



# The Charlatans and the Apostates

*Celebrities grow rich off climate change alarmism, even as once devout 'global warmists' cool to the theory*

CANADIANS MAY NOW BE CONFRONTING A POLITICAL reality that would be hilariously funny were it not so economically perilous. I mean, of course, "global warming." Although every day brings further evidence that it is a fraud, it has taken in most national governments including ours, plus much of the scientific community (not very difficult), and most educators and teachers (not difficult at all).

It has also restored Al Gore as a prime prospect for the U.S. presidency. His movie *An Inconvenient Truth* has converted an increasingly dubious scientific theory into a pseudo-religious crusade. It prevaricates, it deludes, it exaggerates, it deceives and it lies, but it is carefully calibrated to appeal to anyone sufficiently simple-minded to be sucked in by the latest scientific scare story. This month it was a notably popular item in Canadian classrooms.

Remember how "reputable scientists" once predicted overpopulation would cause us to die of starvation by the year 2000? We didn't, of course. But now that most countries are concerned about declining birthrates and underpopulation, "reputable scientists" have shifted ground. As Mr. Gore's movie earnestly explains, we are now destined to drown instead—and all because we drive SUVs, fly too much and turn up thermostats instead of putting on sweaters.

Al Gore himself uses big cars, flies everywhere and isn't known for his sweaters, but then he is Al Gore and he has to get out the message. He makes \$125,000 every time he delivers it, and his investments reportedly have done so well he could personally finance a presidential run.

Nor is he alone in discovering this link between global warming and personal prosperity. Governments finance much of science, especially scientists who find, and say, the right things. Am I implying that scientific opinion can be bought? Surely not. Everybody knows that when a person becomes a scientist, they abandon all self-interest and assume a mantle of disinterested objectivity. It's an amazing personal change, much like what happens (according to Canada's chief justice) when a lawyer becomes a judge.

However, there is rising skepticism about this global warming business. The Earth, say the doubters, has been warming and cooling for eons. Glaciers have likewise

appeared and disappeared. Even the full Kyoto "solution," while devastating the economy, would change global temperatures by no more than one-half of one per cent.

Mr. Gore's movie claims the world is getting warmer yearly. Well, no, actually since 1998 it's been getting colder yearly. Arctic ice is melting and the polar bears are disappearing, he says. Well, no, actually the polar bear population is rising. Doubtful scientists are vanishing like the glaciers, says Gore. Well, no, actually that's not so either. Let's look at the record.

Claude Allègre, top French geophysicist and an originator of the global warming theory, has reversed his position, declaring the campaign is now motivated by money. "The ecology of helpless protesting has become a very lucrative business," he complains. Geologist Bruno Wiskel, University of Alberta, ex-global "warmist," has published a book debunking the theory; he says, "It's changed from a science to a religion." Declares Nir

Shaviv, top Israeli astrophysicist: "Things just don't add up to support the [global warming] theory." Mathematician David Evans, who for six years studied carbon's environmental influence for the Australian government, now rejects the theory, noting moreover that it has become "a gravy train."

To this list add Tad Murty, former senior research scientist for Fisheries Canada; British botanist David Bellamy; New

Zealand climatologist Chris de Freitas; Wisconsin meteorologist Reid Bryson; author and economist Hans H.J. Labohm; paleoclimatologist Tim Patterson of Carleton University; paleoclimatologist Ian D. Clark and geochemist Jan Veizer of the University of Ottawa; and physicist Zbigniew Jaworowski of the UN body responsible for global warming studies. All began as devout global warmists. All have changed sides.

These and others like them helped persuade the BBC last month to release "The Great Global Warming Swindle" as a highly convincing answer to Gore's epic. Vancouver businessman Michael Chernoff offered to donate a copy to every Canadian school. From initial responses, few teachers seem likely to be interested. They'll stick with Gore's film, thanks. Why confuse the students? **WS**

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