

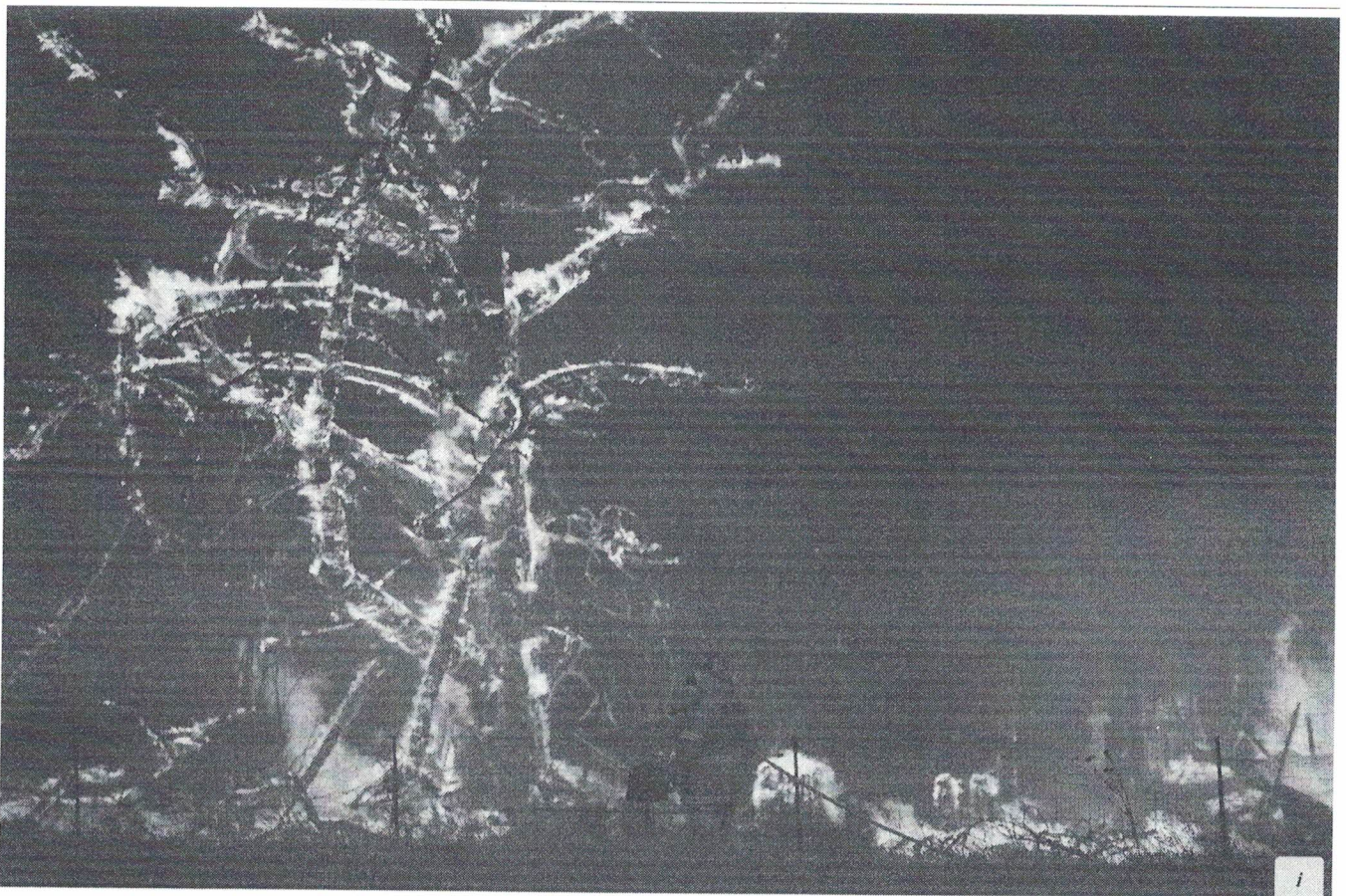
Winnipeg Free Press

Editorial

Time to silence voices of denial

By: Editorial

Posted: 01/6/2020 3:00 AM



Admitting there's a problem is usually the first step toward dealing with it.

