

October 2005

FOS MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER No. 8

“FOS is dedicated to providing the public with honest scientific information about Climate change”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dr. Douglas Leahey

First, thank you so much to Friends of Science members who supported our work by sending membership renewals or donations. It’s because of that kind of support that I am pleased to review the initiatives of the summer, and our goals for the rest of the year. While the federal government is taking a stealth approach to the implementation of Kyoto (more below), Friends of Science is educating Canadians.

After announcing Project Green, the federal Kyoto implantation plan, the Kyoto file suddenly fell silent. Until July, when the Canada Gazette (which announces new federal regulation) published an ominous proposed change. The new regulation calls for CO₂ and other greenhouse gases (excepting water vapour, we presume, even though it is the most prevalent greenhouse gas) to be listed as toxic substances in Canada’s Environmental Protection Act.

Apart from the obvious problem, namely that CO₂ is not a toxic substance; this move would allow Ottawa to penalize, in the form of emissions taxes, the production of CO₂. In other words, industries like oil and gas production could be federally taxed – not for what they produce, but for what they emit. Other high emission industries, like Ontario auto production would also be affected, had they not have been exempted from the terms of Kyoto by Ottawa.

Friends of Science has, of course, challenged the government’s proposed regulation by going directly to the Environment Ministry, but we’ve also undertaken a campaign to foil the stealth strategy by letting Canadians know what’s going on. Every MLA in Canada has been mailed a letter on the issue, with a copy of our video. Recently, an advertising campaign was kicked off in the province of Ontario to educate Canadians about the myths of Kyoto, and asking voters to demand answers from their MPs. We look forward to feedback from those activities.

In addition, Friends of Science will be at the COP-11 global conference in November in Montreal. Not as delegates, since we were denied allowed official entry to the event, but at our own competing event. We’ll make sure every one of the 10,000 delegates has a chance to hear our message, and our challenge to Kyoto fallacies when in Montreal.

You may have heard that Tony Blair has conceded Kyoto won’t work for the UK. Yet another country looking for real solutions to pollution, instead of bowing to global warming hype. As international pressure on Canada to meet the terms of Kyoto falls away, Friends of Science will ensure that domestic pressure to walk away from Kyoto gets stronger and stronger.

Friends of Science fundraising is picking up somewhat after a lean summer, mostly thanks to the unbelievable commitment and doggedness of our volunteer fundraiser Charles Simpson, but we’re still seriously short of the funds needed to reach all our goals. So, as always, we thank you for your donations.

Be sure to check in regularly at www.friendsofscience.org, to find out more about current and every changing initiatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 11 and COP/MOP 1)

All parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be meeting in Montreal from November 28 to December 9.

http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_11/items/3394.php

Third Annual FOS Luncheon

The Friends of Science is pleased to announce that it will be holding its third annual luncheon, with guest speaker Dr. Chris de Freitas, on April 27, 2006.

KYOTO NEWS

TONY BLAIR TURNS ON KYOTO

Undoubtedly, the most significant political happening of the latest quarter was Tony Blair's about face on the Kyoto Accord since his Damascus Road experience associated with the Glen Eagles meeting. Following a period of stunned silence from the British and European media wide spread publicity of this event has led to outrage amongst Kyoto advocates and dismay among Blair's advisors and spin doctors who now have to pick up the pieces. For full speech made to the Labour Congress, see: *<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/labour2005/story/0,16394,1579551,00.html>* and *<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page7881.asp>*

UK'S FORMER CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER CALLS FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE IPCC

I believe that the IPCC process is so flawed, and the institution, it has to be said, so closed to reason, that it would be far better to thank it for the work it has done, close it down, and transfer all future international collaboration on the issue of climate change, where the economic dimension is clearly of the first importance, to the established Bretton Woods institutions.

- Lord Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1983-1989, speaking to US Senate Committee

For the full speech, see: *http://epw.senate.gov/hearing_statements.cfm?id=246944*

CANADIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRYING TO INTRODUCE CARBON TAX

Despite the gradual unravelling of the Kyoto Accord the Canadian Federal Government is hell bent on implementing a plan to include CO₂ under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Could this be part of a scheme to introduce a second NEP through the back door? For full details, see: *<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/part1/2005/20050903/html/regle4-e.html>*

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Friends of Science needs your help – here’s what you can do:

- **Become part of our fundraising team.** We need contacts with Canadians who care about this issue, and have the means to help us get the message out.
- **Send a letter to your MP and MLA.** Tell them that you don’t like Kyoto and don’t believe that humans are causing climate change. Refer them to the FOS website at www.friendsofscience.org.

SCIENCE ARTICLES ON THE WEB

Here are some excellent new scientific papers on global warming. To get on the list for regular updates on articles that appear, you can email John Leeson at leesonj@shaw.ca.

“Marked Decline in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentration During the Paleogene”

Pagani, M., J.C. Zachos, K.H. Freeman, B. Tipple, & S. Bohaty. 2005. *Science*, Vol. 309, Issue 5734, 600-603

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/309/5734/600?rbfvrToken=69c71372f3e9242c8fea1839fc89713a8a779680> (Fee Required)

“Global Warming and Hurricanes: Still No Connection”

Patrick Michaels

Tech Central Station

<http://www.techcentralstation.com/091605F.html>

“The influence of the 11 yr solar cycle on the interannual–centennial climate variability”

Weng, H. 2005. *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics*. Vol. 67, Issues 8-9, Pp.793-805

<http://jf.org/centers/csspp/library/co2weekly/2005-09-15/previously.htm>

“Arctic Temperature Variability: Today’s Warming Within Range Of Natural Fluctuation”

CO2 Science Magazine

<http://www.co2science.org/scripts/Template/MainPage.jsp?Page=subject/a/summaries/arcticemptrends>

“Some Convergence of Global Warming Estimates”

Spencer, Roy. 2005. *Tech Central Station*.

<http://www.techcentralstation.com/081105RS.html>

“Satellite and Balloon Measurements vs Surface Data”

Jacobs, A. 2005. *Friends of Science Society*

<http://www.friendsofscience.org/documents/satdata.pdf>