

BACKGROUNDER

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THE DEADLY FRUITS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ALARMISM

THE LOOMING ECO-EXTREMIST THREAT
AND WHY WE MUST STOP IGNORING IT

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Introduction

Within Canada, individuals are being radicalized by alarmist and doomsday narratives surrounding climate change, and their methods are increasingly extreme and pose a threat to public safety.

In September 2021, a group of Republican legislators urged the FBI to investigate and monitor a looming eco-terrorism threat. They had become alarmed after observing that mainstream media sources were amplifying the views of a Swedish academic with eco-extremist ideologies, which included advocating for sabotage against energy infrastructure.¹

Little did they know that, only a few months later in Canada, anarchists, dedicated to “anti-colonial” views and radicalized by climate change alarmism, would engage in an attack of eco-terrorism against a Coastal GasLink pipeline worksite in British Columbia.

This study serves as a passionate plea to Canadian politicians and policymakers to directly confront the danger posed by extremists driven by exaggerated beliefs about climate change. Within Canada, individuals are being radicalized by alarmist and doomsday narratives surrounding climate change, and their methods are increasingly extreme and pose a threat to public safety. Many of these extremists also espouse “anti-colonialist” perspectives, purportedly in solidarity with Indigenous communities, despite the support for energy projects within many Indigenous communities. Additionally, it’s noteworthy to mention the recent surge in pro-Palestinian extremism in Canadian cities following the October 7th terrorist attacks in Israel. Many of these “anti-colonial” extremists also have deep connections with Palestinian causes, with documented ties to violent extremist groups associated with Palestinian nationalism and Islamism.

The warning signs are there. In Europe, activists driven by eco-extremism are already causing fatalities. In October 2022, two British women, Lisa Webber and Dr. Habiba Hajallie, died from injuries sustained in traffic accidents in London. How did this tragic incident occur?

As both women were driving towards their destinations, two activists associated with the environmentalist group Just Stop Oil decided to climb onto cables high above the Dartford Bridge in London. Their action forced the police to redirect motorists onto alternative routes, leading to traffic chaos. Both women died on the scene because the ambulance responding to the scene was delayed due to the stunt.²

Before this terrible and entirely avoidable tragedy occurred, British motorists were growing more alarmed and frustrated by the actions of Just Stop Oil activists. These activists had been disrupting traffic by lying down on public roads. In mid-December 2023, this tactic caused yet another unwarranted

bridge blockade, delaying an ambulance while it was urgently responding to a life-threatening emergency.

Activists associated with Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, as well as other eco-extremist groups, are determined to get attention. Their sense of self-righteousness about their cause of climate change convinces them that their acts are justified, even if they obstruct, hurt, or even endanger and potentially kill people in the process.

Within Canada, extremist elements, fed on a steady diet of climate change alarmist misinformation from both the government and civil society, are adopting extreme tactics. Acts of eco-extremism, such as gluing oneself to doors and vandalizing artwork in galleries, are already occurring. It's only a matter of time before even more radical and dangerous methods are employed to garner attention.

While eco-extremist groups like Extinction Rebellion and others also exist in Canada, much of the eco-extremism on this side of the Atlantic is directed at oil and natural gas pipelines and is led by anarchists motivated by so-called "anarcho-Indigenism,"—which combines ideas of "indigenous resurgence" and climate change extremism. Yet, it's also plausible that groups like Just Stop Oil could opt to introduce their potentially lethal tactics of obstructing roadways and highways here in North America. In such a scenario, we must be prepared, having gleaned insights from the policy reactions of European governments, particularly that of the United Kingdom.

This study will show how ideological bias within the federal government, security agencies like the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the RCMP, and Public Safety Canada, as well as within academic circles and mainstream media, collectively contribute to downplaying and disregarding eco-terrorism within Canada. Lastly, it will also illustrate how alarmist and overblown climate change rhetoric within Canadian political discourse is driving individuals—particularly young Canadians—towards increasingly extreme viewpoints on climate change, where they believe extreme actions are warranted.

