



Big Green Money vs Conventional Energy Advocates

Foreign-funding for “No” vs “Pro” Conventional Energy in Canada

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Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Examining Foreign-funding for the “No” vs “Pro” Conventional Energy in Canada	4
Funding of Environmental Organizations in Canada.....	6
Foreign Funding.....	8
Government of Canada Funding.....	11
The Claim that Groups Challenging Climate Dogma are Similarly Funded	12
Case in Point.....	15
Implications.....	17
Conclusions	18

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Executive Summary

In their campaigns to address alleged human influences on global warming, many environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) in Canada have chosen to take actions that harm the Canadian economy – blocking necessary energy infrastructure, promoting increased reliance on expensive intermittent sources of electricity supply, urging the imposition of carbon taxes that raise the costs of everything for consumers, and constantly increasing regulations. They say “No” to hydrocarbon energy development. People need to know more about why these policies are being promoted and adopted, and who is influencing this.

We can begin to understand more, if we answer three questions:

- How large is the funding of environmental organizations in Canada, especially those that, in the name of addressing allegedly human-induced global warming, have harmed Canada’s resource economy?
- How much of this funding comes from foreign sources?
- How balanced is the debate between the adversarial positions? In other words, how does the funding of those who say “No” compare to the funding of non-governmental organizations that take positions in favour of resource development and especially those that are skeptical about claims of human-induced climate catastrophe?

Over the period from 2000 to 2017, the 18 largest ENGOS in Canada took in almost \$6.8 billion in revenues, according to public records.

Many of them received large amounts of foreign funding, especially from the Moore Foundation, the Packard Foundation, the Tides Foundation, the Wilburforce Foundation and the Bullitt Foundation. For example, the Moore foundation donated over \$9.5 million to the David Suzuki Foundation alone.

While the Canadian petroleum industry is very large and spends billions of dollars in Canada, this says nothing about whether or how it influences public policy. Based on the registry of lobbying of the federal government, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers is very active in lobbying the federal government about policies, laws and regulations that affect it. By checking this database, however, one can find little if any evidence that the petroleum industry has directly challenged the global warming catastrophe thesis. One will find ample evidence that the lobbying by the ENGOS more than matches the lobbying by the petroleum industry.

The oldest non-governmental organization in Canada that directly challenges the catastrophe thesis, is the Friends of Science Society, operating since 2002. We review, as a case in point, the claims of Ecojustice, who called for an inquiry into this group and said there are “deep pockets”

supporting the Friends of Science. The annual revenues of this organization have been around \$150,000 per year on average since 2011. Ecojustice, in contrast, has taken in more than \$81 million in revenues since 2000, or about \$4.8 million on average per year (based on available public records).

The public debate on the global warming and related energy issues (i.e. coal phase-out, renewables, pipelines) is being skewed by the preponderance of finance on one side of the issue. The charity status granted to many ENGOs that allows them to avoid income taxation while still carrying extensive political activity and lobbying is anomalous. This raises questions vis a vis Canada Revenue Agency Charities Directorate policy related to 'net public benefit' versus 'public harm.'¹

These ENGOs have the right in a democracy to lobby for their views, but why on the backs of taxpayers?

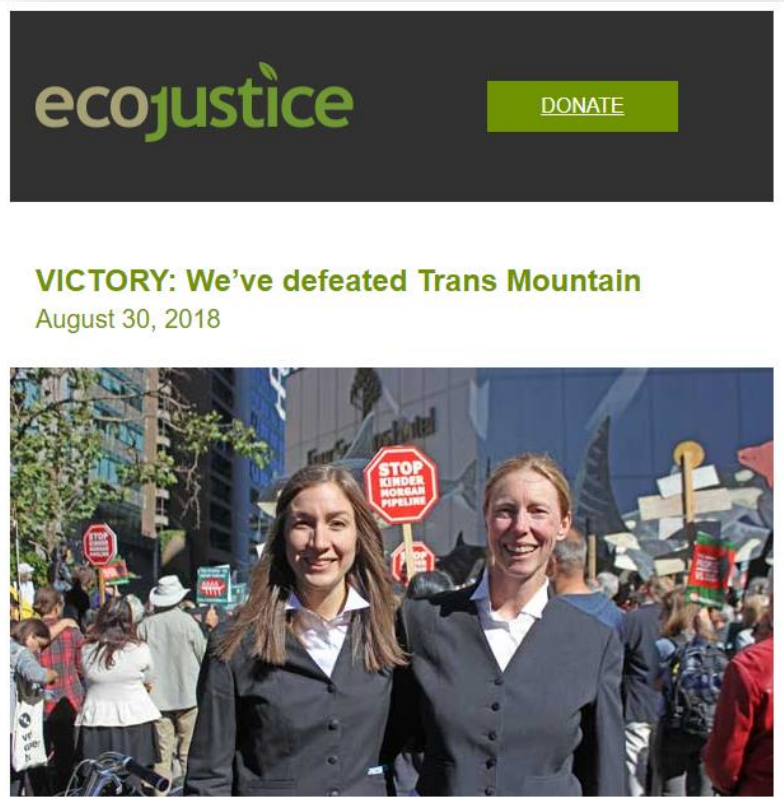
¹ "when benefit is proven, it must be weighed against any harm that may arise from the proposed activity and a net benefit must result" <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/policies-guidance/policy-statement-024-guidelines-registering-a-charity-meeting-public-benefit-test.html#toc3>

