economist Robert Lyman deconstructs the extreme costs and challenges of attempting to actualize the so-called “WWS – Wind Water Sunlight – vision of renewable energy. Renewable NOT doable.

FULL REPORT – Click the link below.
WHY RENEWABLE ENERGY CANNOT REPLACE FOSSIL FUELS BY 2050 June 16 2016 FINAL REV
CANGEA – the Canadian Geothermal Energy Association – has been making a concerted case for the development of direct utilization of geothermal in Alberta. They propose to use existing abandoned oil wells and repurpose them for geothermal electricity power production (at low temperatures) and as sites for geothermal heat exchange for local heating – such as building a greenhouse above or adjacent to the well.

In this report, Geothermal Alberta A Cause for Caution June 21 2016 REV Friends of Science Society reviews the potential of geothermal in Alberta and explores the differences between geothermal in well-known spots like Iceland and the differences in Canada that make geothermal a less likely power producer for Alberta. Additional literature is reviewed regarding various Enhanced Geothermal Systems around the world.

Friends of Science Society’s Communications Manager also participated in a public debate on the merits and challenges of Geothermal for Alberta at “Speaker’s Corner.” This 1 hr production also aired on SHAW Cable community channel in Calgary.

https://youtu.be/sNhz1t7qMic
Open Letter to NEI Investments

On Aug. 8, 2016, Friends of Science Society posted and open letter on our blog, and also sent a hard copy or email to all relevant parties that we could locate.

Excerpt:
“Albertans are rightfully concerned about Submission NEI Investments investor collaboration Signatories made by NEI Investments to the Alberta Climate Panel and a supporting document Transitioning to a Low-carbon Energy System NEI [1]

In our opinion, the market interference by NEI Investments puts the nation’s economy and energy security at risk by an unelected, unaccountable body. We do not believe this to be in the interests of your investors or the electorate. We do not believe this to be in keeping with due process, due diligence related to investment offerings, or democratic principles.”


Subsequently we produced two additional reports in early 2017 related to this matter.
http://blog.friendsofscience.org/?s=SHARE
On Aug. 25, 2016, Ecojustice posted a blog piece that suggested it is a ‘trap’ to consider the ‘false choice’ of transporting oil by rail or pipeline, because there is a green, clean future awaiting.

**Excerpt:**
“The way to break out of the trap is to step back and reject the premise of this false choice. Think about where we want to go (a cleaner, greener economy that keeps people safe, the environment pristine, and delivers good green jobs) and whether moving more oil, by whatever means, is really a part of that future.”

Friends of Science Society saw this as being false and misleading. To educate the public, we produced our own “False Choice Café” video, posted on YouTube, Sept. 9, 2016, debunking Ecojustice blog, showing that green, clean futures (from wind and solar) are made from oil, natural gas and coal – citing the work of Vaclav Smil as posted on IEEE Spectrum.

On Sept. 14, 2016, Pembina Institute posted a new report against coal-fired power plants in Alberta, entitled “Breathing in the Benefits.” We do not find any empirical references to support the claims of early deaths or asthma events from coal-use. As with previous Pembina Reports and commentaries on coal-fired power plants in Alberta, these appear to be statistics drawn from computer simulations, not real patient data.

Friends of Science volunteers cross-referenced Primary Care Network data of Alberta Health Services and found no correlation to Pembina’s claims.

Preventing Historical Revisionism

Premier Notley said in her “State of the Province” address on Oct. 19, 2016, that “On few files was our province more poorly served than by elected officials, from this province, who claimed – with a straight face – that there was no need to act decisively or effectively on climate change.”

It seems the Premier is unaware of the 2002 “Albertans and Climate Change: Taking Action” or the 2008 Alberta government report “Moving Forward” [LINK: 8066-albertans-and-climate-change-moving-forward] that records the many ‘firsts’ and leadership shown by the previous Progressive Conservative administration of Alberta on climate change and pollution reduction.

The “Moving Forward” report also documents the many energy efficiency programs that were in place at the time, disputing the Premier’s claim that no such programs had previously been in place in Alberta.

The activists who claim they will grant ‘social license’ for pipelines and LNG processing facilities if we just comply with ‘going green’ (such green-energy policies shown to be a failure in Europe) have historically demonstrated that they just want ‘more’ – no matter how much progress is achieved. The ‘state of the province’ and the nation is being devastated by these fifth columns. When will someone in authority address this issue?
On Nov. 23, 2016, a group of some 60 CEOs and ‘civil society leaders’ sent a letter to the Prime Minister and First Ministers and publicized it via Smart Prosperity’s website.

There’s much talk of ‘bold action’ and ‘greener power, smarter transportation, cleaner production’ – but they don’t give any concrete examples of these in the ‘global effort to fight climate change.’

In other words, their letter is ‘all hat, no cattle.’

