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## Don't pay any attention to that Suzuki man

By **CONNIE WOODCOCK** QMI AGENCY

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It's OK, kids. Santa's coming next Saturday night just as he always does.

Don't worry: He isn't in any danger of drowning at the North Pole. Neither are the elves. Mrs. Claus is high and dry. The reindeer aren't sloshing around in slush.

Don't pay any attention to that Suzuki man who's going around telling you Santa is about to become homeless because of climate change.

Recently, he even issued a video that claimed he's been out house-hunting with Santa. In Vancouver, of all places, possibly the least Santa-like location in all of Canada.

No, it's all been a big fat fib — designed to lure donations to biologist/TV host David Suzuki's foundation to fight climate change.

And they're doing it by fooling around with one of the most cherished beliefs of millions of the very young.

How low can you go?

In the first TV spot, we see Santa's reindeer standing fetlock-deep in water and David Suzuki doing a "live from the North Pole" broadcast in front of some faux Arctic scenery.

"Where will Santa live?" the spot screams. "Santa's workshop is sinking! Climate change is melting the snow and ice and the rising water is getting too close for comfort. Santa must relocate — fast — to make sure all the nice boys and girls still have a happy holiday." But you can help by buying one of the gifts available on Suzuki's website — an e-card perhaps, or a limited edition snow globe.

In the second spot, Santa and Suzuki are looking at houses on a rainy Vancouver street — closely followed by a pack of elves and reindeer. Santa looks depressed. I don't blame him. The neighbourhood, with its decorative row of trash cans, is pretty dreary compared to his usual digs.

All's fair, it seems, in the war on climate change. Even damaging children's precious dreams, the ones the rest of us spend so much time and effort protecting.

Now it wouldn't be so bad if the campaign had just stayed on the Internet. Not too many tots are likely to go Googling Suzuki. But the longer it's gone on, the more publicity it's received and the likelier it is that four-year-olds will see it.

The Suzuki Foundation people think they've been very clever. It was, they've said, just a little tongue-in-cheek fun. Spokesperson Jim Boothroyd told Sun Media it's a "cheeky campaign."

Well, sorry, I don't agree. It's a cheap stunt and Suzuki should be ashamed of himself for finding a whole new way to carry on the war against Christmas. (And you'll notice that Christmas is barely mentioned by name. It's referred to as "the holidays.") Leave it to NORAD to correct the situation. The North American Aerospace Defence Command in Colorado knows a thing or two about Santa.

They've been tracking his annual flight since 1955 and they say not to worry. Santa is just fine, and, by the way, there's at least 10 feet and sometimes as much as 50 feet of ice at the North Pole right now. Temperature is a cool -34C.

I'll take their word for it, thanks.

We all know what happens to people who mess with Santa. Earlier this year, there was that Grade 2 teacher who told her class there was no Santa and it's their parents who leave the presents.

She apologized. On television. In front of the whole world.

I really doubt we'll get an apology from Suzuki.

So here's my Christmas wish for him — that Santa leaves him the traditional gift for bad boys and girls the world over: A big, fat, hunk of (environmentally incorrect) coal in his (sustainably grown, organic cotton) stocking.

Ho, ho, ho. And a very Merry Christmas to you, too.

connie.woodcock@sunmedia.ca

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