Big Green Money vs Conventional Energy Advocates

Examining Foreign-funding for the “No” vs “Pro” Conventional Energy in Canada

The role played by foreign foundations, as well as foreign governments and other foreign influences, in campaigns to influence public policy in Canada should be of interest to all concerned about the independence and integrity of Canadian political and governmental processes. The increasing globalization of corporate, institutional and geo-political interests require that Canadian democratic institutions be more vigilant about these possible intrusions. This, in turn, demands that reports on the activities of foundations and charities seeking to influence policy be made more transparent to the public and more useful to parliamentarians who wish to exercise oversight.

Some private researchers have made efforts to “follow the money” in terms of how foundation and charity funding is used. These efforts are impeded by superficial reporting requirements and the lack of publicly-available information from organizations like the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), which administers the provisions of the Income Tax act related to charities, and the Lobbying Registry, compiled by the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada. Independent researchers who have endeavored to find out more about the use of domestic and foreign foundation funding for anti-oil and anti-pipeline campaigns, have found that they



Source: Ecojustice

must often rely on the U.S. Internal Revenue Service records, as the information they seek is not available from Canadian sources.

While public transparency is key, there is a specific policy concern that Canadians should share. In their campaigns to address alleged human influences on global warming and climate change, many environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) – many of which are federally registered, tax-subsidized charities in Canada - have chosen to take actions that harm the Canadian economy such as:

Page | 5

- blocking necessary energy infrastructure,
- promoting increased reliance on expensive intermittent sources of electricity supply,
- urging the imposition of carbon taxes, which are essentially a consumption tax, that raise the costs of everything for consumers,
- advocating for constantly increasing regulations.

They say “No” to hydrocarbon energy development. People need to know more about why these policies are being promoted and adopted, and who is influencing this.

We can begin to understand more, if we answer three questions:

- **How large is the funding** of Canadian environmental organizations that have harmed Canada’s resource economy while addressing an alleged human-induced global warming?
- **How much of this funding comes from foreign sources?**
- **How balanced is the debate between the adversarial positions?** In other words, how does the funding of those who say “No” compare to the funding of non-governmental organizations that take positions in favour of resource development and especially those presenting rational dissenting scientific views that counter claims of human-induced climate catastrophe?

It is not easy to arrive at an answer to these questions. Partly, this is because of uncertainty about the definitions to be applied. Many environmental organizations do excellent work on a core mandate centred on reducing local pollution of air, land and water, and protecting nature. How does one distinguish such an organization from one pursuing a larger, more political agenda that plays a major role in influencing national and provincial policies on a wide range of environmental issues? The only way to find out is to observe how it uses its funds, both directly in its operations and in its donations to other ENGOS. What are the sources of information on the funding of groups that seek to influence public opinion generally or specifically to lobby government officials and politicians? Is that information complete, or are there ways in which the spending is hidden? A fair-minded person must come to grips with the fact that not all the information is available to the public, while still demanding that what is available be made

known and developing a very healthy skepticism when there is absolutely no evidence one way or the other.

This paper will provide some information that is generally not known, in the hope of encouraging people to support the search for more from those who have it, including those in government.

Funding of Environmental Organizations in Canada

There is no “official” list of the environmental organizations in Canada, partly because the “environment” may be interpreted as a very broad subject that concerns all aspects of nature as well as the balancing of environmental, economic and social goals (i.e. what is vaguely called “sustainable development”). One source of this information is the records maintained by the Canada Revenue Agency of organizations that self-describe as oriented towards environmental objectives and that claim non-profit “charity” status under the Income Tax Act.

