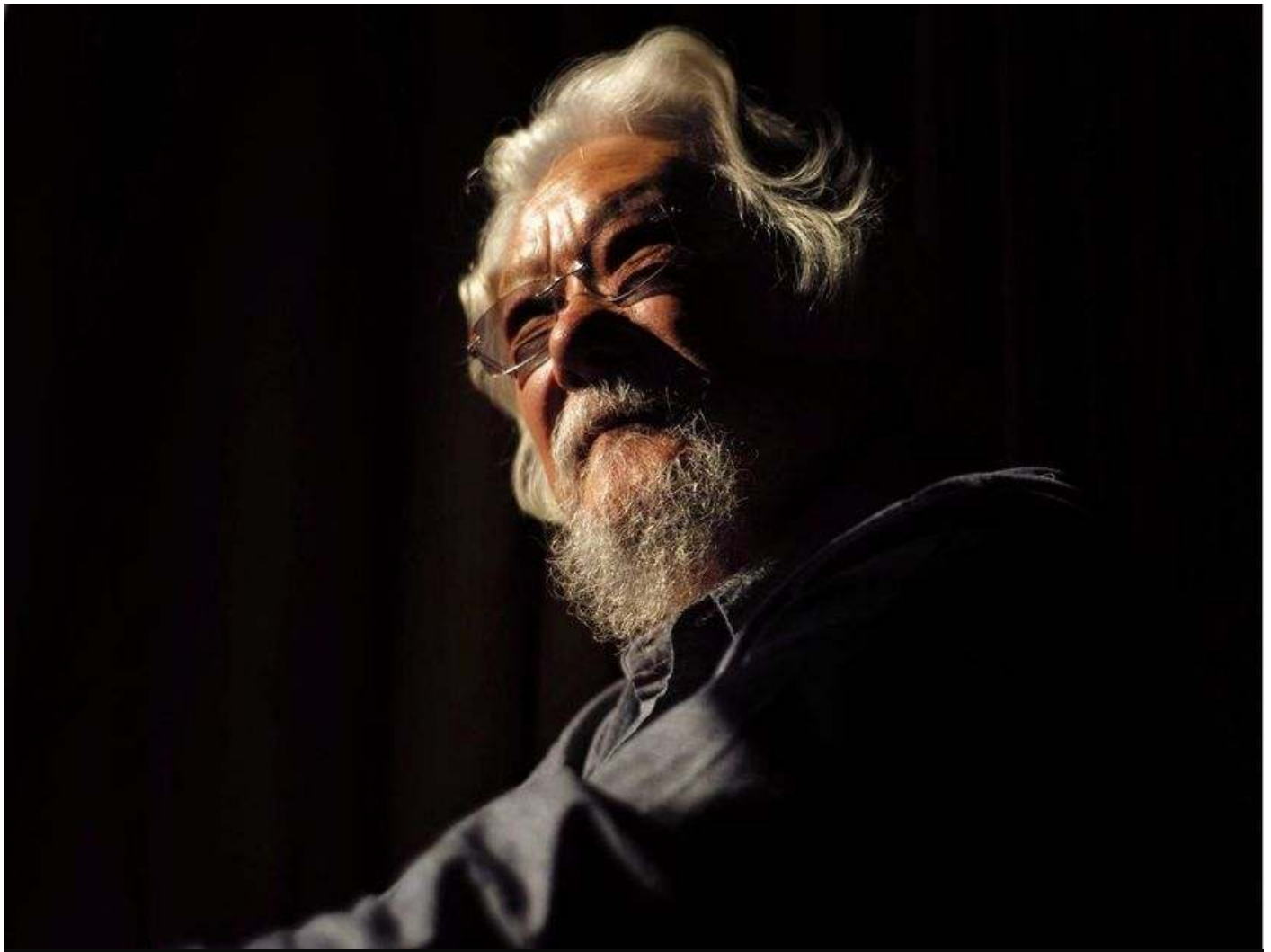


U of A honorary doctorate for David Suzuki angers dean of engineering, donors



GORDON KENT

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Scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki is to receive an honorary doctorate of science at a University of Alberta convocation on June 7. CHRIS YOUNG / THE CANADIAN PRESS

