

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Toronto, Ontario

Professor Bryan Karney  
Chair, Presidential Advisory Committee on Divestment from Fossil Fuels  
Office of the President  
Simcoe Hall, Room 206  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1  
[karney@ecf.utoronto.ca](mailto:karney@ecf.utoronto.ca)

Dear members of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Divestment from Fossil Fuels,

We, the undersigned members of the Massey College community, unite our voices to request your committee to unanimously recommend to President Gertler to instruct the University's investment managers to stop making new investments in fossil fuel companies and to begin to divest from direct stock holdings in fossil fuel companies. Massey College is a cherished and integral part of the University of Toronto community. Our membership represents a diverse and multi-disciplinary community of graduate students, senior scholars, distinguished senior fellows, and eminent members of society beyond the academic world. Prestigious universities like the University of Toronto must rise to the challenge and help lead efforts to stop climate change using the resources at their disposal. By becoming the first Canadian university to divest from fossil fuel companies, in recognition of our shared responsibility to prevent the harmful consequences of climate change, we are convinced that we can set an important example for the rest of the world to rise up to "one of the greatest challenges of our time".<sup>1</sup>

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Presidential Advisory Committee on Divestment from Fossil Fuels published a Consultation Notice and Call for Submissions, which the signatories of the present letter are proud to answer.<sup>2</sup> The Presidential Advisory Committee was struck on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, on the basis of the University of Toronto's Governing Council's *Policy on Social and Political Issues With Respect to University Divestment* and as a consequence of the request presented on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 by the organisation Toronto350.org and at least 300 supporting persons.<sup>3</sup> According to the said policy, "specific instances where the University's social responsibility as an investor is questioned" demand that credible and effective procedures be followed to respond to the situation. The policy also identifies three principles to determine when responses are necessary: 1) The University should act as a prudent investor in order to maximize return on its investments. 2) The University should consider the Yale University concept of

---

<sup>1</sup> The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, 29 November to 10 December 2010, Decision 1/CP.16, U.N. Doc. FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, 2010, para. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Presidential Advisory Committee on Divestment from Fossil Fuels - Consultation Notice and Call for Submissions, June 4, 2015, [http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/public/pdadc/2014\\_to\\_2015/97.htm](http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/public/pdadc/2014_to_2015/97.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Toronto350.org, The Fossil Fuel Industry and the Case for Divestment, March 3, 2014, <http://www.toronto350.org/divest>. An update was published on April 10, 2015.

social injury, which encompasses the “deprivation of health, safety, or basic freedoms”<sup>4</sup>. 3) The University should consider “actions taken by the Canadian government or other national or international bodies with regard to the particular issue of concern.”

We believe that the conditions established in the *Policy on Social and Political Issues With Respect to University Divestment* to recommend the University’s divestment from direct stock holdings in fossil fuel companies are squarely met. Based on its fiduciary duty, our University must ensure that its endowments and pension funds are invested over the long-term in those companies and funds expected to outperform those speculating on fossil fuels. The extraction and combustion of fossil fuels undisputedly creates unprecedented risks of social injury. World leaders are now taking concrete actions to ensure the fastest possible transition to renewable energies and the “decarbonization of the global economy over the course of this century”.<sup>5</sup> In its last resolution on climate change, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously emphasized “the urgent importance of continuing to address, as they relate to States’ human rights obligations, the adverse consequences of climate change for all, particularly in developing countries and its people whose situation is most vulnerable to climate change, especially those in a situation of extreme poverty, and deteriorating livelihood conditions”.<sup>6</sup> Finally, a growing number of influential organisations have already taken action on climate change by withdrawing some of their assets from fossil fuel companies. These include Stanford University, the University of California, Georgetown University, Oxford University, the Canadian Medical Association, the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, the Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund, and the World Council of Churches.

