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Adrian MacNair: Canadian climate fears fall below 50%

Posted: January 12, 2010, 1:40 PM by NP Editor

[Full Comment](#), [environment](#), [Adrian MacNair](#)



Some people might be surprised to learn that climate change is perceived as a larger threat to the vital interests of Canadians for the next decade than terrorism, according to a new poll from Innovative Research Group.

Between December 22 and January 4, the survey was conducted for the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, where Canadians were asked about their "threat perceptions" on issues. From 2004-2010 the threat of terrorism dropped from 49% to 28%, while climate change dropped from 52% to 49%.

While the perception of danger from terrorism may have diminished, it's significant to note that despite the past six years of relative hysteria about the threat of climate change, that it actually dropped 3% over the past six years. You'll note that [news articles](#) are referring to this as a "relatively stable" number, but I don't think it's taking into account some of the significant changes in the past three months alone.

What's even more striking is that the media have been uniformly presenting the same talking point, that support for climate change as being a threat has been "relatively stable" over the past six years. What I think is even more significant than a 3% change, is that now less than half of Canadians believe that climate change is a threat, and that even though it's barely above the threshold for the statistical margin of error, it's still a decline. A

more legitimate headline, then, might be: "Threat Perception of Climate Change in Canada Drops."

This poll coincides with a number of "[inconvenient](#)" recent events which has shed some uncomfortable lights on "anthropogenic" climate change [or the science formerly known as "global warming"]. First there was the hacked, or leaked, emails showing evidence of scientific tampering from the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia. And now, two years removed from a decrease in polar ice in the Arctic, the ice caps are busy making their comeback tour in 2010.

Indeed, British newspapers are now warning that the planet is headed into a [period of global cooling](#):

The bitter winter afflicting much of the Northern Hemisphere is only the start of a global trend towards cooler weather that is likely to last for 20 or 30 years, say some of the world's most eminent climate scientists.

Their predictions – based on an analysis of natural cycles in water temperatures in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans – challenge some of the global warming orthodoxy's most deeply cherished beliefs, such as the claim that the North Pole will be free of ice in summer by 2013.

According to the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre in Colorado, Arctic summer sea ice has increased by 409,000 square miles, or 26 per cent, since 2007 – and even the most committed global warming activists do not dispute this.

The same people who were convinced global warming was a threat because of a few hot summers, now see a cooling trend thanks to the [coldest December in 115 years](#) recorded in the contiguous United States and the harshest British weather in memory.

Speaking of threat perceptions, how many Americans are now terrified that Texas will be turned into an igloo?

National Post

Adrian MacNair is a vancouver-based blogger and writer. Read more [here](#).

Photo: A frigid winter raised hopes in Scotland that an outdoor curling competition could be held on the Lake of Menteith, Stirlingshire for the first time in 30 years. The lake requires a minimum of seven inches of ice for the challenge to go ahead. This week, hopeful curlers were already out practising. (Derek Blair/AFP/Getty Images)

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-
- | | |
|--|---|
| by ZeeBC
Jan 12 2010
2:05 PM | This shows the power of the media and the education system. Between the two they spread the fear of God into the muttons and the school children. Gore's flawed movie, leftwing newspapers and national TV stations all literally claiming the sea will rise 22 feet, the ice caps will vanish and a dozen new Katrinas can be expected, managed to terrify the young and naive. GW Bush kept America safe so terrorism fear faded. Obama and Osama will revive the terrorism fears as Osama has not given up and Obama appears to have done just that. |
| by Sassylassie
Jan 12 2010
2:26 PM | Zee's right the power of MSM and our educational system are the reason the court of public opinion are so ill informed. They lapped up Climate Change and Global Warming without any attempt to vette the theory. I spent the better part of the holidays educating my minions of nephews that Climate |

Change is a hoax and I explained why it's built on lies, propaganda, fake and contrived science and hidden agendas. Two young men are now deprogrammed, so many so little time to help.

by edd333ed
Jan 12 2010
2:26 PM

I wonder if Al Gore is freezing his butt off in Tennessee, and if so, how this anecdotal evidence is affecting his perception of "Inconvenient Truth"s.

A friend informs me that the Dutch are almost hysterically happy over the chance to run their 13-city 250 km skate marathon for the first time in years.

The Brits are, according to the BBC, icebound and whimpering. Black ice on the roads -- oh, the horror. I suspect most of the whimpering is confined to BBC newsreaders and other members of the simpering class. Perhaps with a few CO2 traders thrown in.

by weird world
Jan 12 2010
2:49 PM

Ya gotta love the misleading headlines..of the NP.

terrorist threat perceptions drop from 49 to 28 %..a whopping 21 points....and climate change perceptions dropped 52 to 49...a (whopping) 3 points..

so climate change is considered a bigger threat than terrorism...no

ya gotta love the power of the misleading media
Love to see the questions for that poll.

by Straightup
Jan 12 2010
3:14 PM

Are you aware of climategate - 'leaked' emails from the CRU that calls the validity of data and computer models?

