

Letter to the Editor **Courrier des lecteurs**

Climate Change

Dear Editor,

It is with concern that I send you this email. It concerns the fact that the December 2019 issue of *The Canadian Veterinary Journal* is bookended by 2 articles about climate change. I agree that climate change is happening, but it has been happening since the Big Bang and will keep happening long after our species have left this planet.

After reading the 2 articles I went to the Government of Canada website and read their statement. There is a lot of conjecture about what climate change holds for us and though it is something we must be aware of, I do not think that the current hysteria is helping the population at large or young colleagues that are already reporting more stress and anxiety than a 62-year-old like me.

With warming we will see more vector-borne diseases, but with less cold respiratory diseases brought on by stress and exposure will get less. We must also be cognizant that there are interest groups, like wind turbine and solar panel producers, that fund and support climatologists. When I go to a veteri-

nary lecture the lecturer must acknowledge conflict of interest if the company whose product is being discussed is financing their research or tenure. I would like to see the same with climatologists.

We must also remember that in Canada and most countries climatologists work for the Government. During the First World War a “personal tax” was implemented as a temporary measure and is still with us. A “carbon tax” is just what governments and bureaucrats want.

Sorry about the rant, but as a scientist who believes in double-blind studies, it irks me that conjecture by a body that cannot predict our weather 2 weeks ahead keeps beating the scientific drum.

Submitted by Michael Wilson BVSc (Pretoria-1981), MRCVS.

PS: The activists want to get rid of all herbivores in the North American landscape. When I look at a sick animal, I don't just take its temperature, but also listen to its lungs, etc.

Climate Change – A response

I thank my colleague for taking the time to express his views on the editorial and brief commentary on climate change which appeared in the December issue of *The CVJ*.

We both agree that climate change is a reality, but we appear to have different views on what should be done in response to it. Although cycles of climate change have been around since the Big Bang, it is human activity which has been a major contributor in the recent past and there is an opportunity to make adjustments in those activities which affect the build-up

of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. I don't believe that a call for individuals, organizations and governments to take steps to implement strategies for mitigation and adaptation should be considered hysteria. The deaths of massive numbers of wildlife, the loss of human life, and the air pollution caused by the recent brushfires in Australia should be a reminder of the seriousness of our present situation.

Carlton Gyles

Constructive and professional comments made in the spirit of intellectual debate are welcomed by the Editor. Writers are expected to be respectful of others and to ensure that letters are considerate and courteous. The Editor reserves the right to remove comments deemed to be inflammatory or disrespectful.