

Subject:The Calgary Foundation Grant Making Process

Date:Fri, 16 Mar 2007 16:15:47 -0600

From:Kerry Longpre <email deleted>

To:<SourceWatch contributor deleted>

<SourceWatch contributor deleted>,

I am aware of the number of conversations you have had with the Foundation's Director of Grants, Dan Thorburn. In response to your questions I am attaching further clarification of the grant making process at The Calgary Foundation.

Kerry Longpré

**Director, Marketing and Communications
The Calgary Foundation**

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Re: The Calgary Foundation Grant Making Process

Date:Sun, 18 Mar 2007 11:00:32 -0400

From:<SourceWatch contributor deleted>

To:Kerry Longpre <email deleted>

Date: March 18, 2007

To: Kerry Longpre, Calgary Foundation

I have received your statement concerning the Calgary Foundation's grant funding process, including new details concerning the Science Education Fund. I do commend you for showing a greater degree of co-operation and transparency than that of other actors in this matter, including the University of Calgary and Professor Barry Cooper. I presume as well that any material or communication from your office may be made public in the spirit of your stated preference for openness and full disclosure.

However, the circumstances do warrant the release of more details about the Fund for reasons outlined herein.

First, you should be aware that the activities of the Friends of Science Society funded through the Science Education Fund do not constitute legitimate scientific research and education as commonly defined by the international scientific community, let alone mainstream public opinion and common sense. The presumed primary grant applicant, Dr. Barry Cooper, is a political scientist with no expertise in climate change science (or any other field of science), as well as a notorious opponent of the Kyoto Accord. Moreover, the scientists involved in the funded activities have low standing and have virtually no record of peer-reviewed publication in relevant fields of study. There is every reason to believe that the sole purpose of the funded projects is to discredit the scientific basis of the Kyoto Accord, to the benefit of the donors, who are largely believed to be drawn from the Alberta oil and gas industry.

Even worse, according to the Friends of Science Society itself, the Fund was used for anti-Kyoto radio ads. These ads were run in key Ontario ridings during the last federal campaign, but the Society failed to register as a third party electoral advertiser. It also seems other many other rules were broken, including riding spending limits, mandatory donor disclosure and so on. This use of the Science Education Fund appears to be an apparent egregious violation of the Canada Elections Act, and quite possibly the Income Tax Act as well.

For further details on the above assertions, together with copious references, I refer you to the following article:

http://sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Friends_of_Science

In addition, I have attached my most recent letter to the University of Calgary. Although this letter was sent more than two weeks ago, I have yet to receive from the University a clear denial of any of the assertions contained therein, or indeed, any further response whatsoever.

In light of the above facts, I intend to vigorously pursue a complaint against Dr. Barry Cooper and the Friends of Science through the Commissioner of Elections Canada. I also intend to ensure that the auxiliary role of the Calgary Foundation and the University of Calgary be thoroughly examined in this process. The complaint will probably be initiated in the next few days and certainly by the end of the month.

At the moment, there are two glaring discrepancies in the public record of this matter that need to be resolved or at least clarified. The first concerns the identity of the donee. According to your annual statement and other documents, the donee is the University of Calgary. But the University's position appears to be that the true donee is a group of scientists, one of whom happens to be a Faculty member (leaving aside for the moment the fact that the professor in question is not a scientist). This discrepancy can best be resolved by clear identification of the person or persons actually named in the grant application and project statements and the specific roles of such persons.

The second discrepancy involves the stated purposes of the Science Education Fund: "[The Calgary Foundation's] grant to the University of Calgary supports academic research in the science of global warming and the production of education modules,

academic conferences and publications." At various times, the Friends of Science Society has stated that the Fund paid for the video entitled "Climate Catastrophe Cancelled", anti-Kyoto radio ads, the travel expenses of climate "skeptic" Tim Ball and the enhancement of the Friends of Science website. Of course, it is my contention that none of these activities constitute legitimate scientific endeavours.

But it is also unclear how these funded activities fit into the stated mandate. Presumably the video constitutes the "production of education modules" (although it is clearly devoid of scientific or educational merit). And the Friends of Science has announced involvement in a climate change conference organized by Dr. Cooper and Dr. Tim Patterson of Carleton University, to be held in Ottawa in April of this year; although, again it must be noted that the likely participants, including Dr. Tim Ball, seem to share a paucity of relevant academic scientific credentials. However, I am unaware of any "academic research" or "academic publications" supported by the Fund. As well, it is difficult to see how anti-Kyoto radio ads, travel expenses and website enhancements can be reconciled with the above mandate.

I am sure you are as eager to resolve these issues as I am. I therefore request you take the clearly needed step of releasing the Science Education Fund grant agreement drawn up between yourselves and the University of Calgary. I also strongly urge you to release all funding applications, project descriptions, attestations and any other official documentation related to the Science Education Fund. As well, the revelation of the dates and amounts of the various grant disbursements is necessary to establish the relevant timelines of project spending.

Of course, your co-operation in this matter will be duly noted in the forthcoming complaint and in the public record. I am sure you will also agree that, under the circumstances, full disclosure is the only course of action that properly fulfils your stated values of "transparency, accountability and integrity."

I look forward to your prompt attention in this important matter.

Regards,

<SourceWatch contributor deleted>