Are you familiar with the US Senate Minority Report that has more than 700 scientists opposing AGW assertions?

Are you aware of the Medieval Warming period?

Are you aware of the current decade drop in temperatures despite the continued increase in co2?

Are you aware that both polar caps have recovered whatever ice losses - seen this on satellite images?

The list continues...

If they answer no then you might as well walk into a kindergarden class and poll them...

by Sassylassie
Jan 12 2010
3:36 PM

One question that should of been added to the poll: Do you know how much money that contrived climate change is going to cost your family every year?

by Africon
Jan 12 2010
3:39 PM

@ Sassy

That's so funny, I have been educating my grandson and his 16 yr old friends - Lord Moncton and recently this article.

www.kelowna.com/.../green-gadflies-a-group-of-high-tech-scientists-argues-that-living-with-global-warming-makes-more-sense-than-fighting-it

They all "got it" immediately with no help from me.

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nationalpost.com
FULL COMMENT

January 8, 2010 — Are air travellers finally running out of patience with endless, illogical airline security measures? Are full-body scanners displaying our naked bodies the last straw? Author and security expert Bruce

Schneider joins host Chris Selley to discuss the Christmas Day bombing attempt, the latest indignities foisted upon the flying public, and better ways to keep us safe.

Too bad that our schools do not teach a class on "debate" or on "how to think".



by Sassylassie
Jan 12 2010
3:49 PM

Africon two of my nephews are in advance learning classes, boy are they academically smart but on an intellectual level dumber than sacks of hammers. Alas our schools indoctrinate our youth not educate them, they are told what to believe based on the educational systems elites.

by Les Bolschitt
Jan 12 2010
3:58 PM

wierd world writes "ya gotta love the power of the misleading media."

Indeed. That's why 49% of the sheep still believe in the AGW hoax.

ZeeBC gets why it works and why they use it: fear. Its the Big Green Extortion Machine, and its lucrative fear mongering is not limited just to climate scares. How do you suppose the American EPA came up with their 'scientific' lies about endangered polar bears that support the larger climate lie? And that one works too well on the unsuspecting children and others who fall for the 'cute animal' trick.

There's as much junk science feeding the 'endangered species' business as the climate fraud business.

P.S. Anyone see the latest ads for the Nature Conservancy? Great idea in theory but now they are resorting to the same misleading and/or false and always scary propaganda as the rest of these eco-snake oil salesmen. Pathetic. But expect even scarier stories to drive their revenues in these hard times.

Sassy - And when they get to our universities they encounter professors who are advocates masquerading as scientists who continue the indoctrination. No degree if you don't agree.

And speaking of stupid media, on the front page of the NP today they are using a photo of a cute white baby seal to illustrate Canada's efforts to market seal products to China (finally!!! forget the Euros!).

But those whitecoats aren't hunted anymore. That misleading photo use simply feeds the anti-sealing frenzy.

So thanks NP for being part of the problem.

This one is making the rounds and explains it ALL.

www.youtube.com/watch

edd333ed: I wonder how much carbon emissions are being produced to heat Al Gore's humongous house in Tennessee?

Sassy--so I wonder how students get indoctrinated in math and physics, or in philosophy, where they are taught to think critically. Maybe there are some profs who won't allow their students to disagree, but in my experience there are very few of them and they are usually hated by the students.

Well la de dah yet another climate change denial in the NP. You wouldn't think the whole issue is in dispute. Now that's what I call indoctrination, not allowing a fair cross-section of views on the possibility of global warming.

One would think that, being an alleged newspaper, the NP would do what newspapers are supposed to

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by Les Bolschitt
Jan 12 2010
4:02 PM

by Les Bolschitt
Jan 12 2010
4:05 PM

by osaycanuc
Jan 12 2010
5:02 PM

by RogersJi
Jan 12 2010
5:05 PM

by Ambrose99
Jan 12 2010
5:23 PM

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E-MAIL by Sassylasie
Jan 12 2010
5:38 PM
[Send a note to the editor](#)

do: present issues objectively and fairly regardless of the political persuasion of its proprietors.

It must be that the editorial board and especially the editor are weak-kneed yes persons.

Les the two I mentioned shall be going to Mil collage, baby sister isn't stupid she tries to keep the boys deprogramed and free from liberal propaganda tarted up as class material. They can spell and read, not a testament to our modern educational system.

Ambrose when I attended University my score was consistantly a 4.0, one teacher purposely docked my perfect score by five points so her dear class pet could take the top spot from me. I filed a complaint and won but in the end she wasn't punished for her unprofessional actions. I have nothing positive to say about five years of higher learning, I've yet to use my University training in the real world. It was a total waste of time, thankfully my trade license and business diploma were worth the expense.

by Richard V
Jan 12 2010
5:38 PM
@Ambrose: I think you're being charitable calling nationalpost.com a newspaper. It's almost entirely an aggregator of unpaid bloggers, with a few columnists and the occasional Reuters or AFP story thrown in for appearance's sake.

by kat26
Jan 12 2010
5:54 PM
So what are you doing, Ricky, slumming?

by ZeeBC
Jan 12 2010
6:21 PM
Kat be nice to the guy. Obviously he comes to the NP for something missing at his home "newspaper".