And yet, when it comes to climate change — undoubtedly the most urgent problem of our time — many people still deny it exists. What will it take to get climate skeptics to take this issue seriously? Grim studies are not compelling to them; nor are the pleas from scientists, who have reached a near-universal consensus on human-made climate change. Instead of listening to the words of young climate activists such as Greta Thunberg, people fixate on the fact she's touring the world instead of attending school.

So maybe we turn to the images of climate change-related disasters. Right now, Australia is burning. The pictures are harrowing. Red and orange skies, choked with smoke. People's homes exploding. The continent's most beloved creatures, koalas, with scorched paws and fur. People, in masks and goggles protecting them from unbreathable air, fleeing their homes for the beach, in the hope that the sea may help them survive.

The continent is the face of the climate crisis, the brushfire photos an apocalyptic preview of what's to come if we can't accept the truth of the critical issue at hand. "This will happen" has become "This is happening." It's not a prediction. It's reality.

The Australian wildfires are far from being the first or only climate-related disaster we've faced. Last year alone saw an intense heat wave sweep India and Pakistan, with highs reaching 51 C. Much closer to home, Manitoba saw a freak October snowstorm and unprecedented fall flooding in 2019; a dry growing season and a wet harvest left more than 180,000 hectares of farmland in the province unharvested.

Weather and climate are not the same, it's true, but weather is a part of climate. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts and floods, occurring in greater frequency and severity, are heralds of a changing climate. Human beings are complicit and, in increasing numbers, are suffering. And they — we — will continue to suffer. Famine, disease, resource precarity, war — it's all in our future unless there is radical change.

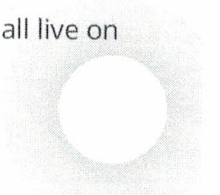
For a long time, even those who accepted the reality of climate change remained reluctant to use the phrase "climate change." As history has shown, our species isn't great when it comes to the long game. We tend to be more concerned with instant gratification. It's hard to wrap one's mind around the future, and it's easy to maintain a certain amount of cognitive dissonance about something that's happening half a world away.

And so, we remain hung up on the first step: admitting there's a problem.

In 2020, there's no longer room for debate about the existence of climate change. Treating it as a hypothetical is a luxury the inhabitants of this critically ill planet can no longer afford. We need our leaders to make climate change a priority issue, but that can't happen until they, and we, stop wasting precious time with circular debates and denials while the world burns down around us.

Climate-change deniers, including those directly invested in the fossil-fuel industry, should no longer dictate the terms; a false balance — sometimes described as "bothsidesism" — has no place in the current conversation. Regardless of your political affiliation, or your financial interest, or your chosen sources of information about the most critical issue of our lifetimes, we all live on Earth.

Isn't trying to save it in everyone's best interest?



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LfredNumn ★ Leader

6 Jan



If the Repugicans would just take their heads out of their posterior orifices, maybe we could start the processing of slowing down this arriving change. We are screwed.

Reply Report 4 Likes 20

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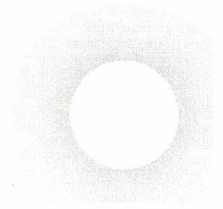
23684377 ★ Leader

6 Jan ↗ LfredNumn



The Democrats can set an example IF THEY REALLY BELIEVE WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.
Whe will you start?

Reply Report 7 Likes 3



ChrisBuors ★ Leader
6 Jan → LfredNumn

Why wait for government? You can shut the gas valve off to your house right now and if you drive, take your car to the shredder. No shortage of thing all the believers can do without needing to force anyone else to do anything.

Just imagine how much the Editors are going to save humanity leading by example. None of them will ever drive in a car again and let's hope they all called the gas company to have that pipe removed from their property as they can all move to electric heat, who cares how much it cost!

And no taking the bus since that is an energy user too... Walking everywhere or horseback seem to be the preferable options.

Or is is the Editor need to have all that environmentalism forced on them too or they ain't going to do anything either?

Reply Report 23 Likes 10

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Facts Only Please ★ Leader
6 Jan · Edited

I guess when the alarmists can't win the argument with propaganda, then the only option that remains is demanding the opposing voices be silenced.

