

Science for Peace



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Toronto350 Divest U of T

On behalf of Science for Peace, the endorsement committee unanimously supports the campaign directed to the University of Toronto to divest from the fossil fuel industry. This important initiative by Toronto350 focuses on the dangerous climate change situation and the responsibility of the university to adhere to well-established scientific evidence. Public universities in particular have a responsibility to the wider public to educate and to use knowledge objectively, truthfully, and responsibly.

The scientific evidence is incontestable: substantial reductions of fossil fuels are necessary immediately to keep temperatures from rising over 1.5C. It is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations to 350ppm or below to maintain the climate within the range of the highest temperatures during the Holocene era. Because of the non-linear effects associated with amplifying feedbacks, reductions cannot wait for decades and cannot be handled incrementally. At this time the *rate* of GHG emissions and the rapidity of warming has significantly increased over the past decade.

Divestment is one important measure to halt the juggernaut of accelerating investments in a range of dangerous fossil fuel businesses. At the top of the list are the Alberta tar sands, coal, natural gas and Arctic offshore drilling. Given substantial knowledge about the mechanisms of climate change, this economy based on extraction of non-renewables, with its accompanying destruction of freshwater/soil/forests, could not be more regressive and detrimental for species survival.

We hope that the university stands up for rationality, for science, social science, and public health, by divesting immediately from fossil fuels.

Thank you for your attention.

Judith Deutsch
Vice President
Science for Peace