

La guerre du Canada contre, et activisme
pour, science et connaissance

Canada's war on science and knowledge
and growing counter-activism



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School of Information Studies*



Plan

- Qu'est-ce qui ce passe?
- Qu'est-ce qu'on fait? (activism)
- Qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire? (stratégies)
- What's happening?
- What are people doing? (activism)
- What more can be done? (strategies)

Merci à Dupuis!

CONFESSIONS of a Science Librarian

with JOHN DUPUIS

The Canadian War on Science: A long, unexaggerated, devastating chronological indictment

Posted by **John Dupuis** on May 20, 2013

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This is a brief chronology of the current Conservative Canadian government's long campaign to undermine evidence-based scientific, environmental and technical decision-making. It is a government that is beholden to big business, particularly big oil, and that makes every attempt to

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Je vais commencer avec un grand merci pour John Dupuis, un bibliothécaire et blogger qui écrit une **bibliographie très utile sur La guerre contre le science.**

Cette bibliographie est libre accès. Dupuis a dit qu'il ne veut aucune droit d'auteur pour cette bibliographie; c'est public domain. Je suis une avocate pour libre acces. Pour moi, ceci est un excellent exemple de libre recherche. I'd like to begin by acknowledging the bibliography of John Dupuis which is most helpful to anyone wanting to work in this area. I am an open access advocate. For me, this is a great example of what I call open research. Instead of keeping his bibliography to himself, Dupuis is openly sharing it as public domain.

The Canadian War on Science / La guerre du Canada contre science et connaissance (2006)

- [One Tonne Challenge funding stopped](#)
- [Environmental Groups Call on Ambrose to Resign as Chair of International Kyoto Negotiations](#)
- [Circumpolar ambassador job axed](#)

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January 23, 2006: Harper government wins minority.

The war / la guerre 2008

- [Office of National Science Adviser phased out](#)
- [Nuclear safety watchdog head fired for 'lack of leadership'](#)
- [16 Canadian lakes are slated to be officially but quietly "reclassified" as toxic dump sites for mines](#)
- [It's the Beginning of the End for Federal Science: Expert Panel on Lab Transfers/divestment \(privatization of federal labs\)](#)

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Beginning of the end for federal science: privatization of federal science positions.
October 2008: Conservatives returned to power with a stronger minority. 16 lacs sont maintenant pour les Décharges toxiques. Les leaders de science et sécurité nuclear? Au chômage. Le gouvernement transfert les labs aux secteur privé.

The war / la guerre (2009)

- Navigable Waters Protection Act to remove objective definition of navigable and replace it with unaccountable Ministerial discretion
- Eau navigable?
- Décidé par le ministre, pas la science

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Monbiot: Canada "thuggish petro-state" (Guardian, Nov. 2009)

"Canada's image lies in tatters. It is now to climate what Japan is to whaling. The tar barons have held the nation to ransom. This thuggish petro-state is now the greatest obstacle to a deal in Copenhagen".
Monbiot, Guardian headline Nov. 2009

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The war / la guerre (2010)

- Information restrictions brought in by government have severely restricted the media's access to government researchers
- Interview approval rules introduced in at Environment Canada 2007 have lead to substantially reduced requests, especially about climate change coverage.
- AIDS funding announcement insufficient and disappointing, out of step with international community
- Cuts to Environment Canada weather-service programs have compromised the government's ability to assess climate change and left it with a "profoundly disturbing" quality of information in its data network.

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2010. C'est beaucoup plus difficiles pour les médias de poser les questions aux scientifiques federales. Le gouvernement coupe le budget pour AIDS.

Opponents to elimination of Canadian long form census (2010)

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- City of Toronto
- Government of Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba

(Wikipedia)

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Canada's national science agency axes food research (2011)

- Farmers for investment in agriculture: "At a time when most countries are making huge investments in farming to capitalize on our growing world food demand, Canada has decreased public research funding for agriculture by 40 per cent since 1994 and has lost over 10 per cent of our research scientists," the coalition said.
- "At a time when the United Nations is expressing fears of a potential food crisis, countries like Canada have a responsibility to increase their commitment to food production," says William Van Tassel, vice-chair of the Fédération des producteurs de culture commerciales du Québec, one of the coalition's members. "By cutting agriculture from its priorities, the council seems to be disconnected from the current global reality." (Manitoba Co-operator, 2011).