This status grants these organizations a number of financial and goodwill advantages. Notably, they are relieved of the obligation to pay federal income taxes and they may receive other financial benefits from provincial and municipal governments. They are accorded the prestige and public cache associated with being a charity, and thus perceived to be an altruistic organization dedicated to the public good.



The image is a screenshot of an email from the David Suzuki Foundation. At the top, there is a header with the foundation's logo (a stylized leaf) and the text 'David Suzuki Foundation' and 'SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE'. Below this is a photograph of David Suzuki. The main heading of the email is 'Canada must say no to pipelines'. The body of the email starts with 'Dear' followed by a paragraph stating that the federal government has approved the Kinder Morgan pipeline. It then lists four bullet points: 'Increase tanker traffic — by seven times', 'Push the already fragile population of 80 resident orcas on B.C.'s south coast to the brink of extinction', 'Increase greenhouse gas emissions by more than 100 million tonnes each year', and 'Threaten the health of communities along B.C.'s coast'. To the right of the text is a photograph of a large crowd of people at a protest, holding various signs. Below the photo is the credit '(Credit: Trevor Leach)'. The email continues with a paragraph about oil spills, followed by a bold statement: 'This is a step backwards in the fight against climate change.' Below this is a link: 'Please fight for climate action by making a donation today.' The email concludes with a paragraph about the federal government's decision and a bold statement: 'Climate change is happening now and we cannot afford to delay action!' followed by 'We need your support. Will you help?'

David Suzuki Foundation
SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE

Canada must say no to pipelines

Dear

The federal government just approved the Kinder Morgan pipeline. It will:

- Increase tanker traffic — by seven times
- Push the already fragile population of 80 resident orcas on B.C.'s south coast to the brink of extinction
- Increase greenhouse gas emissions by more than 100 million tonnes each year
- Threaten the health of communities along B.C.'s coast

(Credit: Trevor Leach)

Oil spills *will* happen and research proves there is *no* technology to effectively clean them up.

This is a step backwards in the fight against climate change.

[Please fight for climate action by making a donation today.](#)

The federal government's decision doesn't make sense. We should be investing in renewable energy, not outdated fossil fuel projects.

Climate change is happening now and we cannot afford to delay action!

We need your support. Will you help?

CRA records can be used to track the revenues received by these ENGOs over a prolonged period. Thus, for example, Table 1 indicates the revenues received by the 17 highest income earners among the ENGOs over the period since 2000-2018. Although they are listed as separate organizations, some have common sources of external funding and are highly co-ordinated in their actions.

TABLE 1
Revenues Received by 18 Largest ENGO's over 2000-2018

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Revenues (\$million)</u>
Ducks Unlimited Canada	1,761
Nature Conservancy	1,452
Toronto & Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)	1,347
WWF Canada	432
International Institute for Sustainable Development	285
Canadian Wildlife Federation	285
David Suzuki Foundation	157
Greenpeace Canada*	144
BC Conservation Foundation	131
Nature Trust – BC	122
Land Conservancy BC	109
Pacific Salmon Foundation	101
Pembina Institute	84
Ecojustice	81
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	79
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	77
Fraser Basin Council	71
Canadian Climate Forum	69

**Greenpeace is a non-profit, not a charity.*

The average Canadian, accustomed to thinking of environmental organizations as small and constantly searching for funds to meet a meager and parochial agenda, might be surprised to learn that since 2000, **the top 18 have had revenues of almost \$6.8 billion dollars** with Canadian-wide reach and thousands of staff and consultants. These organizations are among the highest funded non-governmental organizations in Canada. In simple terms, they are rich.

Foreign Funding

Friends of Science Society, a Calgary-based non-profit, was established in 2002 to evaluate the science and economics of the then-Kyoto Accord. Founded by a group of retired and semi-retired atmospheric scientists, solar scientists, Professional Geoscientists and Professional Engineers, based on their training and decades of field experience, they held a dissenting perspective on climate change. Friends of Science Society holds the view that the sun is the main direct and indirect driver of climate (affecting other cyclical internal earth climate drivers like oceans, tides, magnetic fields, etc.). As part of questioning the science, Friends of Science also began to ‘follow the money’ behind the climate catastrophe messages from ENGOs, most of which have no scientists with relevant qualifications on staff.