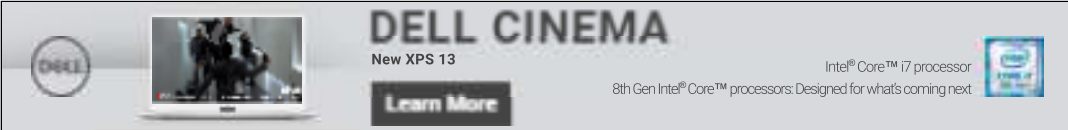
The dean of the University of Alberta engineering faculty has posted a scathing letter on his own school's website criticizing the decision to grant an honorary doctorate to environmentalist David Suzuki.

"It truly saddens me to know that many of you are, as am I, left feeling that one of Alberta's most favoured children, the University of Alberta, has betrayed you by choosing to confer this honorary degree," says the Monday post attributed to Fraser Forbes, which doesn't mention Suzuki by name.

"I am not surprised by the level of outrage being expressed across the entire breadth of our engineering community — surely such is to be expected when one's fundamental values are so directly questioned!"

Suzuki, a scientist, broadcaster and companion of the Order of Canada, is scheduled to receive an honorary doctorate of science during the spring convocation June 7.

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The advertisement is a horizontal banner. On the left is the Dell logo. Next to it is a photograph of a Dell XPS 13 laptop. To the right of the photo, the text reads "DELL CINEMA" in large, bold letters, followed by "New XPS 13" and a "Learn More" button. Further right, it says "Intel Core i7 processor" and "8th Gen Intel Core processors: Designed for what's coming next." with the Intel logo.

The move has attracted outrage from people upset with his position that the oilsands should be shut down and pipeline construction stopped to protect the environment.

Semi-retired businessman Dennis Erker said he has donated money to the U of A and helped with fundraising campaigns since the 1970s, but that will end if Suzuki's doctorate isn't rescinded.

He has heard others make similar vows.

"It will probably be the most expensive degree ever granted by the university when you consider the amount of money the university gets from people from the energy sector or related to the energy sector in our province," Erker said.

"We will probably lose 50 per cent of those contributions."

Forbes, who couldn't be reached for further comment, wrote the decision has precipitated a "crisis of trust" in the engineering faculty and the university has

become disconnected from the people it's meant to serve.

He feels the problem is that recipients are chosen by the university senate without faculty input.

"That the impact of this year's honorary degree selection has created such a rift between our university and Albertans shows the university didn't simply miss the mark, but, as you have told me loud and clear, left many of you, its supporters, feeling hurt and devalued," he wrote.

"I am deeply sorry (ashamed, in fact) for the hurt that we at the university have caused Albertans in the last two weeks. It need not have happened. It should not have happened. My apologies."

An email campaign started by Calgary lawyer Robert Iverach last week urges people to write to U of A president David Turpin, chancellor Doug Stollery and others demanding the senate reverse what Iverach calls a "stupid decision."

The group is looking at taking out newspaper ads to publicize the issue, said Iverach, who estimates millions of dollars in public donations are at stake.

"This is a complete slap in the face to the entire energy industry in Alberta ... to have a guy like Suzuki come into Alberta saying our oil should stay in the ground because of climate change and other things."

A university spokesman declined to comment.

The institution says in a post it's aware some people have expressed "displeasure" Suzuki is being given the doctorate, but such moves are intended to honour recipients' contributions in various fields rather than indicate agreement with their perspectives.

"While we recognize that certain of Dr. Suzuki's perspectives on the current debate between economic development and environmental sustainability are themselves a subject of debate, as an institution of higher learning the university is committed to the expression of, exposure to and debate of diverse points of view," the post says.

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Norah G Fon ·

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH ADDED INSULT TO INJURY !

David Suzuki has also been honoured by University of Guelph ! Really !?! Suzuki was given his honorary degree in 2012 !

Really !?! Suzuki was honoured three years after the government of Ontario imposed its prohibition against pest control products used in the urban landscape. Because of Suzuki's interference in partisan anti-pesticide conspiracies in Ontario, thousands of decent, hard-working, and law-abiding people have lost their jobs and have suffered hardship because of disintegrating customers and plummeting revenues in the professional lawn care industry.