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Normalization of terrorism against the energy sector

The mainstream soft-left media is especially problematic, as it legitimizes eco-extremist voices by offering sympathetic coverage.

A key component of the looming eco-extremist threat in Canada is the creeping normalization of rhetoric calling for arson and property destruction against energy infrastructure. A case in point is the case of Andreas Malm,³ a Swedish academic and Marxist theorist who openly advocates arson and property damage, and still holds an academic position at a Swedish public university.

Malm released a book in 2021 called *How to Blow up a Pipeline*. It called for environmentalists to embrace sabotage and leave non-violent protest behind. Left-wing extremists use euphemistic terms like “embracing a diversity of tactics” and “direct action” to refer to actions that could include arson, sabotage, and property damage. Malm, in an interview on a *New Yorker* magazine podcast,⁴ said that he was in favour of “destroying machines and property.”

While he has stated that he does not advocate harming people, when discussing an anti-oil incident in Nigeria where activists kidnapped oil workers, he simply remarked that it was not something “he would recommend,” implying that it should be viewed solely as a strategic decision without moral consideration.

Malm also glorified cyberattacks targeting pipeline infrastructure, explicitly referencing the ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline in the United States in 2021⁵ that sparked public panic over potential fuel shortages. With smug self-righteousness, Malm promotes havoc and destruction, driven by a fanatical ideology, yet receives minimal criticism from journalists.

The mainstream soft-left media is especially problematic, as it legitimizes eco-extremist voices by offering sympathetic coverage. For instance, the *New Yorker* magazine provided a platform for Malm on its widely accessed podcast,⁶ in which he said he was in favour of “destroying machines and property.” *The Nation*, a prominent American monthly news magazine with soft-left leanings, also allowed Malm to express his radical views.⁷

In the November 2023 edition of *Harper’s Magazine*, a journalist wrote about his close encounters with Stephen McCrae,⁸ a convicted eco-extremist responsible for sabotaging electric substations and causing outages. McCrae’s actions stemmed from a delusional opposition to modern industry and an apocalyptic fear for the future of the planet. While the author did not condone McCrae’s actions entirely, he cast him in a sympathetic light despite his actions. Additionally, the magazine’s editors chose to enclose the term “eco-terrorist” in quotes on the

cover, as if there were doubts about the appropriateness of the label or McCrae's motivations.

This normalization of eco-extremism reflects a broader observation regarding a double standard between extremism linked to the far right and the far left.

The conservative and libertarian movements, in general, are quick to dissociate themselves from far-right elements, especially those which advocate lawlessness.

For example, the mainstream right has consistently dissociated itself from movements like the U.S. militia movement or those advocating arson and property destruction to oppose abortion. In Canada, the trucker Freedom Convoy protests represented the closest alignment many Canadian small-c conservatives came to supporting mass civil disobedience and disruptive tactics. However, many Conservatives were uneasy with the disorderly behaviour of the convoy and unequivocally opposed any border blockades. Nonetheless, apart from those affiliated with the armed group at the Coutts, Alberta border crossing,⁹ the convoy did not engage in violence, arson, or property damage.

One of the most alarming developments from the left—not typically associated with advocating violence—is its endorsement and normalization of extremists like Malm.

For example, well-known Canadian far-left activist Naomi Klein quoted Malm in her book *This Changes Everything*, describing him as “one of the most original thinkers on the subject” of climate change.¹⁰

Such endorsements offer cover and legitimacy to extremist voices within the broader movement. This reflects the far left's dangerous embrace of a “diversity of tactics” that turns a blind eye to violent extremists rather than clearly dissociating from them.

“**...the trucker Freedom Convoy protests represented the closest alignment many Canadian small-c conservatives came to supporting mass civil disobedience and disruptive tactics.**”

What is terrorism?

“...someone does not need to shoot at someone, use a bomb, or kill another human being to qualify as being involved in terrorist activities.”