Friends of Science has recently posted online articles, including one written by me,² that offer information available from the income tax filings of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the CRA about the foreign funding of ENGOs in Canada. To note some of the key points:

- The existence of a large, well-coordinated funding campaign by United States-based private foundations to influence public opinion and lobby government in favour of “green” causes has been well documented, most recently by Dr. Matthew Nisbet, Professor of Communications at Northwestern University in the United States;
- The information available on IRS and CRA public records has been well researched by various private citizens. Various private citizens including Vivian Krause and others in Canada. Her blog can be found here:
https://fairquestions.typepad.com/rethink_campaigns/
- Some organizations, such as the Switzerland-based Oak Foundation, the Ivey Foundation, the American-based Tides Foundation and Tides Canada, and the New Venture Fund play pivotal roles in directing foreign funds to specific domestic and foreign ENGOs and in supporting the objectives of the Tar Sands Campaign, whose objective is to reduce the attractiveness of the Alberta oil industry for oil companies, investors and financiers.
- The now well-publicized Tar Sands Campaign is just a sliver of a much broader, global campaign, driven by these foreign foundations.

² <https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Dark-Green-Money-Foundation-Funding-Jan-11-2019.pdf>

The size of the foreign funding, as documented in tax records, is impressive. Table 2 provides a sample list of some of the grants made by foreign sources to selected Canada ENGOs over the period since 2000.

TABLE 2

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
Canadian Environmental Defence Fund	Charles Stuart Mott Foundation	1,607, 825
	Friends of the Greenbelt	3,585,000
	Metcalfe Foundation	462,300
	Joyce Foundation	9,418,308
	Tides Foundation (U.S.)	1,326,389
	Gordon Foundation	398,407
Sierra Club Canada	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	615,400
	Friends of the Greenbelt	408,500
	Tides Foundation (U.S.)	249,102
	Gordon Foundation	702,822
	Wilburforce Foundation	290,000
	Hewlett Foundation	1,325,000
Sierra Club (B.C.)	Bullitt Foundation	180,000
	Packard Foundation	2,706,000
	Moore Foundation	2,025,000
	Rockefellers Bros Fund	305,000
	Tides Foundation (U.S.)	191,882
	Wilburforce Foundation	2,748,437
	Hewlett Foundation	2,280,000
Ecojustice	Bullitt Foundation	1,911,400
	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	2,679,000
	Packard Foundation	464,486
	Friends of the Greenbelt	421,000
	Private Giving Foundation	1,552,580
	Tides Foundation (U.S.)	545,380
	Hewlett Foundation	825,000

In addition, it should be noted that the US Corporate Ethics International,³ whose activities are heavily focused on the Tar Sands Campaign, received \$3,770,000 from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, \$2,630,000 from the U.S. Tides Foundation, and \$900,000 from the Marisla Foundation in the period since 2000 to 2018. These values are likely under-estimated due to the difficulties referred to previously in obtaining information concerning specific funding details.

VI. THE CAMPAIGN FUNDING PRIORITIES

There are a number of NGOs involved in this campaign and funding to support their work is considered a very high priority. In Canada, Pembina Institute, Environmental Defense-Canada, ForestEthics-Canada, Ecojustice, Greenpeace-Canada, Sierra Club-Canada, Canadian Boreal Initiative, World Wildlife Fund-Canada, and Polaris Institute are all key players. In the U.S., Natural Resources Defense Council, Rainforest Action Network, ForestEthics-U.S., Ceres, Oil Change International, Earthworks/Oil and Gas Accountability Project, Boreal Songbird Initiative, Global Community Monitor, Sierra Club-U.S., and Indigenous Environmental Network are the leading national groups with a host of regional groups playing an indispensable role to block specific infrastructure projects. Several sovereign Indian Nations, both in the U.S. (e.g., The Sioux Nation) and Canada (e.g., the Mikisew Cree, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation) will also be critical to this campaign, as they are directly impacted by proposed infrastructure or existing production operations, and in some instances are the entities with standing to pursue legal action.

Excerpt of Tar Sands Campaign Strategy paper.

The funding listed above is prima facie evidence of a very extensive involvement of U.S.-based private foundations in efforts to influence environmental activities and policies in Canada. Further, they are a matter of public record.



³ <https://corpethics.org/the-tar-sands-campaign/>

Government of Canada Funding

It is one thing for foreign private interests to be involved in campaigns to sway Canadian public views and government policy in favour of “green” causes. It is quite another when the federal government becomes not only the funder of government-administered environmental programs but also of the ENGOs seeking to influence the public agenda. As pointed out in a previous report (Dark Green Money: A Glimpse Behind the Big Green Funding Machine⁴), the total now being spent by the federal government on climate-related programs and activities, including funding to increase “public engagement”, now exceeds \$1 billion per year. Lost in this immense total are some specific payments made to ENGOs that are already well funded both by private donations and, in some cases, foreign sources. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year alone, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) made payments of \$23.1 million to the Nature Conservancy and \$6.1 million to Ducks Unlimited.