The Smart Prosperity group letter is filled with lots of rhetoric with no actual examples of what they propose to do – though ‘putting a price on carbon’ is a theme.

So – Friends of Science Society has issued a rebuttal filled with evidence, not ideology. Can we meet our Paris COP-21 commitments and prosper? No. It is simple math. And no, we’re not pessimists. We’re realists. http://blog.friendsofscience.org/2016/12/01/smart-prosperity-and-civil-society-leaders-letter-all-hat-no-cattle/
Moving Oil by Pipeline+Tanker

Friends of Science Society is dedicated to presenting evidence over ideology, usually related to climate science and policy. Climate change and environmental concerns are often cited as factors in pipeline development. This material is offered to provide information to the public for informed debate on important economic and environmental issues in Canada.

Friends of Science Society does not represent any industry. In November 2016, these reports were posted to our blog. These two reports are offered as a factual source for media and the general public.

“Moving Oil by Pipeline: Examining the Facts” and “Moving Oil by Tanker: The Facts” were contributed by Robert Lyman, Ottawa energy policy consultant, former public servant of 27 years and diplomat for 10 years prior to that.

Moving Oil by Pipeline: Examining the Facts

Moving Oil by Tanker in Canada: The Facts
Conflict of Interest Request+
Open Letter to Prime Minister

In addition to regular blog postings, we sometimes issue open letters to government.

These appear to have little impact on government but they do help to inform the public of serious issues, some of which can be synthesized in a letter format that is more relevant for the average person than a long report. Hard copies are also sent to the parties or emails to related officials, as relevant.

http://blog.friendsofscience.org/?s=an+open+letter+first+ministers
Participation in Alberta Wide Rally

- Friends of Science Society were invited speakers at 5 locations across Alberta for the Alberta-wide Rally.
79 Videos Added in 2016
207, 345 views in total!
“Climate Leadership Catastrophe” was the theme of our very successful May 2016 event. Dr. John D. Harper presented the “Science” section “From Ice Age to Dry Age and Back” on 600 million years of climate change. Featured guest speaker on “Policy” was Ezra Levant, whose presence drew a large crowd of enthusiastic followers.

Our regular attendance was almost doubled with a house of some 450 ticket buyers.

In addition to the event videos, A number of short videos were also produced with each speaker and these are posted on our YouTube channel.
Donations

Total Annual Donations

$250,000
$200,000
$150,000
$100,000
$50,000
$0

Financials

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### 2011-2016

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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting &amp; Legal Fees</td>
<td>$1,027.95</td>
<td>$1,355.76</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$1,815.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting Fees</td>
<td>$900.21</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>$47,000.00</td>
<td>$61,323.16</td>
<td>$83,695.01</td>
<td>$94,884.34</td>
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<td>General Admin</td>
<td>$650.00</td>
<td>$4,136.29</td>
<td>$4,554.45</td>
<td>$9,394.74</td>
<td>$14,692.96</td>
<td>$7,369.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webcasting &amp; Development</td>
<td>$145,454.82</td>
<td>$7,583.75</td>
<td>$22,781.97</td>
<td>$66,498.52</td>
<td>$107,301.04</td>
<td>$61,585.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Costs</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$10,855.94</td>
<td>$7,269.85</td>
<td>$12,961.23</td>
<td>$32,306.08</td>
<td>$31,454.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>148,634.88</strong></td>
<td><strong>60,017.14</strong></td>
<td><strong>83,713.33</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,824.96</strong></td>
<td><strong>240,568.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>206,292.29</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net of Revenue and Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>-71,237.79</strong></td>
<td><strong>-6,083.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>-34,777.42</strong></td>
<td><strong>-97,166.94</strong></td>
<td><strong>-59,082.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>-58,976.38</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$55,084.77</td>
<td>$61,188.31</td>
<td>$55,945.73</td>
<td>$193,115.67</td>
<td>$133,223.29</td>
<td>$84,246.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

- Sales & Other: Book & DVD Donations/Sales, Bank Interest, Other Income
- Consulting Fees: Admin Fees, Media Consulting Fees, Consulting Charges, Reproduction, Translation, Design
- General Admin: Office Supplies, Insurance, Meeting Costs, GST/PST, Bank, Electronic payment service charges, FOIP Requests, Research Materials
- Events, Advertising & Marketing: Luncheon Events, Advertising, Radio Blitz, Press Releases, Market Research, Brochures, Travel, Conferences
- Media Costs include Video Production, Social Media

* Consulting fees includes the actual work and creation of creative concepts and strategies, written content for press releases, research and writing of reports, video production research and creative writing/on camera spokesperson, annual event creative, blog research/writing/formatting of postings, website creation/content for CCI101 etc. Much of this work is done below-market rate by suppliers or contributors who support our cause.
And we press on... Thank YOU!