Reply Report 32 Likes 12

fp-468233 ★ Leader
7 Jan → Facts Only Please

When the majority of opposing voices are supported by fossil fuel industry, that is a cause of concern.


Reply Report 2 Likes 12

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
user-7022718 ★ Leader
6 Jan

Long past due. I hope this means that the Winnipeg Free Press will step up the coverage of the ongoing climate catastrophe unfolding around us.


Reply Report 8 Likes 23

 **23684377** ★ Leader
6 Jan → user-7022718



Where is the CLIMATE catastrophe?
i only see catastrophic exaggeration.


Reply Report 28 Likes   4

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 **Bill104** ★ Leader
6 Jan → user-7022718


I will assume you are being sarcastic since the FP seems to have a neverending stream of articles/ editorials telling us about the upcoming cataclysm of Climate Change.

Reply Report 18 Likes   9



 **28553009** ★ Leader
6 Jan

Taking a step away from the climate change angle here.... how has man in all of it's infinite wisdom and ingenuity been unable to create something to stop these fires. The continent is surrounded by water... does salt water not stifle fires? I guess if we could control the weather we could make it rain or generate some cold temperatures.


Reply Report 3 Likes   11

 **23684377** ★ Leader
6 Jan → 28553009



Your suggestions do not work in the real world. The only way to stop them is to destroy the vegetation. But the greens protest against controlled burns, so now we see the results - too much fire material. Then we have ARSON, which the media here is silencing discussion by ignoring it. Have you seen it in the WFP?

Reply Report 14 Likes   1

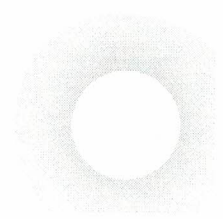
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 **mr. spelchek** ★ Leader
6 Jan → 28553009

Yes, ten or fifty miles of hoses should do the trick

Reply Report 5 Likes   1

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**paragon58** ★ Leader

6 Jan

Yup. Weather is not climate change. And yet climate change alarmists like to point to current weather events as though they are first time happenings. The writer(s) of this editorial claim the October 2019 snowstorm is a harbinger of an apocalypse looming over our head. Really? A widespread blizzard in the first days of October, 1959 paralyzed large swaths of southern Manitoba. Another similarity is the '59 blizzard came on the heels of unusually wet September, making the heavy snow difficult to deal with because of the murky ground underneath. Weather patterns come and go, and let's quit pretending that current trend lines are absolute and will never reverse and slowly head in a different direction.

I see differences in our climate and realize that changes are required. This means bringing adults (not indoctrinated little kids) together to have an adult discussion. The adult discussion will never happen when some viewpoints are thrown overboard as unworthy of consideration. It is very troubling to see a lowly editorial board censoring public debate in a free society and underscoring its disdain by using the word **silence**.

Reply Report 30 Likes 10

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**fp-468233** ★ Leader

7 Jan ↗ paragon58

"And yet climate change alarmists like to point to current weather events as though they are first time happenings."

No, not true. These have been occurring for a long time. The difference is the frequency with which they are happening, and the fact these catastrophic events are occurring world wide.

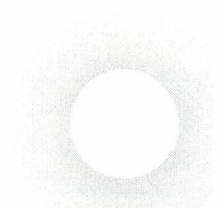
Reply Report 1 Like 6

**Rigel** ★ Leader

6 Jan ↗ paragon58

And the Great Blizzard of March 1966, possibly the worst in the city's history came on the heels of of the coldest Jan.-Feb. periods on record. Wasn't this supposed to signify an imminent new Ice Age?

Reply Report 19 Likes 4





Bill104 ★ Leader

6 Jan

There were other groups in the past that sought to silence critics.

Reply Report 17 Likes 5



Facts Only Please ★ Leader

6 Jan → Bill104

Yup...and they all lean left.

Reply Report 13 Likes 3

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paragon58 ★ Leader

6 Jan → Bill104

That's right, and it never turns out very well.

Reply Report 10 Likes 7



Bill104 ★ Leader

6 Jan

'Climate-change deniers, including those directly invested in the fossil-fuel industry, should no longer dictate the terms; a false balance — sometimes described as "bothsidesism" — has no place in the current conversation.'

