



Asher Klassen &lt;prussianblueandsepia@gmail.com&gt;

## Re: Recent Gwyn Morgan op-ed

3 messages

Asher Klassen <prussianblueandsepia@gmail.com>  
To: nmacadam@postmedia.com

31 July 2019 at 08:49

Dear Ms. MacAdam,

I am writing to you concerning the recent article "Gwyn Morgan: Here are a few climate-change head scratchers for Canadian voters to ponder" published in the *Financial Post's* opinions section yesterday. As a high-school teacher in BC part of my mandate is to uphold the values of a democratic society, and I reckon part of that mandate is to recognize and ameliorate misguiding influence on voters in our country. I read Mr. Morgan's article yesterday when a friend sent it to me, and I have fact-checked it point by point to make sure that I wasn't mistaking the author's opinions for misinformation. This is my breakdown, using quotes from Mr. Morgan's piece. I'm sending this to you in hopes that you as editor will either a) take the piece down until its fallacies are corrected or b) publish these corrections, so that the voters to whom Mr. Morgan is directing these ideas may be accurately informed.

- "Firstly, there is no such thing as a "national" climate emergency. Climate change is global, not national, and Canada's contribution to global CO2 emissions is a minuscule 1.6 per cent." I believe the nation of Canada still sits on the surface of this planet and is affected by global climate changes. (Please, at any point correct me if I'm getting this wrong). Mr. Morgan appears to be citing this Government of Canada page (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions.html>) which shows Canada producing 1.6% of global emissions back in 2014; in 2019, Morgan's use of this number is an objectively false claim. News from last year tells a different story: "Catherine Abreu, executive director of the Climate Action Network Canada, said Canada may only be responsible for two per cent of the total. But she added that two per cent is still a significant contribution when you consider Canada's size. Canada is the 38th country in the world by population, boasts the 11th largest economy and is the seventh biggest emitter." (<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2018/11/14/canada-produces-most-greenhouse-gas-emissions-than-any-other-g20-country-new-report-says.html>).
- "the NOAA states that sea levels "continue to rise at the rate of about one-eighth of an inch (3.2 mm) per year." At that rate, a house built 10 feet above sea level today would still be 9 feet 7 inches above sea level 40 years from now." First of all, plug that supposed NOAA quote into Google in quotation marks; you will 7 results, two of which are *The Financial Post*, and the rest being other outlets that published Mr. Morgan's piece. His writing is the only place in the internet that this quote appears. But, if you find the NOAA sources, you discover that the misquote is also given out of context. "Since the start of the satellite sea level record in 1993, the average rate of sea level has been about one-eighth of an inch (3.1 mm) per year. The rising water level is mostly due to a combination of meltwater from glaciers and ice sheets and thermal expansion of seawater as it warms." (<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level>), and, "Global sea level has been rising over the past century, and the rate has increased in recent decades. In 2014, global sea level was 2.6 inches above the 1993 average—the highest annual average in the satellite record (1993-present). Sea level continues to rise at a rate of about one-eighth of an inch per year. Higher sea levels mean that deadly and destructive storm surges push farther inland than they once did, which also means more frequent nuisance flooding. Disruptive and expensive, nuisance flooding is estimated to be from 300 percent to 900 percent more frequent within U.S. coastal communities than it was just 50 years ago." (<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/sealevel.html>). It is also worth noting that a quick search reveals that approximately 10% of the world's population, about 700 million people, live near coasts within 10m of sea level. Using out-of-context, misquoted data to support the idea that very few people's homes will be affected by rising seas is both disingenuous and dangerous misinformation.
- "After hundreds of billions of dollars invested, wind and solar contribute just two per cent of global energy supply." This is just a lie; here are the statistics: (<https://www.iea.org/renewables2017/>)
- "The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) would have us believe that fossil fuel emissions are the sole reason for climate change." Again, this is a lie. Next week on August 6th the IPCC will be in Geneva to present *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*. (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>)
- "Government mandated biofuel content requirements in North America and the EU have driven the burning of critically important jungle habitat to make way for palm oil plantations." This would not be misleading if

Morgan had mentioned the EU's new regulations on palm oil (<https://theicct.org/blog/staff/european-commission-serves-real-limits-palm-biofuel>).

- "Several municipal Councils, including Toronto and Victoria, are looking to sue fossil-fuel producers for causing climate change, but 70 per cent of emissions come from their own constituents." Another lie. At <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/greenhouse-gas-emissions.html> there is a chart showing each province's emissions. If you add BC and Ontario together their emissions are less than Alberta's, and therefore cannot be 70% of Canada's emissions.
- "The Trudeau government implemented a tanker ban prohibiting movement of Canadian oil on the northern B.C. coast. Meanwhile, hundreds of tankers churn through the delicate and much more enclosed St. Lawrence estuaries carrying oil from Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Russia, Iraq, Nigeria, Angola and Algeria. And while ship/whale collisions are virtually unheard-of on BC's northern coast, those foreign oil tankers move through waters where a critically endangered Northern Right Whale was killed in a ship collision just last month." There's quite a lot to unpack here:

- That ban (Bill C-48) was not "implemented" by the Trudeau government; it was voted on by the senate, in which 9 of the 105 senators are Liberals, and passed by a vote of 49-46 (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/oil-tanker-ban-passed-senate-1.5184406>). It "bans tankers carrying more than 12,500 metric tonnes of oil from docking along B.C.'s north coast" and has nothing to do with "prohibiting movement" of Canadian product.

- In May 2019 new federal regulations regarding ships and whales were introduced to double the distance that a commercial vessel must keep away from whales (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/resident-killer-whales-new-regulations-1.5132544>)

- In June, when 4 dead right whales were found in the Gulf of St. Lawrence within a 48-hour period, Fisheries and Oceans immediately clamped tighter regulations on the area, effective until November 15, 2019 (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/fifth-north-atlantic-right-whale-death-1.5191968>).

- Whale strikes in BC are NOT "virtually unheard of"; as a recreational sailor here in Vancouver I've personally heard anecdotes of whale strikes. Also, here's a 2017 Fisheries and Oceans study on BC whale strikes: <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/40619709.pdf>

Sincerely,  
Asher Klassen

**Asher Klassen, B.F.A.**  
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**MacAdam, Nicole** <nmacadam@postmedia.com>  
To: Asher Klassen <prussianblueandsepia@gmail.com>

31 July 2019 at 09:18

Hi there,

Thanks for your thoughtful and well-researched letter. I am going to forward it to the editor who is in charge of Gwyn's column (I am not in charge of commentary for the FP, just the news-gathering operation). His name is Matt Gurney ([magurney@postmedia.com](mailto:magurney@postmedia.com)).

Best,

**Nicole MacAdam**

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Gmail - Re: Recent Gwyn Morgan op-ed

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**Asher Klassen** <prussianblueandsepia@gmail.com>  
To: "MacAdam, Nicole" <nmacadam@postmedia.com>

31 July 2019 at 09:42

Thank you, Nicole, that means a lot to me.

Cheers,  
Asher

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