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réductions budgétaires pour la recherche sur la nourriture

The war / la guerre: 2011

- [NSERC reduces funding for basic research](#)
- [Tri-Council reallocates funds from discovery to industry research](#)
- Blocks asbestos from hazardous chemicals list at UN summit
- [Budget cuts to Climate Change and Clean Air, Substance and Waste Management, Weather and Environmental Services, Water Resources and Internal Services, Action Plan on Clean Water, the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan, Chemicals Management Plan, the Clean Air Agenda, the Air Quality Health Index, Species at Risk Program](#)

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réductions budgétaires pour le recherche – mais Canada est pour l'asbestor

The war / la guerre: 2011

- [NSERC Discovery Grants reduced](#)
- [DFO scientist Kristi Miller says that the Privy Council prevented her from talking to the media about her research into the 2009 sockeye salmon collapse in B.C.](#)
- [Arctic ozone monitoring & research unit & databases shut down as well as 40 year archive of ice cores](#)
- [Canadian Environmental Network closes](#)
[Scientist David Tarasick speaks out after finding 'record' ozone hole over Canadian Arctic](#)
- [Withdraw from the Kyoto Accord](#)

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Nature: frozen out

- U.S. in December promoting openness, encouraging government scientists to speak to the press
- Canada: "Policy directives and e-mails obtained from the government through freedom of information reveal a confused and Byzantine approach to the press, prioritizing message control and showing little understanding of the importance of the free flow of scientific knowledge."
- Nature, 2012.

French

Selon la revue Nature, Les États-Unis et Canada vont en directions opposées: Les États-Unis pour libre access, Canada pour muzzling.

Environmental and other "radical groups" are trying to block trade and undermine Canada's economy, Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said...

...one day before federal regulatory hearings begin on whether to approve Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline, which would deliver crude from Alberta's oilsands to Kitimat, B.C., for shipment to Asia (Payton, CBC News, 2012).

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Selon Joe Oliver, les environmentalistes sont radicales. Il a dit ça un jour apres qu'on parle de oilsands pipeline.

"Some charitable environmental groups in Canada are "laundering" funds from offshore donors to obstruct Canada's environmental assessment process, Environment Minister Peter Kent says" (CBC News, May 2012)

"This week, David Suzuki and his foundation [came under attack](#) by the ironically named Ethical Oil group, a new American anti-environmental video has been making the rounds online, and the \$500,000 Koch brothers [contribution](#) to Canada's right-wing Fraser Institute made the news." (Huffington Post, April 27, 2012)

- Pour l'environnement = radical? (Ministre, Ressources Naturel Joe Oliver)
- Criminel (Ministre d'Environnement Peter Kent)

Black Out Speak Out

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OUR LAND, WATER AND CLIMATE ARE ALL THREATENED BY THE LATEST FEDERAL BUDGET. PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BUDGET BILL WILL WEAKEN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND SILENCE THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO SEEK TO DEFEND THEM.

SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION.

SPEAK OUT TODAY IN DEFENCE OF TWO CORE CANADIAN VALUES: NATURE AND DEMOCRACY.

SPEAK OUT TO OUR LEADERS
Email Your MP & Party Leaders

Defend Canada's Democracy and Environment from Bill C-28
author: Black Out Speak Out
signatures: 45,702 [sign](#)

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[Get mailing addresses for all party leaders and a sample letter you can customize.](#)

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[Update your status.](#) Be speaking out in defence of nature and democracy #BLACKOUTSPEAKOUT hashtag.lykG8u6t.

SPEAK OUT ON twitter

Add a Black Out Speak Out button to your profile picture.

Tweet this: Tell a speak out in defence of democracy? #BLACKOUTSPEAKOUT hashtag.lykG8u6t @greenpeace @thorndike @thorndike @thorndike @thorndike

Tweet this: Be calling on our leaders to stop Bill C-28. #BlackOutSpeakOut hashtag.lykG8u6t

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The war / la guerre: 2012

- Canada threatens trade war with EU over tar sands, over the bloc's plan to label oil from Alberta's vast tar sands as highly polluting
- Cuts to the ozone monitoring program are affecting ability to monitor air quality and ozone depletion, Canada is jeopardizing the scientific community's ability to monitor for holes in the ozone, especially over the Arctic
- Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences closes
- Gutting the Fisheries Act

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The war / la guerre: 2012

- [Cereal Research Centre cut](#)
- [Muzzling of scientists at international conferences](#)
- [Repeal of Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, download to provinces](#)
- [Sustainable Water Management Division cut](#)
- [Transport Canada Aircraft Services cut](#)
- [The Centre for Plant Health relocated](#)
- [Scientists monitored at polar conference](#)
- [National Aboriginal Health Organization's funding cut](#)