Page | 11

The David Suzuki Foundation was awarded a \$149,793 by the federal government in the second quarter for 2018-2019 for the purpose: “to develop and improve the use of innovative alternatives to hard infrastructure for protection of Canada’s coasts”. Curiously, West Coast Environmental Law’s Jessica Clogg claimed that their group had received a TIDES grant for this purpose.⁵

The screenshot shows the Natural Resources Canada website. The header includes the Government of Canada logo and navigation links. The main content area displays a disclosure of a grant and contribution award over \$25,000 to The David Suzuki Foundation for the 2018-2019 - 2nd Quarter. The award value is \$149,793.00, and the purpose is to develop and improve the use of innovative alternatives to hard infrastructure for protection of Canada's coasts.

THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION Disclosure of Grant and Contribution Awards Over \$25,000	
2018-2019 - 2nd Quarter	
Recipient Name	THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION
Location	VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
Date	2018-09-05
Value	\$149,793.00
Type	Contribution (Non-Repayable)
Purpose	The purpose of this agreement is to develop and improve the use of innovative alternatives to hard infrastructure for protection of Canada's coasts
Comments	Grant or contribution awarded and spanning more than one fiscal year.

Return to 2018-2019 - 2nd Quarter

⁴ <https://friendsofscience.org/assets/documents/Dark-Green-Money-Foundation-Funding-Jan-11-2019.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.wcel.org/blog/time-stop-blaming-foreign-funded-environmentalists-oil-industrys-woes> “**only a portion of it was explicitly earmarked for campaigns focused on the tar sands.** To give just one example, included in the Tides Foundation grants referenced by Ms. Krause was a grant our organization received for collaborative work with all levels of government to enable ecosystem-based (green infrastructure) responses to sea level rise, to provide flood protection for coastal communities.” (bold emphasis added)

The Claim that Groups Challenging Climate Dogma are Similarly Funded

It is a standard part of the “No” community’s toolkit, when presented with evidence of the extraordinary funding that supports their efforts to “transform the Canadian energy economy”, to allege that such funding is small by comparison to what is spent by the petroleum industry and by “right wing think tanks”. They falsely assume that any market-oriented “think tank”, or public interest institute, automatically supports the position and interests of the petroleum industry. (They make the same claim with respect to public affairs institutes and firms in all natural resource industries: forestry, mining, fisheries, agriculture, aquaculture, etc.) Further, some activist organizations insist that the Canadian petroleum industry is using foreign equity or debt funds, the implication being that foreign funding is supporting oil industry lobbying in Canada. Let us examine these claims.

Page | 12

The Canadian oil and gas industry is indeed a large one. The National Energy Board publishes annual data on total investment (i.e. domestic and foreign) in the upstream Canadian oil industry. Annual investment in 2017 was \$40.9 billion, up from \$34.9 billion in 2016. Investment in oil sands was \$13.6 billion, down 60% from the peak level of annual investment of \$33.4 billion in 2014. This industry has been an immense source of economic growth and prosperity, especially in western Canada but also in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2017, oil and gas exports totalled more than \$97 billion. Over the five-year period 2012-2016, governments collected on average \$15.7 billion per year from the oil and gas industry, including \$12.8 billion from upstream oil and gas extraction and its support activities (Source: Natural Resources Canada).

The fact that the petroleum industry is large and spends a great deal on investment and income producing activity, however, says absolutely nothing about whether or how it influences public policy. It tells us nothing about the nature or effects of industry lobbying or any individual company’s position on global warming. Firms, in fact, are accountable first and foremost to their shareholders (usually, large pension funds) and Boards of Directors. Beyond that, they serve many communities: their employees, their customers, and the cities and towns in which they operate. They are not non-governmental organizations with broadly defined mandates. They ask mainly of governments that they establish clear and predictable policy and economic frameworks; when petroleum firms dislike the policies, they invest elsewhere. They seek some degree of “social licence”, meaning broad support from social activist groups, but they are not bound by this in any real sense.

Does the petroleum industry lobby governments? Of course they do, in the sense of trying to inform Ministers and officials of the potential and real impacts of policies, laws and regulations on their business. Lobbying is part of the political process.

