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# Financial Post

## FP COMMENT

### Peter Foster: Suzuki vs. the Senate — who's silencing whom?

Peter Foster Mar 22, 2012 – 7:27 PM ET | Last Updated: Mar 23, 2012 7:52 AM ET

**'Silence and demonize' could be the Suzuki foundation's motto**

**R**adical environmentalists tend not to be famous for their objectivity or sense of irony. Canada's most famous eco-activist, David Suzuki, proved that this week by organizing a [write-in campaign](#) to protest a Senate inquiry into foreign institutional funding of Canadian political activism.

Independent researcher Vivian Krause unearthed more than \$300-million of such eco-laundering, which has been used to campaign against B.C. fish farming and bring the Canadian forest industry to heel. Recently, both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver fingered foreign funding in clogging up the regulatory process for the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, the latest front in the green industry's war against the oil sands.

The Suzuki-to-Senate form email ventriloquized that robo-senders were "disappointed by the recent attempts of some senators to silence and demonize those who don't share their positions." It suggested that the Conservative senators, led by Nicole Eaton, were trying to "stifle the voices of millions of Canadians."

In fact, "Silence and demonize" could be the Suzuki foundation's motto. On its website, right beside *Tell the Senate to stop silencing environmental groups* sits a piece by Mr. Suzuki with the headline *Climate change denial isn't about science, or even skepticism*. The same article was recently published in *The Huffington Post* under the headline *Deny Deniers their Right to Deny!*

There is no more objectionable term for legitimate skepticism than "denial," which equates honest questioning with barmy claims that the Holocaust never took place. The Puffington article is, however, fascinating because it implicitly acknowledges that the Kyoto policy juggernaut has come off the rails, so Mr. Suzuki changes tack. What if the science isn't settled (ridiculous idea though that still is), asks Mr. Suzuki. How can we keep relying on "finite" fossil fuels and thus robbing the future? We need big plans!

Such Malthusian hooey confirms that Mr. Suzuki is blind to history and utterly clueless about how markets work. Just look at the actual results of the government-mandated global green shift: collapsing wind and solar industries, threats of trade war over the EU's plan to force emissions trading on foreign airlines; President Obama backpedalling furiously over Keystone XL in the face of soaring gasoline prices.

Meanwhile here's Mr. Suzuki's idea of a scientific argument: his piece links to a news story about a study that suggests that denial is a function of being a conservative white male (I suggest Mr. Suzuki try that theory on fearless blogger, and fierce critic of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Donna Laframboise). Meanwhile, if you want to understand climate issues, according to Mr. Suzuki, don't even think of visiting the websites of dissenters such as Anthony Watts (creator of [wattsupwiththat.com](#). Well worth a visit). Mr. Watts, after all, is a mere "weathermen." (Mr. Watts reminds us in response that Mr. Suzuki is, or was, a fruit fly - geneticist).

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Mr. Suzuki suggests that instead you should get the straight goods from the likes of his close associate James Hoggan, a big-time corporate consultant who runs the skeptic-smearing website *Desmogblog*, or from Naomi Oreskes, a "historian of climate science" whose debunked studies were prominently quoted by Al Gore in *An Inconvenient Truth*. Ms. Oreskes wants to ban the phrase "climate debate." She is a leading proponent of linking skeptics to the tobacco industry. Some science.



Mr. Suzuki also links to a piece by economist William Nordhaus. Insofar as Prof. Nordhaus addresses errors in interpretation of his own work, one can hardly disagree with him. However, he also utterly misrepresents the position of skeptics, suggesting, among other canards, that they “deny” the small temperature increases of the past 100 years. He thus confirms the impression that conventional warmists refuse even to hear what skeptics are skeptical about, which is *catastrophic, projected, man-made global warming*. This theoretical projection is based on the considerable amplification of the impact of CO2 by positive feedbacks, which are computer model assumptions, not facts or truths.

Mr. Suzuki goes on to claim a “stepping up” of denialism, but his two examples are in fact of *skeptics* coming under manufactured attack. He smears Tom Harris, who was recently assaulted for a climate course he taught at Carleton University. Don't bother to look at the science, suggests Mr. Suzuki (the course was in fact designed by eminent earth scientist Tim Patterson), just accept that Mr. Harris is a denier and a shill, and associated (without pay) with the U.S.-based Heartland Institute.