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The war / la guerre: 2012

- [Parks Canada cuts affect four national marine conservation areas](#)
- [2012 Budget cuts Women's Health Contribution Program, Canadian Women's Health Network, National Network on Environments and Women's Health, Federal Tobacco Control Strategy](#)
- [Budget cuts Centre of Excellence at B.C. Children's and Women's hospitals in Vancouver, Quebec Network of Action for Women's Health, Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence](#)
- [1000 jobs cut at Department of Fisheries and Oceans Ocean Contaminants & Marine Toxicology Program axed.](#)

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The war / la guerre: 2012

- [Eliminate Experimental Lakes Area program \(rescued by Ontario\)](#)
- [Addictions Research Centre cut](#)
- [When asked if he believes in evolution, Minister of Science and Technology refuses to answer question; suggests MP who asked the question has brain damage](#)
- [Arctic Institute of North America's Kluane Research Station cut](#)
- [Major Resources Support \(MRS\) Program Moratorium impacts National High Field Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre, the Canadian Centre for Isotopic Microanalysis and the Canadian Charged Particle Accelerator Consortium and others](#)

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The war / la guerre: 2012

- [Revamp Species-at-Risk act](#)
- [Navigable Waters Protection Act changed to weaken environmental oversight, changes sought by pipeline industry](#)
- [Bill C-45 weakens environmental laws and democracy, such as Navigable Waters Protection Act](#)
- [PEI Salmon research lab targeted](#)
- [Navigable Waters Protection Act altered to give developers more freedom to build around most Canadian rivers and lakes](#)
- [Environment Canada scientists Derek Muir and Jane Kirk discouraged from commenting on oilsands contaminant study](#)
- [Eliminating the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission](#)

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The war / la guerre (2013: 75 entries to date including...)

- [Very long list of scientist muzzlings from Democracy Watch](#)
- [Oil & Gas Industry thanks government for changing a series of environmental laws to advance "both economic growth and environmental performance.](#)
- [Restrict how researchers can share data](#)
[Information commissioner investigates 'Muzzling' of federal scientists, called a threat to democracy](#)
[Prairies Regional Office: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency closes](#)
- [The government votes against public science, basic research and the free and open exchange of scientific information are essential to evidence-based policy-making](#)
- [\\$100 million cut from Department of Fisheries & Oceans over three years](#)

Scientifiques fédéraux

Coup de froid

**l'Institut professionnel de la
fonction publique du Canada
(IPFPC, 2013)**

*Enquête: 15,000
scientifiques, > 4,000
ont répondu*

Federal scientists

The big chill

**Professional Institute of the
Public Service of Canada (PIPSC,
2013)**

*Survey: 15,000
scientists, > 4,000
responded*

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Commissioned Environics Research Group, early 2013. Survey sent to 15 398 members, response rate, 4 069, marge d'erreur 1,6 %, 19 fois sur 20

"90 % des scientifiques employés au gouvernement fédéral ne se sentent pas libres de parler librement de leurs travaux aux médias (IPFPC, 2013)

90% [of federal government scientists] feel they are not allowed to speak freely to the media about the work they do (PIPSC, 2013)

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Est-ce vrai?

“Demande d’omettre
ou de modifier de l’info
pour des raisons non-
scientifiques:

24% ”

(IPFPC, 2013)

For real?

“nearly one-quarter
(24%)...had been
directly asked to
exclude or alter
information for non-
scientific reasons
” (PIPSC, 2013)

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Est-ce vrai?

“plus du tiers (37 %) affirment qu'on les a empêchés de répondre à des questions du public et des médias au cours des cinq dernières années”
” (IPFPC, 2013)

For real?

“over one-third (37%) had been prevented in the past five years from responding to questions from the public and media
” (PIPSC, 2013)

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Est-ce vrai?

- “La santé et la sécurité ont été compromises [par ingérence politique]”

50%

(IPFPC, 2013)

For real?