Does David Suzuki and University of Guelph (and Guelph Turfgrass Institute) have some kind of a secret agreement !?! It is now common knowledge that David Suzuki DID have a secret agreement with Premier Dalton McGuinty about environmental policy in Ontario ! It is a fact that McGuinty used The Ontario Trillium Foundation to finance anti-pesticide & environmental-terrorist organizations, like David Suzuki's, that, in return, supported the conspiracy against pest control products in Ontario. It is a fact that, in 2010, David Suzuki Foundation received between 100,000 and 250,000 dollars from McGuinty through The Ontario Trillium Foundation. Overall, through The Ontario Trillium Foundation, McGuinty paid out over 2,000,000 dollars towards the subversive anti-pesticide conspiracy of prohibition. How much money has University of Guelph (and GTI) given to David Suzuki !?! As a result of his political interference in the Ontario 2011 General Election, David Suzuki was quietly forced to step down from the board of directors of David Suzuki Foundation. But, David Suzuki still got his honorary degree from the University of Guelph in 2012.

Is there enough separation between environmental-terrorists and government officials in Ontario !?! Is there enough separation between environmental-terrorists and University of Guelph (and GTI) !?! Why didn't University of Guelph (and GTI) defend its former students during the debate regarding prohibition !?! Why did University of Guelph (and GTI) honour the enviro-terrorist who destroyed their livelihoods !?! Is GTI planning to stop honouring enviro-terrorists who destroy the businesses of its former students !?! Do the businesses operating in the professional lawn care industry believe that they have been badly-treated by GTI !?! Should they forgive GTI for honouring Suzuki !?! Or, should they conclude that GTI deserves no money since it disrespects its former students and loathes their businesses !?!

<http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G

For more information, please explore the following link ...

<http://pesticidetruths.com/.../guelph-turfgrass.../>

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Peter Mason

They only perspective the Board believes in is their own. Have decided not to give to my Alma Mater if this degree is granted. Besides all Honorary degrees are a farce as they a degrading to all the hard working students that actually earn, and pay for, a University degree.

Like · Reply ·  9 · 1h · Edited



Andy Rondeau

Bravo to Edmonton Journal for acknowledging this issue and writing this story. It's not in line with it's usual practice of uncritically cheering on envirofanaticism.

Like · Reply ·  3 · 1h



Wayne Paul · Sole proprietorship at Self-Employed

The UofA knows where they can shove their "diverse points of view". You people are pathetic and you will never get another dollar from me. Have a nice life.

Like · Reply ·  1 · 52m



Pierre Jacques

Don't punish the students for what you concieve to be a wrong move by the head of the school! That would be ignorant!

Like · Reply · 42m



Grant Motuz · Augustana University College

For a place where there is supposed to be allot of smart people? Someone needs to be fired!

Like · Reply ·  7 · 2h



Art Sayers · Works at Self-Employed

Grant Universities are full of dreamers who use Daddy's money to stay alive without a thought of how that money is earned. It grows on trees in their world. I'm convinced that we need to shut off all shipments of Oil for 30 days just to show people what life without the product will be. Over time other sources will develop but that's 50 years away. All change is gradual as witness to the fact some humans have yet to develop the mental capacity needed to survive after the ice age ended.

Like · Reply ·  2 · 1h



Alex M Scott · Vancouver, British Columbia

Art Sayers It's not Daddy's money, it's taxpayer's money. Student loan write offs recently: \$300 Million in BC and \$500 Million by the Feds. Career students and academics with no marketable skills proliferate the Universities and whine because they don't get more. Dreamers? Some are and others are deadbeats. You decide where Suzuki fits.

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Mike Rose

Alex M Scott thats easy: Deadbeat,envirofascist , chicken-little, money-sucking pseudo-scientist....shall I continue to extrapolate his credentials??...

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Art Sayers · Works at Self-Employed

Bite the hand that feeds you. Good luck going forward.

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Gordon Roy Olson · Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

No more support for the U of A from my house and they have received a lot over the years.

Like · Reply · 14m



John Farren · Fort Macleod, Alberta

Suzuki is a fraud

Like · Reply · 8 · 1h

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