When it comes to Heartland, Mr. Suzuki cites something called “denialgate,” but fails to register that the only real scandal revolves around how a fellow eco-activist, Peter Gleick, obtained documents from Heartland under false pretenses then leaked them, plus a flagrant forgery, to the media. It is Heartland's desire to teach some objective climate science in schools that has led to paroxysms of rage from other radical organizations such as Al Gore's Climate Reality Project.

The Senate's inquiry into foreign activist funding and charitable tax deduction is valid, but perhaps more intriguing is domestic support for Mr. Suzuki. The David Suzuki Foundation certainly receives major donations from the California-based Moore, Hewlett and Packard foundations, whose funding is highlighted by Vivian Krause, but Mr. Suzuki is also heftily supported by Canadian Establishmentarians such as the Bronfman family, Power Corp., Jim Pattison, and Gerry Schwartz.

Do these leaders and scions of capitalism grasp that they are supporting an anti-development fanatic who believes that anybody who doesn't think like him on climate science is evil, mentally defective or a corporate shill? Do they agree with his 2008 suggestion that apostate politicians should be put in jail? Do they go along with his admiration for totalitarian Cuba's “sustainability?” Do they support child-scaring propaganda such as his recent Christmas campaign based on “saving” Santa's North Pole workshop? Do they fail to register that he demonizes “corporate profits and interests?”

The Suzuki foundation's robo-email concludes that “A democracy functions best when all points of view are considered rationally and carefully.” To be fair, Mr. Suzuki only wants to put those words in the mouths of others. He could never possibly say them himself. His pants would catch on fire.

Posted in: [FP Comment](#) Tags: [Climate Change](#), [David Suzuki](#), [Donna Laframboise](#), [Peter Foster](#), [Senate](#)



## PETER FOSTER

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**Manitoba Fay**

Well written column, full of common sense.

The Canadian Senate is doing good work to protect ordinary Canadians from the global warming scam. Thankyou

28 minutes ago 2 Likes

[Like](#)



**Charleston**

If Peter Foster is intrigued by domestic support for David Suzuki and wishes to understand that support he might first critically read his own article and ask himself what support his diatribe might possibly engender among Canadians and even Canadian CEOs who are actively planning for climate change and the social and economic unrest it is already bringing to North America, even to Canada (e.g., extreme weather events; forest mortality through fire, insects and disease; drought; etc).

1 hour ago 1 Like

[Like](#)



**Barmon777**

Global warming or not, I sense the heat rising in the discussion, and its man made.

On another point, does foreign funded organization included foreign owned companies? The management of foreign owned Canadian companies participate in Canadian industry dialogue as if this management were Canadian citizens without regard to potential conflicts of interest? It's not just NPOs that are subject to non-Canadian and often conflicted input.

2 hours ago 1 Like

[Like](#)



**MikeMurphy**

You may wish to study the difference between a charity and a business corporation. It will be useful for your ongoing dialogue.

2 hours ago in reply to Barmon777 2 Likes

[Like](#)



**MikeMurphy**

Perhaps its time to see where I buy my products a little more closely. Onex Corp (Shwartz) has many holdings including movie theatres and pizza at the consumer level. The Jim Pattison Group has more than 31,000 employees, and annual sales of \$6.7 billion and is in the consumer space in multiple businesses including the media. If you shop at Overwaitea or any of the following go elsewhere, Save-On-Foods, Coopers Foods, PriceSmart Foods, Urban Fare.

If these people want to support radical ecozealots like Suzuki then I'll take my business elsewhere, although Cinemax/Galaxy have a stranglehold on movie theatres in many Canadian cities. There is always movies on demand or Netflix.

2 hours ago 7 Likes

[Like](#)



**John Doucette**

I thought that this was the Financial Post not the bullshitpost.

2 hours ago 2 Likes

[Like](#)



**MikeMurphy**

It sounds like they hurt your feelings. Are you a sensitive lad? Are you a religious believer in CAGW, like Suzuki?

2 hours ago in reply to John Doucette 8 Likes

[Like](#)

**cjs13**

Canada needs to refuse foreign funded organizations the right to participate in hearings of any kind in Canada. Let Canadians that are not puppets for foreign interests decide. Most of the financial backers are very quiet in their own countries but very vocal about Canada. They want to destroy our economy and then pick up the pieces at fire sale prices.