Health and security has been compromised by political interference

50%

(PIPSC, 2013)

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Klinkenborg – New York Times (2013)

- “Over the last few years, the government of Canada — led by Stephen Harper — has made it harder and harder for publicly financed scientists to communicate with the public and with other scientists. ”
- There was trouble of this kind here in the George W. Bush years, when scientists were asked to toe the party line on climate policy and endangered species. But nothing came close to what is being done in Canada. ”

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Canadian Science Writers' Association – let Canada's scientists speak

CANADIAN
SCIENCE
WRITERS'
ASSOCIATION
excellence in science
communication in Canada



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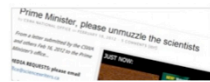
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the story of what it takes to
shine a light in dark corners.
CSWA guest post by Miriam
Shuchman [to.mia@RUB207](#)

CSWA @cswa_news 4h
Meet Ian Mosby, the Man Who
Exposed Canada's Experiments
on Aboriginals: by @cswa_news
board member Miriam
Shuchman [bit.ly/1uEDgM](#)

LET CANADA'S SCIENTISTS SPEAK

Muzzling means stories about what tax dollars fund are limited or can't be told
Access to Canada's federal scientists has declined significantly in recent years. Members of the media need to interview scientists in federal research facilities in order to accurately report what is happening in everything from Canada's environment to the country's health care system. Without access, important stories are untold.

Canada's federal scientists used to be encouraged to openly discuss their work with the media and public. That changed under the Harper government about five years ago when media



CSWA MEMBER BLOGS

Anne Steina
Arielle Duhaime-Ross
Barry Shell
Bob McDonald
Cadell Last
Chris Atack
Edward Willett
Elizabeth Howell
Georges Mercer
Heather Maughan

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“The CSWA and the [Association des communicateurs scientifiques](#) won the 14th annual Press Freedom Award in 2012 for their work in exposing how the government has silenced scientists.”

Death of evidence (Sept. 2012)
<http://www.deathofevidence.ca/>




The Death of Evidence.
No science, no evidence, no truth, no democracy

DoE
Virtual
Vigil

Funeral Details How Evidence Died Sign-up Spread the word

Public science in Canada is being censored, send a message that our public scientists should be free to speak.



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2013: rallies in 16 cities

Activisme contre

Quoit faire?

What can we do?

Activisme sans
frontières (Keck &
Sikkink, 1998)

Activism without
borders (Keck &
Sikkink, 1998)

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Activisme
sans frontières / without borders

L'état n'est pas seul aux "public sphere" "the state does not monopolize the public sphere"

(Keck & Sikkink, 1998)

(Keck & Sikkink, 1998, p. 32)

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Activism without borders

3 areas where transnational advocacy networks have made significant progress in the public sphere: human rights, women's rights, environment

Transnational advocacy networks: strategies (Keck & Sikkink)

- Information politics
- Symbolic politics
- Leverage politics
- Accountability politics

Information politics: Dupuis, Canada's Science Writers' Association, this talk, journalists. Symbolic politics: black out speak out, death of evidence, press award for Canadian Science Writer's Association. Can we do more to recognize and celebrate those who speak up? Leverage politics is where we make use of our advocacy networks to overcome barriers that we may face. For example, if federal scientists cannot speak up then academic scientists and publishers can speak up on their behalf. This is happening to some extent, but we could do more. What about trade? Governments around the world are pushing for more and more free trade agreements, and this is tending to lead to a race to the bottom – the country with the lowest environmental and labour standards gives companies a cost advantage. Why not push instead to raise the floor? Canada's War on Science is in direct contradiction with the Conservative Party's public stance on accountability – that's something else that we can leverage.

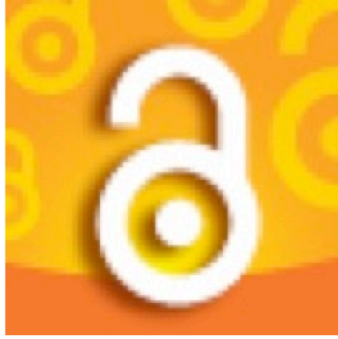
Conclusion

- There is substantial evidence that the Canadian government is fighting science and knowledge. A primary driver appears to be the oil and gas industry, particularly the tar sands. However, ideology opposing science per se appears to be at play.
- Results of recent cuts are likely to be felt in the environment, society at large (cutting mandatory long form census), and may be felt in other areas as well, such as food security and Canada's ability to develop new economic areas.
- Advocacy efforts to affect change have been growing over the past few years and it is worthwhile considering a networked approach to advocacy.

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Libre accès / open access



- **Les avocats pour libre accès canadien (APLAC) / Advocates for Canadian Open Access (ACOA)**

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C4HksXi399pqUNitVy0eEcIn0cTC9hU1g5tmUYA4OQI/edit?pli=>

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