The public has a right to know who is being lobbied and on which subjects. This is why the Government of Canada (Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying) requires that all lobbyists register and state the subject of their calls on Ministers and officials. Anyone can search the public registry. See the website here:

<https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/00035.html>

A simple search of this registry confirms that the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) has been active in lobbying government on a wide range of policy issues of interest to the industry. Over the last 12 months, CAPP had 12 registered lobbyists and conducted 125 lobbying efforts. Try to find any evidence, however, that the petroleum industry has directly challenged the global warming catastrophist thesis. You will find none.

You will also find that the lobbying by the petroleum industry is more than matched by the lobbying done by ENGOs. Over the past twelve months, the ENGOs listed in Table 1 had 95 registered lobbyists and conducted 250 lobbying efforts.

The screenshot shows the official website of the Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada. At the top, there is a header with the organization's name in both English and French, along with a navigation bar containing links for Français, Home, Contact Us, Help, Search, and Canada.ca. Below the header, the main heading is "12-Month Lobbying Activity Search". A sub-heading states: "Searches any lobbying activity which has been active in the last 12 months." Below this, a note mentions that for more detailed results, users should use the "Advanced Registry Search". A search box is provided with a "Keyword search:" label. The text "CAPP" is entered into the search box, and a dropdown menu is set to "with all of the words". A "Search" button is located to the right of the search box. Below the search box, there is a section for "Search options" with a checkbox labeled "Show currently active summaries only" and a help icon.

Who are the “right wing think tanks” in Canada and how much revenue do they have? It is very difficult to make a clear distinction as to what constitutes a “right wing” organization; most organizations so described are simply ones that tend to favour free and competitive markets over government regulation and control. Table 3 shows the revenues received over the period 2000-2018 by “right wing” organizations operating in the economic policy field.

TABLE 3

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Revenues (\$million)</u>
Fraser Institute	229
C.D Howe Institute	71
Canada West Foundation	43
Centre for Civic Engagement	22
Frontier Centre for Public Policy	15
Atlantic Institute for Market Studies	14
Manning Foundation	10
McDonald Laurier Institute	7

Compare the figures to those in Table 1, that only reports the large environmental non-governmental organizations and not all non-governmental organizations. The financial resources of the ENGOs clearly dwarf that of the “conservative” groups.

Environmental activists often claim that the dissenting voices on climate change – the skeptics – or the pro-conventional energy advocates, are louder and better financed than the voices calling for dramatic transformation of the Canadian energy economy.

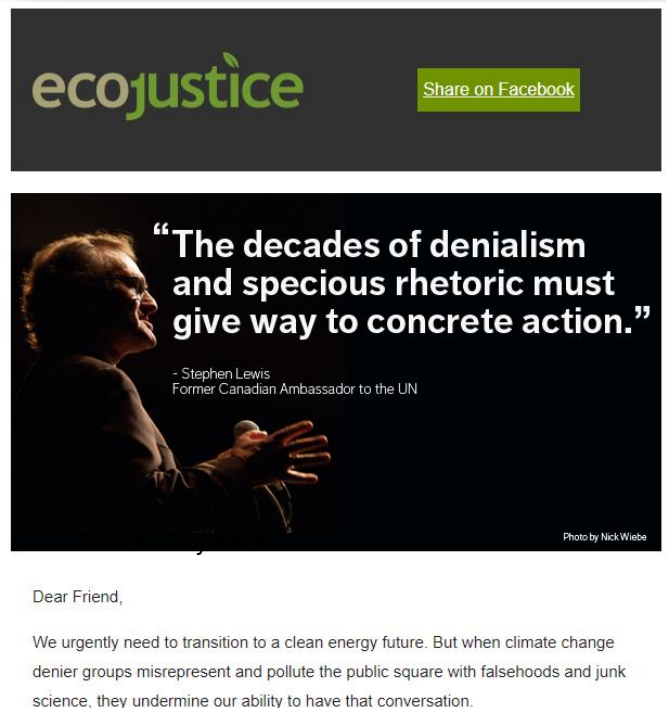
None of the “conservative” organizations previously listed takes any public position on the science of global warming, though the Frontier Center for Public Policy posts diverse skeptical perspectives. Only a few have dared to question the economics of carbon pricing or the deliberate efforts to curtail market access for Canadian hydrocarbons.

None of the major oil companies in Canada, whether predominantly owned by foreign or domestic shareholders, has challenged the fundamental rationale for the catastrophe claims.

