



Deputation to Finance & Operations Committee

November 7, 2019

Introduction - Who is Fossil Free Lakehead?

- Fossil Free Lakehead is a student group advocating for Lakehead University to divest from the fossil fuel industry.
- The goal of divestment is not to directly impact fossil fuel companies' ability to operate, but rather:
 - Works to aid in our transition away from fossil fuel dependency
 - Raises awareness and sends a message that the use of fossil fuels is no longer feasible or sustainable for our future

Introduction - The Climate Crisis & Global Action



L: Montreal, 03/15/19
R: Thunder Bay, 09/20/19

1.5°C to stay alive.

IPCC (2018) says

“Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.”

Local Perspectives on Climate Change

Question 27: Which of the following is the best reason to do more to address climate change: Please select one option.

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)
We will face a catastrophe if we fail to do more to address climate change	84	23.33 <input type="radio"/>
We have a moral responsibility to those who will live on the planet after us	142	39.44 <input type="radio"/>
We have a moral responsibility to protect plants, animals and the environment	94	26.11
The process of addressing climate change will open up new economic opportunity	15	4.17
Dealing with weather-related disasters is becoming a financial disaster we must avoid	17	4.72
Climate action is not needed because the climate is not changing	3	0.83
NA	5	1.39

Perspectives on
Climate Change in
Thunder Bay Survey

Conducted in 2019
by Dr. Lindsay
Galway

Divestment is Happening: Canadian Universities

- ❑ Laval University
- ❑ Université du Québec à Montreal
- ❑ McGill University
- ❑ Concordia University
- ❑ University of Ottawa
- ❑ University of British Columbia



MAKING THE CASE

Lakehead's Responsible Investment Policy: Divestment Considerations

- a) Proven social, political, economic or environmental rationale.
- b) Reasonable evidence that divestment is an effective way to achieve the desired outcome.
- c) Absence of alternative policies that are as effective at a lower cost, or more effective at the same cost.
- d) Consistency with the University's legal obligations as trustee.
- e) Consistency with its other University relationships.

a) Proven social, political, economic or environmental rationale.

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Global Warming of 1.5°C

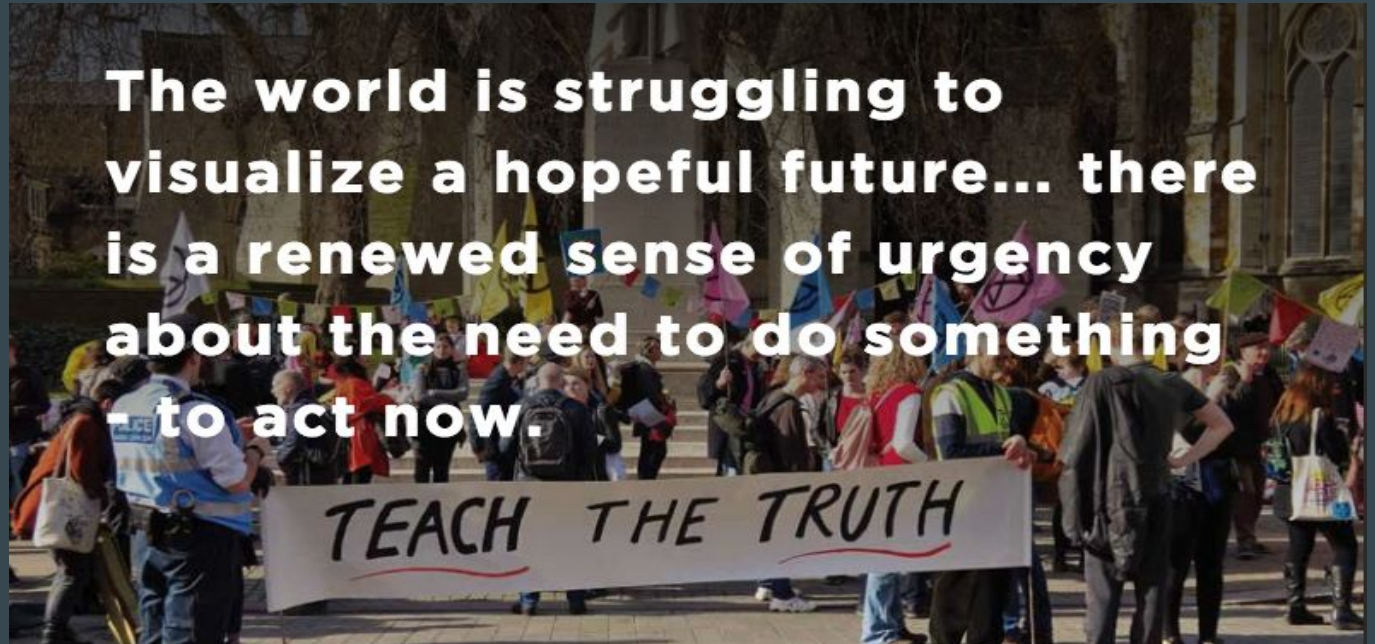
An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty

Canadian Medical Association divests of fossil fuels

Selling off fossil fuel assets probably the clearest way to say 'climate change is a health issue'

[The Trailbreaker](#) · CBC News · Posted: Aug 31, 2015 12:23 PM CT | Last Updated: August 31, 2015

Canadian Federation of Nurses is calling for action on climate change through a 2019 discussion paper (Photo)



b) Reasonable evidence that divestment is an effective way to achieve the desired outcome.

World Bank to end financial support for oil and gas extraction

Bank announces in Paris it 'will no longer finance upstream oil and gas' after 2019 in response to threat posed by climate change

Fossil fuels subsidised by \$10m a minute, says IMF

'Shocking' revelation finds \$5.3tn subsidy estimate for 2015 is greater than the total health spending of all the world's governments

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL September 23, 2019

"The United Nations pension fund – which manages \$68 billion in assets... announced today that **it will divest from investments** in publicly traded companies in the **coal energy sector** and will not make any new investments in it."

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the **oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”**

Desmond Tutu

c) Absence of alternative policies that are as effective at a lower cost, or more effective at the same cost.



d) Consistency with the University's legal obligations as trustee.

Mark Carney warns investors face 'huge' climate change losses

BoE governor fears regulation to tackle global warming will leave assets 'stranded'

Bank of England warns of huge financial risk from fossil fuel investments

Global action on climate change could cause insurers' investments in fossil fuels to take a huge hit, says bank's prudential regulation authority

“Markets bring the future forward, with financial impacts often occurring immediately, even if the real impact is several years into the future.”

Mark Carney

Norway's \$1tn wealth fund to divest from oil and gas exploration

World's largest sovereign wealth fund was created to invest North Sea oil profits

New York City plans to divest \$5bn from fossil fuels and sue oil companies

Mayor Bill de Blasio: 'It's up to the fossil fuel companies whose greed put us in this position to shoulder the cost of making New York safer and more resilient'

Ireland commits to divesting public funds from fossil fuel companies



ENVIRONMENT JULY 12, 2018 / 11:09 AM / A YEAR AGO

Exxon trial to explore whether oil giant lied to investors about climate change

Lawsuit brought by New York attorney general says Exxon Mobil kept 2 sets of books

The Associated Press · Posted: Oct 22, 2019 10:18 AM ET | Last Updated: October 22



Why Big Oil faces court cases that echo the litigation against Big Tobacco in the '90s

Eastman Kodak Co. (EK-US)

1-Jan-1990 to 29-Dec-2009 (Daily)

U.S. Dollar

High: 94.750

Low: 2.010

Last: 4.310



Data Source: Prices / Exshare

©FactSet Research Systems 2009

e) Consistency with its other University relationships.



LU Divestment Survey

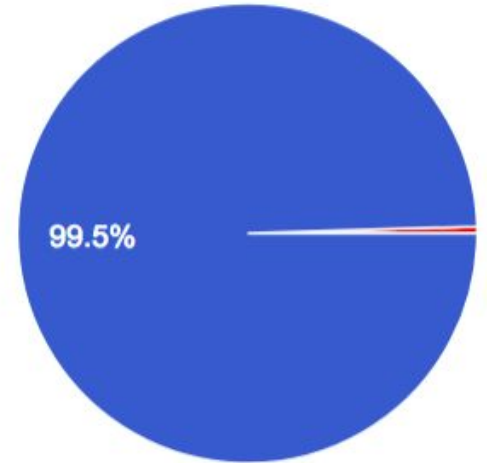
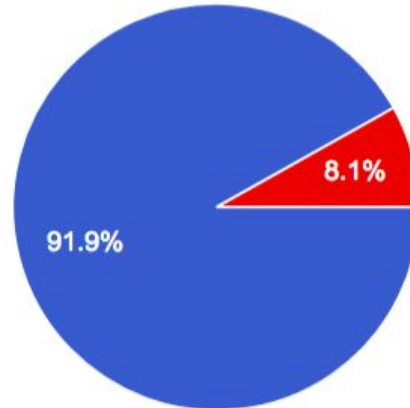
Should Lakehead look into supporting alternative energy?