2 hours ago 8 Likes

[Like](#)**Expat100**

I know if I had Stephan Dion in my office begging for PAC money to give to Suzuki, I think I'd write a large cheque just to get rid of him.

3 hours ago 4 Likes

[Like](#)**Expat100**

Suzuki is supported by "Bronfman family, Power Corp., Jim Pattison, and Gerry Schwartz."

All Liberals. Maybe a bit of quid pro quo for some business favours in the Liberal government of the day?

3 hours ago 11 Likes

[Like](#)**Really Really**

C'mon, Mr. Foster! Your writing is a "how to" on covering every logical fallacy and cognitive biases.

Are you that insecure in your position that you feel like you are being compared to a Holocaust denier? Concern for future generations is "Malthusian hooley"? You seem to be quite sensitive about acknowledging the negative tendencies of "conservative white males", so I won't point that out.

And you also dislike computer model assumptions because they are not facts or truths? It would be interesting to see quickly you would change your tune if you were diagnosed with metastatic cancer and had to rely on treatment based on useless computer model assumptions.

I really enjoyed your second last paragraph where you took a page right out of Vic Toews playbook, where he said opponents of the online surveillance bill were siding with paedophiles. Remember how well that worked for him?

3 hours ago 2 Likes

[Like](#)**MikeMurphy**

"C'mon, Mr. Foster! Your writing is a "how to" on covering every logical fallacy and cognitive biases. "

I suspect you have no idea what a logical fallacy or cognitive bias is but it sounds good eh!

"metastatic cancer and had to rely on treatment based on useless computer model assumptions."

Tell us about these computer models. Do you even know what a model is? Did you know there is quite a difference between treating cancer on a human body and making assumptions about the earth's atmosphere and the impact of solar radiation, which is not in the model in any major way?

Did you know treatment for metastatic cancer is largely to reduce symptoms and prolong life as typically the patient is terminal?

I get the feeling you like using language you don't completely understand.;

1 hour ago in reply to Really Really 6 Likes

[Like](#)**Floyd123**

Had not heard from Suzuki for a while--thought he had folded his tent and stealthily snuck away. Looks like he is on the run about having his resourcing publicized.

4 hours ago 21 Likes

[Like](#)

**Green is the Colour**

The trouble with both sides are that they want to limit debate for everyone that disagrees with their views. Scientists should not be advocates of anything but the results of their research not the "what if" scenarios. However, the Senate must be allowed to investigate any issues that may have an impact on Canadians. Regardless of Suzuki's reasons, trying to shut down reviews and muzzle the Senate is wrong.

4 hours ago 15 Likes

[Like](#)**Tednoddin**

Try telling that to Suzkooky He wants people arrested for questioning him. Communist Jerk

28 minutes ago in reply to Green is the Colour

[Like](#)**clarabo**

Wow! Left wingnuts who are shysters? I am shocked.

4 hours ago 18 Likes

[Like](#)**Vangel Vesovski**

Actually, I am grateful for the Suzuki Foundation making it easier for me to let the senators know exactly how I felt about the AGW fraud. They provided a nice form letter that was easy to modify for anyone willing to take a few minutes and express concern with the abandonment of conservationist principles by green groups who have moved on to pursuing economic goals that would damage most individuals not getting paid by the green lobby and green industry.

The fact that Suzuki is a fool is no longer in doubt. Sadly, he took a decent reputation that he took decades to build up and destroyed it by pursuing a political agenda that required a great deal of hypocrisy and the abandonment of scientific principles. Some time over the next decade Suzuki's name will be little more than a joke.

5 hours ago 36 Likes

[Like](#)**Bradbill72**

It would be a nice historical footnote to this whole thing, if David Suzuki (I can't in good conscience refer to him as either "Professor" or "Doctor") were to live long enough to see his life's values scorned and repudiated and otherwise ignored by the broader public. I wish him a long, healthy slide into obscurity.

4 hours ago in reply to Vangel Vesovski 22 Likes

[Like](#)**my2sense**

David who ??

3 hours ago in reply to Bradbill72 11 Likes

[Like](#)**Tgriffiths**

suzuki is a complete fool and has spent a life time living off Canadian taxpayers and its time to cut him off. I once read something about how Canadians picked this knob as the best Canadian or something stupid like that, but anyway it made me laugh out loud that people in Canada can be so stupid at times.

5 hours ago 27 Likes

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