In closing, we reiterate our opposition to the University of Toronto’s investment in fossil fuel companies because it jeopardizes its social responsibility as an investor. Just as it bravely did by divesting from the Apartheid system in South Africa in 1990 or from tobacco companies in 2007, the University of Toronto can send an important signal to other university endowments and to financial markets that we must move our wealth into more sustainable industries. As members of the Massey College community, we urge you to recommend to President Gertler that divestment from fossil fuel companies is in keeping with the intellectual and social vision that guide our esteemed University.

We, the undersigned members of the Massey College community, thank you in advance for your consideration of our submission.

## **Senior Fellows**

Margaret Atwood  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Me.atwood@gmail.com](mailto:Me.atwood@gmail.com)

---

<sup>4</sup> See also: Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility, Policies and Past Actions, [http://acir.yale.edu/policies\\_and\\_past\\_actions.html](http://acir.yale.edu/policies_and_past_actions.html).

<sup>5</sup> CBC News, Prime Minister Stephen Harper agrees to G7 'decarbonization' by 2100, June 8, 2015, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/prime-minister-stephen-harper-agrees-to-g7-decarbonization-by-2100-1.3104459>

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, Human Rights and Climate Change, Resolution 29/15, 2 July 2015, U.N. doc. A/HRC/29/L.21.

Cornelia J. Baines, MD  
Professor Emerita, Dalla Lana School of Public Health  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Cornelia.baines@utoronto.ca](mailto:Cornelia.baines@utoronto.ca)

Eleanor Cook, F.R.C.S.  
Professor Emerita, English  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Eleanor.cook@utoronto.ca](mailto:Eleanor.cook@utoronto.ca)

Hilary Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, School of the Environment and Department of Anthropology  
Senior Resident Alumnus, Massey College  
[hilary.cunningham@utoronto.ca](mailto:hilary.cunningham@utoronto.ca)

Patricia Fleming  
Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Information  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Patricia.fleming@utoronto.ca](mailto:Patricia.fleming@utoronto.ca)

Ophira Ginsburg, MD  
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Ophira.ginsburg@wchospital.ca](mailto:Ophira.ginsburg@wchospital.ca)

The Honourable John Godfrey, P.C., D. Phil.  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[johnfgodfrey1@gmail.com](mailto:johnfgodfrey1@gmail.com)

Gerald K. Helleiner, O.C., F.R.S.C.  
Professor Emeritus, Economics  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[ghellein@sympatico.ca](mailto:ghellein@sympatico.ca)

Thomas Homer-Dixon  
Professor, Balsillie School of International Affairs, University of Waterloo  
Faculty member, Dept. of Political Science, University of Toronto, 1993-2008  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[tad@homerdixon.com](mailto:tad@homerdixon.com)

Linda Hutcheon, O.C.  
University Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Centre for Comparative Literature  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[l.hutcheon@utoronto.ca](mailto:l.hutcheon@utoronto.ca)

Bill Johnston, MD, F.R.C.P.C.  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[workability@sympatico.ca](mailto:workability@sympatico.ca)

Trevor Levere  
University Professor Emeritus, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and  
Technology  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Trevor.levere@utoronto.ca](mailto:Trevor.levere@utoronto.ca)

Peter Martin, Ph.D., FRSC  
Professor, Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[pgmartin@cita.utoronto.ca](mailto:pgmartin@cita.utoronto.ca)

Javad Mostaghimi  
Distinguished Professor in Plasma Engineering  
Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[mostag@mie.utoronto.ca](mailto:mostag@mie.utoronto.ca)

Pamela Palmater, JSD  
Chair in Indigenous Governance, Ryerson University  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[ppalmater@politics.ryerson.ca](mailto:ppalmater@politics.ryerson.ca)

Peter Russell  
Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[phruss@aol.com](mailto:phruss@aol.com)

Geraldine Sadoway, BA, MA, LL.B., LL.M  
Barrister and Solicitor, Law Professor  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[gsadoway@gmail.com](mailto:gsadoway@gmail.com)

Beth Savan, Ph.D., MCIP  
Senior Lecturer, School of the Environment, University of Toronto  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[b.savan@utoronto.ca](mailto:b.savan@utoronto.ca)