Case in Point

One organization that has presented a dissenting view on climate change since 2002 is Friends of Science Society. Ecojustice, an organization that has received more than \$81 million in revenues since 2000, \$8 million of which was from foreign sources, complained publicly in 2015⁶ that the Friends of Science should be investigated by the Competition Bureau on suspicion of “deep pockets” funding the organization, suggesting that Friends of Science was a proxy for oil industry interests.

Friends of Science is not required to publish an annual report because it is a non-profit society, and unlike Ecojustice (a federally registered charity) cannot issue tax receipts for any donation it receives. It has, however, published a summary of its finances going back to 2004. The summary can be read [here](#).

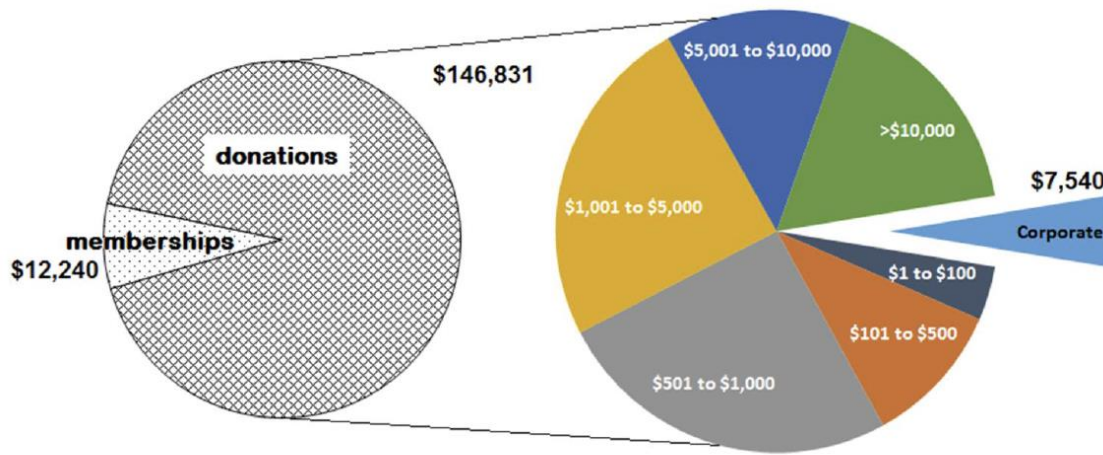


Readers will note that for the five-year period from 2012 to 2016, the Friends of Science annual revenues averaged about \$153,000, of which donations and membership fees averaged just over \$137,000. The following pie chart shows a breakdown of funding for 2017.

⁶ <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/12/03/news/breaking-Ecojustice-files-complaint-competition-bureau-against-climate-denial-groups> Stephen Lewis, signatory to the complaint, has been active on the climate change issue since 1988. <http://blog.friendsofscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/cialertvol1-3fall1988-climate-alert-climate-institute.pdf> Most of the claims about the catastrophic warming influence of carbon dioxide have since been refuted by evidence and additional research. Emeritus Prof. François Gervais explains the new consensus view (Eng/Fr) <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2019/01/26/french-english-transcript-cooling-of-climate-sensitivity-anthropogenic-co2-global-warming-challenged-by-60-year-cycle-by-emeritus-prof-francois-gervais/>

2017 Funding Summary

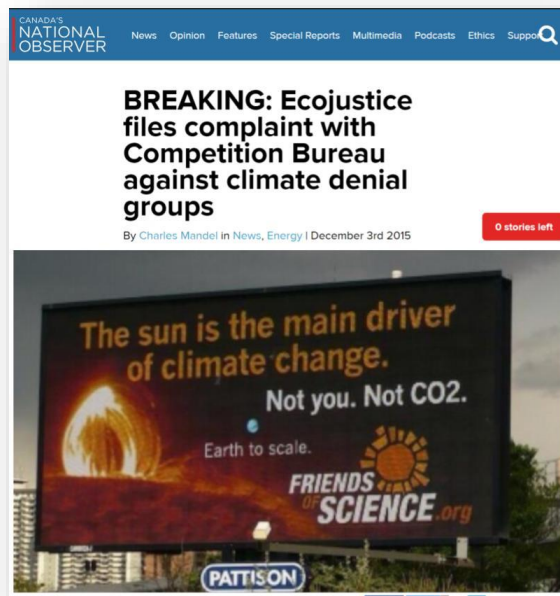
Total Funding = CDN\$159,071



Page | 16

Source: Friends of Science Society

There are no “deep pockets” backing the Friends of Science Society. The annual donations to the Friends of Science probably would not pay the salaries of more than two Ecojustice executives. Just the annual interest on the investments of the David Suzuki Foundation is more than 10 times the Friends of Science annual budget.