209 responses

Is it your opinion that the burning of fossil fuels is driving climate change?

209 responses

- Yes
- No



LU Divestment Survey

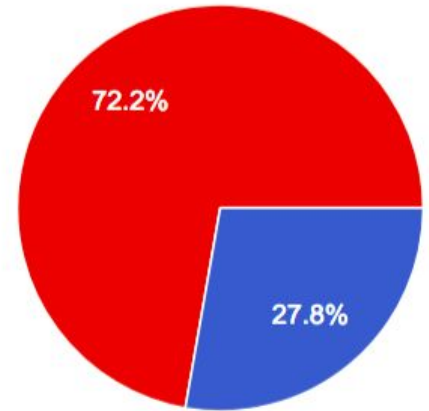
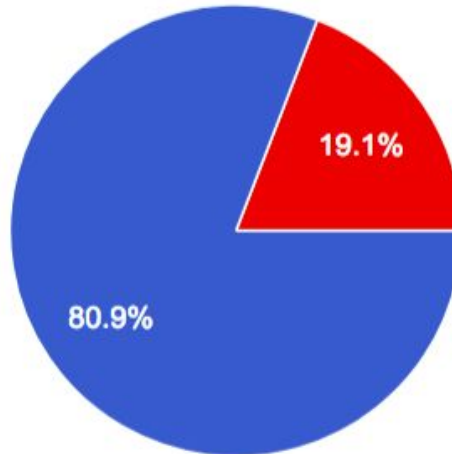
Did you know Lakehead University invests in the fossil fuel industry?

209 responses

Should Lakehead stop investing in the fossil fuel industry?

209 responses

- Yes
- No



2018-2023

Strategic Plan



Social Responsibility

Lakehead University is committed to social justice and will make a significant contribution to our communities and society as a whole through our programs, research, and the wide range of activities undertaken by our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

2019-2024

Academic Plan



This presents an opportunity for Lakehead to develop regional education ecosystems in Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County through expanded partnerships that align to these “grand” societal challenges, positioning Lakehead as a beacon, both locally and globally, as a leader in sustainability, social justice, and Indigenous education.

2019-2024

Research Plan



PRIORITY:

Sustainability, Resources, and the Environment

Interdisciplinary research with applications to sustainability, resources, and the environment is a natural area of focus at Lakehead University due, in part, to our geographical locations. The Thunder Bay

methods, etc. The Lake Superior Living Labs Network will provide an important connection between sustainability and the Great Lakes watershed.

Relevant Research Centres and

The background of the image is a close-up, high-angle shot of a rugged, rocky terrain. The rocks are dark brown and black, with some lighter, reddish-brown patches. The texture is highly irregular and porous. A bright green banner is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text 'SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2019-2024' in white, bold, sans-serif font. The banner has a slight shadow and a pointed bottom edge.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2019-2024

Embracing a culture of sustainability is a challenging but necessary transition. The power to create a more sustainable Lakehead lies in our collective willingness to authentically engage with the issues and with each other, and in our commitment to translate our on-going dialogue into meaningful actions.

Investment

- Make investment decisions that promote sustainability.

THE ASK

For Lakehead University to commit to divesting from the Carbon Underground 200 fossil fuel companies by 2020.

Carbon Underground 200 is a list of the top 100 publicly traded coal companies and top 100 publicly traded oil and gas companies.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- ❑ We would like to be invited to the next meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee to hear an update on what they have found in regards to divestment.
- ❑ We would like to be invited to give a deputation to the full Board of Directors in January 2020
- ❑ Have a public commitment made to divest by March 1st, 2020