Stephen Bede Scharper, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, School of the Environment and Department of Anthropology (UTM)  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[stephen.scharper@utoronto.ca](mailto:stephen.scharper@utoronto.ca)

Dr. Joan Simalchik  
Program Coordinator, Women and Gender Studies, UTM  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Joan.simalchik@utoronto.ca](mailto:Joan.simalchik@utoronto.ca)

D. Alissa Trotz  
Associate Professor, Women and Gender Studies, Caribbean Studies  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Da.trotz@utoronto.ca](mailto:Da.trotz@utoronto.ca)

Michael Valpy  
Fellow, School of Public Policy and Governance  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Michael.valpy@utoronto.ca](mailto:Michael.valpy@utoronto.ca)

Germaine Warkentin  
Professor Emeritus, English  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[g.warkentin@utoronto.ca](mailto:g.warkentin@utoronto.ca)

Alex Waugh  
Vice-Principal, Woodsworth College (Retired)  
Former Governor, University of Toronto  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[Alex.waugh@utoronto.ca](mailto:Alex.waugh@utoronto.ca)

The Honourable, The Very Rev. Lois M. Wilson, OOnt, CC.  
Minister-in-Residence, Emmanuel College  
Senior Fellow, Massey College  
[royandlois.wilson@sympatico.ca](mailto:royandlois.wilson@sympatico.ca)

Michael Zyrd  
Associate Professor, Cinema & Media Arts, York University  
York Senior Fellow of Massey College  
[zyrd@yorku.ca](mailto:zyrd@yorku.ca)

### **Junior Fellows**

Jennifer Levin Bonder  
Ph.D. Candidate, History  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Jennifer.bonder@utoronto.ca](mailto:Jennifer.bonder@utoronto.ca)

Jason Brennan  
Ph.D. Candidate, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Jason.brennan@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Jason.brennan@mail.utoronto.ca)

Christopher Campbell-Durufié, B.C.L./LL.B., LL.M.  
SJD Candidate, Faculty of Law  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[c.campbell.durufle@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:c.campbell.durufle@mail.utoronto.ca)

Kevin Chan  
MSc in Planning Candidate  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[kevinw.chan@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:kevinw.chan@mail.utoronto.ca)

Julian Dyer  
Ph.D. Student, Economics  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Julian.dyer@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Julian.dyer@mail.utoronto.ca)

Alexandra Harris  
Former Governor, University of Toronto  
Ph.D. Candidate, Nursing  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Alexandra.harris@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Alexandra.harris@mail.utoronto.ca)

Amanda Hsieh  
Ph.D. Student, Musicology  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Amanda.hsieh@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Amanda.hsieh@mail.utoronto.ca)

Milan Ilnyckyj  
Ph.D. Student, Political Science  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[milan.ilnyckyj@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:milan.ilnyckyj@mail.utoronto.ca)

Chizoba Imoka  
Ph.D. Student, Education Policy and Administration  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[c.imoka@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:c.imoka@mail.utoronto.ca)

Jennifer Kolz  
Ph.D. Candidate in Pastoral Theology  
University of St. Michael's College  
Junior Fellow & Don of Hall Emerita, Massey College  
[Jennifer.kolz@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Jennifer.kolz@mail.utoronto.ca)

Alexander Kostenko

Ph.D Student, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[kostenko@astro.utoronto.ca](mailto:kostenko@astro.utoronto.ca)

Nathan Lemphers,  
Ph.D. Student, Political Science  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Nathan.lemphers@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Nathan.lemphers@mail.utoronto.ca)

Ilana Lockwood  
MA Student, School and Clinical Child Psychology, OISE  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Liana.lockwood@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Liana.lockwood@mail.utoronto.ca)

Madeleine McPherson  
Ph.D. Candidate, Civil Engineering  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[madeleine.mcpherson@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:madeleine.mcpherson@mail.utoronto.ca)

Rosemary Martin  
M.Sc. Candidate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Rosemary.martin@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Rosemary.martin@mail.utoronto.ca)

