

## **Tar Sands Reality Check Speaking Tour**

In the past year, over 300 campaigns to divest campus endowments from fossil fuels have been launched across North America. This new wave in the climate movement – what the Nation and Rolling Stone magazines are calling the “largest student movement in decades” – has sparked a new energy in students pushing for their voices to be heard in shaping Canada and the world’s climate and energy future.

At the same time in Canada, the tar/oil sands have continued to expand in size, and in influence over politics and policies in Canada. The last two years have seen environmental policies rolled back, funding cut, and the launch of a \$16 million tax-payer advertising campaign to sell bitumen to Canadians and the world. There has never been a more important time for a reality check on climate change, fossil fuels and Canada’s energy future.

That’s why this fall we are bringing together a group of leading academics, advocates and local community activists from the climate and energy community to organize a Tar Sands Reality Check speaking tour on campuses across Canada. Speaking engagements will be dynamic, informative and connected to the growing conversation across Canada about our country’s climate and energy future, the campus divestment movement, and why student action is so important. Tour dates will each feature one leading academic, a national advocate and a local community organizer working on tar sands related issues across Canada. The tour will run September 16 - October 2nd, with the routing to be determined by availability of speakers and interested campuses.

### **Speakers participating in this series include:**

**Tzeporah Berman, BA, MES LLD (Honoris Causa)** - Tzeporah is one of Canada's leading environmental voices and has been designing and winning environmental campaigns in Canada and around the world for over twenty years. She is the founder of ForestEthics and former Co-director of Greenpeace International's Climate Program. She now works as a strategic advisor for dozens of First Nations, environmental groups and philanthropic foundations on tarsands and pipelines. Her first book, *This Crazy Time: Living Our Environmental Challenge* was published by Knopf Canada last year.

**Danny Harvey Ph.D.** - Danny began his research career in the area of climate and carbon cycle modelling, with a particular focus on the global-scale impacts on climate of alternative emission scenarios. During the 2000s, he began to work on questions related to energy use and how to make the transition to a fossil-fuel free energy system sufficiently rapidly to be able to limit the effective atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration to no more than a doubling from the pre-industrial level. Related to this, he published three books, *A Handbook on Low-Energy Buildings and District Energy Systems: Fundamentals, Techniques, and Examples* (2007) and the 2-volume work in 2010, *Energy and the New Reality, Volume 1: Energy Efficiency and the Demand for Energy Services* and *Volume 2: C-Free Energy Supply*. He is a Deputy Editor of the journal *Climatic Change* and a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4<sup>th</sup> (2007) and 5<sup>th</sup> (forthcoming) assessment reports.

**Mark Jaccard Ph.D.** – Mark is a professor in sustainable energy at Simon Fraser University. With a PhD from the Energy Economics and Policy Institute at the University of Grenoble, he has served as Chair and CEO of the British Columbia Utilities Commission, as a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as chair of a task force on coal for the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, as

convening lead author for sustainable energy policy with the Global Energy Assessment and as a panel member of Canada's National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy. In 2006, his book Sustainable Fossil Fuels won the Donner Prize.

**Tom Rand P.Eng., Ph.D.** - After a number of years as a successful software entrepreneur Tom now focuses his efforts on carbon mitigation. He is active in Cleantech venture capital, technology incubation and commercialization, and public advocacy. He is currently Managing Partner of the privately-backed MaRS Cleantech Fund, and a Senior Advisor at the MaRS Discovery District. Tom sits on the board of a number of clean energy companies and organizations. Tom holds a BSc in electrical engineering (U of Waterloo), an MSc in philosophy of science (University of London and LSE) and an MA and PhD in philosophy (U of Toronto). He believes that we have yet to have a serious, public conversation about the threat of climate change, and the economic opportunities afforded by the global transformation to a low-carbon economy. Tom is the author of *Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit*.

**John Stone Ph.D.** - John received a Ph.D. in Chemical Spectroscopy (1969) and an Honours B.Sc. in Chemistry (1966) from the University of Reading UK. He held Post-Doctoral Fellowships, with the National Research Council of Canada and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and a Board member of the Pembina Institute. Since retiring from the Canadian Public Service in 2005 he has been a Visiting Fellow with the International Development Research Council; and Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University. Prior to retiring he served as Executive Director (Climate Change), for the Meteorological Service of Canada, Environment Canada. He has been a Member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), specifically as Vice-chair of Working Group I for Third Assessment Report and Vice-chair of Working Group II for Fourth Assessment Report. He is currently a Lead Author for the next IPCC Assessment.

**Crystal Lameman** - Crystal is a Beaver Lake Cree First Nation activist, a Sierra Club Prairie activist and the Peace River tar sands campaigner for the Indigenous Environmental Network in Alberta, Canada – and a mother of two. With infectious dedication and passion, Crystal is committed to restoring Native treaty rights and stopping the expansion of the tar sands. Crystal is involved in the work of her nation to take the Canadian government to court over 17,000 treaty violations. In May 2008, the Beaver Lake Cree Nation filed a Statement of Claim in Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench taking the Government of Canada to court. In March 2012, they were granted a trial. This trial stands as a precedent for other oil sands rights violations.

**Local community organizers and divestment leaders TBD**

Contact to book a date or if you have any questions:  
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