Fair and balance.

His comments are probably meant to impress Ambrose and Timmy. Two of our resident leftwingnuts.

by Mel from Calgary
Jan 12 2010
6:30 PM
Reading what people say about educating children you would think parental responsibility would be there somewhere.

I woman I know grew up with a world map laminated on the kitchen table so when there was something on the news the whole family would discuss it and know where it happened.

Teachers are two busy teaching knives and forks and manners to indoctrinate children.

by Les Bolschitt
Jan 12 2010
6:38 PM
Ambrose99 - All faculties are not equal. But if you want to see Lysenko style 'science' and 'education,' look no further than any faculty related to the environment. The whole new pseudoscience called 'Conservation Biology' is a politicized corrupt joke, and it now has tentacles reaching into most of the other formerly solid natural sciences.

Mathematics and physics are a different story because they are the closest to pure mathematics which is in reality the most objective field of study of all.

Unfortunately, some people confuse that with statistics...

Or even worse, they confuse models built on statistics and dubious assumptions with reality.

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–javaboy
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–Informed One
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–Jacqo
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Richard V - Nice try but we've all heard that lame explanation before. The absurdity is that nobody would pay anyone to post comments that question the AGW scam here because most NP readers are already fully aware of it.

when you want it.

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--Select One--

But who pays the Globe and Mail to 'post' all the pro-AGW-scare articles?

by Ambrose99
Jan 12 2010
7:30 PM

Sassy--your bad experience doth not a universal case make. That teacher you mentioned who dinged you is atypical--these are the jerk teachers who go into the profession for egotistical reasons.

Les--I agree that some faculties are unwilling to give students a rounded education. English faculties are another example. Profs who are not doctrinaire are regarded as dinosaurs.

But this is not true of all of them.

by Sceptic at large
Jan 12 2010
8:20 PM

Freezing my @ss off in Pembroke. Ain't seeing much warming here. Please send some soon Dr Suzuki.

by wilbert1755
Jan 12 2010
9:35 PM

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Letter To the British Columbia School Boards

Posted by acadie1755

I admit that I am not a climatologist on the issue of global warming. However; I support the principle that young people should be educated, not propagandized -- and I know something about what that means.

One of the most important differences between education and propaganda is how they deal with great controversies.

In education, students are taught about the controversies. In propaganda, they are shielded from them.

In education, students are taught both sides of the important debates. In propaganda, they are taught only one.

In education, students are taught both the strengths and the weaknesses of the officially favored theory. In propaganda, they are taught only its strengths.

In short, education is the training of minds, while propaganda is the training of prejudices. In a democracy, the public schools should not propagandize, but educate.

As we find in the science section of these guidelines, students must learn to "analyze, review, and critique scientific explanations, including hypotheses and theories, as to their strengths and weaknesses using scientific evidence and information.

The issue is that although students should be taught about both sides of a scientific theoretical controversy, your assignment, based on the description in your permission request, appears to only present one side and are shielded from the weaknesses. contained in. BC Science 10.

How can a student write a critique about assertions made on global warming without having anything to compare and contrast the assertions to? Your permission/assignment sheet gave no indication as to how, if any, the views to counter Anthropogenic Global Warming would be taught.

In addition, it is not clear what alternate assignment is available to the student/teachers should they choose to Learn from a climatologist instead from a television show hosted by a journalist with no science degrees.

If the "theory" of global warming is to be taught in your classroom, I urge that the topic should be taught like the other sciences and like other controversial theories -- with honesty about both . When classroom activities and/or textbooks are biased, you(the school board)) are the check and balance.

Statements are made in Science 10 that are assertions that mix cause and effect: "climate change is affecting our planet right now. Ice is disappearing earlier in the spring, trees are budding earlier, and extreme weather events are causing more outbreaks of disease than 20 years ago." They are not only inaccurate but also dishonest.

I urge The school board to require that the scientific data to both sides of this controversy be taught and that not one side be suppressed.

To do so would be not only be good training in science, but good education in citizenship.

by RogersJi
Jan 12 2010
11:48 PM

Wat the Brits say happened at Copenhagen and afterward. Note that the Brits don't mention Australia nor Canada:

ukincanada.fco.gov.uk/.../newsroom

I understand that Canada has agreed to sign on to the Accord. I wish they hadn't, it is a scam.

by JohnAZ
Jan 13 2010
6:07 AM

I am encouraged by the comments I see above that show that many of us are not waiting for the MSM to do their job. We are trying to do our part to educate and influence our own families and schools.

Those that get it, know that the MSM have abandoned their responsibility to be the voice of the people and are now just puppets of those that want to be our masters. We must take matters into our own hands, and I believe we are, and it is working.

Please see the following for my additional thoughts on what we can all do to help bring our nation, and all free nations out of this darkness.

globalfreedomday.blogspot.com

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