Digvijay Mehra  
MGA Candidate, Munk School of Global Affairs  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Digvijay.mehra@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Digvijay.mehra@mail.utoronto.ca)

Ashraf Nahle  
M.Sc. Candidate, Faculty of Medicine  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Ash.nahle@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Ash.nahle@mail.utoronto.ca)

Owen Kane  
Ph.D. Student, English  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Owen.kane@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Owen.kane@mail.utoronto.ca)

James Rendell  
JD/MGA, Faculty of Law and Munk School of Global Affairs  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[James.rendell@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:James.rendell@mail.utoronto.ca)

Irina Sadovina  
Ph.D. Student, Comparative Literature

Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Irina.sadovina@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Irina.sadovina@mail.utoronto.ca)

Philip Sayers  
Ph.D. Candidate, English  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[p.sayers@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:p.sayers@mail.utoronto.ca)

Thilo Schaefer  
Ph.D. Student, Political Science  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[thilo.schaefer@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:thilo.schaefer@mail.utoronto.ca)

Ioana Sendroiu  
Ph.D. Student, Sociology  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Iona.sendroiu@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Iona.sendroiu@mail.utoronto.ca)

Patrick Steadman, MSc, BSc (Hons)  
M.D./Ph.D. Student  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Patrick.steadman@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Patrick.steadman@mail.utoronto.ca)

Anjum Sultana, HBSc  
MPH Candidate, Dalla Lana School of Public Health  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Anjum.sultana@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Anjum.sultana@mail.utoronto.ca)

Laura Tozer  
Ph.D. Candidate, Geography and Planning  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Laura.tozer@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Laura.tozer@mail.utoronto.ca)

Vanessa van den Boogaard  
Ph.D. Student, Political Science  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[v.vandenboogaard@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:v.vandenboogaard@mail.utoronto.ca)

Sally Wong  
J.D. Candidate, Faculty of Law  
Junior Fellow, Massey College  
[Sallykm.wong@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Sallykm.wong@mail.utoronto.ca)

### **Quadrangle Society Members and Larger Massey College Community**

Paola Aron-Badin



Manager, Office of the President, OCAD University  
Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College  
[paronbadin@ocadu.ca](mailto:paronbadin@ocadu.ca)

John Bishop, Ph.D.  
Professor, Trent University and University of Toronto Centre for Ethics  
Visiting Scholar 2015-2016, Massey College  
[jbishop@trentu.ca](mailto:jbishop@trentu.ca)

Hayley Darychuk  
Social Worker, St. Michael's Homes  
Junior Fellow Alumna, Massey College  
[Hayley.darychuk@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Hayley.darychuk@mail.utoronto.ca)

Samina Khan Ahmed  
Bursar Emerita, Massey College  
[Saminakahmed@yahoo.com](mailto:Saminakahmed@yahoo.com)

Aeron MacHattie  
MI Librarianship, Book History and Print Culture (2015)  
Junior Fellow Alumna, Massey College  
[Aeron.machattie@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:Aeron.machattie@mail.utoronto.ca)

David Moos, Ph.D.  
President, David Moos Art Advisory  
Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College  
[david@moosartadvisory.com](mailto:david@moosartadvisory.com)

Alanna Quinn  
Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College  
[a.quinn@sympatico.ca](mailto:a.quinn@sympatico.ca)

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, B.A., DipCS, M.A.  
Retired of Toronto Diversity and Human Rights, former Ward 20 Councillor  
Alumna, former member College of Electors, Innis College Council, former lecturer – Women's  
Studies, University of Toronto  
Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College  
[Ceta\\_r@yahoo.ca](mailto:Ceta_r@yahoo.ca)

Tim Reid  
Former Alumni Governor and Member of the Executive Committee, University of Toronto  
Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College  
[Tim-reid@sympatico.ca](mailto:Tim-reid@sympatico.ca)

Judith Robertson  
Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College

[msjrobertson@rogers.com](mailto:msjrobertson@rogers.com)

Linda D. Spalding

Writer

Quadrangle Society Member, Massey College

[linbrick@gmail.com](mailto:linbrick@gmail.com)