Source: National Observer.

A 2014 low budget billboard campaign by Friends of Science Society sparked a complaint with the Competition Bureau in a call for inquiry by Ecojustice in Dec. 2015, during the Paris COP21 event.

Implications

Why does this matter? There are four reasons.

Page | 17

- 1. Substantially better funded.** Environmental organizations are not just far better funded than those that favour a free market agenda, they **are far better funded than all the other non-government non-health organizations with charity status in Canada.** Each of the top three ENGOs has had higher revenues than the United Way since 2000. They have the resources to push for environmental priorities to take precedence over all other public policy objectives.
- 2. Massive lobbying and political activism afforded by such funding.** While only some of the ENGOs are actively involved in promoting the idea that Canada should transform its economy to reduce GHG emissions, including blocking all new petroleum development, the ones that are involved possess the means to lobby governments at all levels. ENGOs devoted over \$7 million to “political expenditures” according to CRA records in 2017 alone. The present system of monitoring lobbying activity in the federal government, does not allow the public to see how much of this is done by foreign-funded organizations.
- 3. Massive human resource pool and ‘people power’.** Third, the ENGOs employ a very large number of people including many researchers, communications specialists and community organizers who can make their case at all levels in society. There is no way that those who seek to present a dissenting scientific view, especially on global warming/climate change or who question climate-related energy policies, can compete with this. Consequently, the media and the general public receive an almost never-ending tirade of information that spreads the idea that environmental quality is deteriorating, when in fact, in Canada and most developed nations, air, environmental quality and waste water management has been improving significant in almost every way since the 1970’s.⁷
- 4. Ability to finance legal actions.** The large funds available to ENGOs and especially to “EnviroLaw” organizations like Ecojustice, Canadian Environmental Defence and West Coast Environmental Law means that they can afford to launch lawsuits, seek

⁷ <https://blog.friendsofscience.org/2018/10/06/prime-minister-trudeau-is-wrong-on-polluting-for-free-heres-why/>

injunctions, and use other legal techniques to challenge the outcomes of regulatory proceedings, appeal decisions, and otherwise threaten firms and other organizations. Petroleum producers and other large companies can perhaps afford to defend themselves, although they suffer the consequences of prolonged project delays and uncertainty. Small volunteer organizations that speak in favour of economic development dare not get involved in such expensive legal conflicts.

Conclusions

Several aspects of the situation described here should be of concern to those who seek better public policies in Canada.

From an economic policy perspective, an enormous, sustained and partly foreign funded environmentalist campaign is being waged against the Canadian energy economy. That campaign is impairing Canadian firms' market access, driving down the returns that industry and governments receive from the production of our resources, increasing consumer prices, threatening our future prosperity, and creating massive job loss in all sectors.

The public debate on the climate issue is being badly skewed because of the preponderance of finance on one side of the issue. There is no way of knowing exactly how much money lies behind the "No" campaign, but we do know that Canadian ENGOs enjoy truly immense funding from their contributors, their foreign sponsors and governments; their financial and human resources are literally hundreds of times larger than those of the few organizations that challenge them.

ENGOs use this financial advantage to wage a broad and sustained campaign of public misinformation, local organization, and political activity. Their fundamental goal is to shape public attitudes and to create a political climate in which politicians fear to challenge the catastrophe thesis, and in this they have largely succeeded. Only well-organized push-back from those adversely affected by their policy positions can offset this.

The charity status granted to many ENGOs under Canadian tax laws is anomalous. The traditional understanding of a charity is that of a public interest organization whose good works directly aid the poor and under-privileged. The Income Tax Act requires that organizations granted charity status meet certain conditions and limit their political lobbying. However, the

environmental activists behind these campaigns are currently spending significant funds to influence the public and to lobby politicians, under the umbrella of Canada's current laws governing the tax-free status of charities. While foundations with political agendas have every right to espouse positions and undertake activism in a democracy, they have no right to expect their activities be afforded the implied respect and financial privilege, on the backs of taxpayers, afforded to charitable non-profits that are actually engaged in 'good works' for the average Canadian – millions of people who are in need of a food bank, work, dignity, or health support. We will examine this issue in great depth in future articles and reports.



About the Author

Robert Lyman is an Ottawa energy policy consultant. He was formerly a public servant for 27 years and prior to that a diplomat for 10 years.

About

Friends of Science Society is an independent group of earth, atmospheric and solar scientists, engineers, and citizens who are celebrating its 16th 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 CO₂ (carbon dioxide).

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