

Monday, December 30, 2013

Judge facing complaint for mock trial participation

Ontario Superior Court Justice Todd Ducharme is facing a judicial complaint for participating in a public mock trial of environmental activist David Suzuki that concluded in a not guilty verdict. The mock trial, organized by Cape Farewell Foundation, an organization that seeks to bring attention to climate change, took place at the Royal Ontario Museum Nov. 6.

Now, oil sands advocacy group *EthicalOil.org* says Ducharme's participation in the mock trial took place in the context of a "controversial political agenda" and compromises his judicial impartiality.

The mock trial "was a deliberate hijacking of the trappings of a trial, the deliberate appropriation of the dignity and impartiality of the courts for a partisan campaign," *EthicalOil.org* said in its complaint to the Canadian Judicial Council.

EthicalOil.org says Ducharme was selected for the role after his colleague Justice Harriet Sachs withdrew her involvement after questions were raised about "the propriety of her participation."

EthicalOil.org says it is "non-partisan and supported by persons who believe that the Canadian values reflected in ethical oil appeal to people from all walks of life and across the political spectrum."