Good to see a newspaper advocating for censorship (sarc.).

Reply Report 22 Likes 12

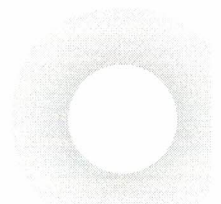


fp-100000000011973614 ★ Leader

6 Jan · Edited

Rather than silencing people who support the use of Canadian resources to help the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions, wouldn't it be better to use editorial pages to urge people like Greta Thunberg to take her message to those countries that produce the most pollution? Canada produces only 1.6 per cent of the world's emissions, and Canada's cleaner fossil fuels should be used to replace the use of coal in places like China and India. Yet, any Canadian who makes this argument is branded a denier who should be silenced. Science shows us the world's temperature is rising; there is little doubt about that. The debate seems to be about how much of this problem is the fault of humans. If human activity is the cause, Canada has solutions to offer, but the Free Press would rather concentrate on silencing people.

Reply Report 20 Likes 9



**23684377** ★ Leader

6 Jan → fp-1000000000011973614



****If human activity is the cause, Canada has solutions to offer, but the Free Press would rather concentrate on silencing people.****

First, Canada has no solutions to offer for more than one reason. There is no solution to a natural event. Canada has not developed any type of solution for "climate change". First, Canada and all other nations must do a real scientific analysis and come to the realization that emissions are not the MAIN cause of temperature change.

Reply Report 13 Likes 3



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**23684377** ★ Leader

6 Jan → fp-1000000000011973614



Greta is essentially a hypocrite like the leaders who will not follow their own suggestions. Greta said nothing new, she only repeated the misconceptions of the UN and IPCC, so she is not a leader. She was placed on that pedestal by the gullible media and her handlers who write her speeches and get her free transportation.

Reply Report 17 Likes 4

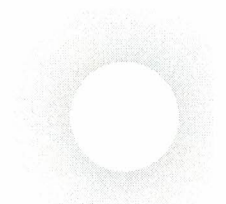
**9X9** ★ Leader

6 Jan



The mature discussion the adults need to have must involve the fact that there is nothing that Canada, by reducing our paltry GHG emissions, can do to stop climate change. Of course we should all try to live in a more environmentally conscious manner, but our best bet is to focus on mitigation and trying to get the big emitters on board with reducing all of our emissions together. It's certainly not easy. The EU, with its environmental conscience, wealth, moderate climate and population density is not on target to meet its Paris commitment. Maybe the members of the FP editorial board could collectively commit to turning their thermostats down to 10 degrees, have Mb Hydro help them figure out how much they reduced their carbon footprint and get back to us in June and let us know how it went.

Reply Report 10 Likes 8





ChrisBuors ★ Leader
6 Jan · Edited



How is denying that socialism is the best policy to deal with climate change to deny climate change?

The climate has been changing since time began and will until time ends because the forces that control the climate on Earth are ever changing too. The Sun is not a static ball of fire in the sky. The Moon is not static in the sky. The Tectonic plates are not static and neither are the volcanoes that populate the planet so why should the climate be static and never change?

And how about environmental management? We don't hear too much about the fires burning in California because those fires can be linked to government environment policy as well as the rules and regulations that govern Hydro companies.

The only conclusion is that the Editors are not going to wait until a final analysis determines the cause of these brush fires. The first thing to point out is the dozens of arrests of people for starting those fires. A Google search tells me 183 people have been arrested for starting those fires. What on Earth does that have to do with climate change?

... See more

Reply Report 13 Likes 5



fp-468233 ★ Leader
7 Jan ↗ ChrisBuors



"The climate has been changing since time began and will until time ends "

Very true, but unless a catastrophic event such as a huge meteor or a really huge volcanic eruption took place, the changes took place at a much slower rate than we've seen in the last couple of hundred years.

Reply Report 4



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23684377 ★ Leader
6 Jan ↗ ChrisBuors

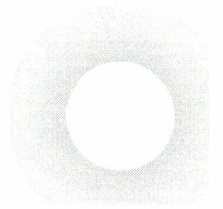


The media is conveniently not reporting the arson.

Reply Report 16 Likes 2



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