Terrorism encompasses a wide range of activities beyond the stereotypical images we often associate with it, such as armed fanatics planting bombs in pubs in London in the case of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) or suicide bombers associated with Hamas wearing an explosive vest on a busy bus in Tel Aviv, Israel, designed to maximize civilian death. It includes acts of intimidation by extremist groups for political, religious, or ideological motives. Importantly, terrorism does not necessarily involve attempted murder or murder to be classified as terrorism.

In November 2023, a Canadian judge made headlines by imposing a life sentence on a man who brutally killed a Toronto massage parlour worker and injured another with a sword. The judge deemed the murder an act of terrorism, as the perpetrator was affiliated with the ‘Incel’ movement (short for ‘involuntary celibate’).¹¹ This movement is often associated with misogynistic rhetoric, which, in rare instances, has radicalized individuals upset with their circumstances, leading to violent acts. This case underscores a growing recognition among courts and other institutions of how certain ideologies motivate individuals, either independently or in collaboration with others, to engage in acts of extremism and terrorism.

To reiterate, someone does not need to shoot at someone, use a bomb, or kill another human being to qualify as being involved in terrorist activities. It is more about the motive and the victims. If certain acts are committed for a political, religious or ideological cause or objective and if they are intended to intimidate the public regarding its security, it constitutes terrorism according to Canada’s *Criminal Code*.

By this definition, the Coastal GasLink attacks in 2022 were terrorist, as are obstructionist attacks on public infrastructure by eco-extremist groups intended to intimidate the public.

At its height, it can result in death or serious bodily harm. However, it could also involve actions that jeopardize someone’s life, pose significant risks to public health and safety, inflict considerable property damage, or severely disrupt essential services. The act must also occur outside the scope of an armed conflict, where international law might apply.

Individuals and groups motivated by environmentalism have committed acts of extremism in the past. Security agencies in the United States and Canada were concerned about groups such as the Earth Liberation Front, Earth First! and

the Animal Liberation Front, which engaged in activities such as tree spiking, arson, and targeting laboratories conducting animal experimentation. While these groups still exist, their influence has waned. Meanwhile, other groups, particularly those associated with Indigenous anti-colonialism and extremism related to climate change, have gained prominence and increased in number.

It is time to acknowledge that environmental extremism has evolved and to treat this threat with the same level of seriousness as any other extremist threat.

Obsessive focus on right-oriented extremism

“...CSIS

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Canada has a clear double standard when it comes to extremism and terrorism, and this is not confined to partisan sources. A careful study of discussion over extremism and terrorism in this country reveals a vastly disproportionate focus on “far-right” extremism. Although most terrorist groups listed in Canada are Islamist in origin, security agencies in Canada seem fixated on the minuscule “white supremacist,” “Incel,” and “conspiracy theory” threats. To be clear, these are also extremist threats, but there is no justification for solely prioritizing these threats over eco-extremism linked to far-left anarchism.

Even CSIS seems to be unduly fixated on extremism and threats associated with the right. When contacted in February 2023, a CSIS spokesperson specifically identified “extreme racist, misogynistic, and anti-authority views combined with personal grievances”¹² as extremism they ‘seemed more’ interested in. Amazingly, CSIS managed to turn climate change extremism into an issue associated with climate change “denial,” a pejorative term most often applied to the right.

In reply, the CSIS spokesperson wrote this:

As the dialogue shifts from COVID-19-related restrictions to government policies on climate change, some narratives from IMVE threat actors will deny the existence of climate change while others will denounce the resulting policy direction as government overreach or a form of societal control. And while climate change becomes an increasingly important geopolitical and policy issue, the range of polarizing narratives (often tied to conspiracy theories) regarding government solutions—and the rate at which these solutions are implemented—may result in greater potential for serious violence in an attempt to hasten the pace of change or to protect threat actors’ perceived social/economic or political standing.

No mention was made of environmental extremists who are influenced by climate change or, more commonly, were opposed to fossil fuel extraction in the name of cutting emissions. When asked when lawful advocacy for climate change awareness would become extremist or unlawful, the spokesperson was evasive and did not provide a response.

In late 2022, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security examined the “rise of ideologically motivated violent extremism

in Canada.”¹³ The multi-party committee invited a range of subject experts on extremism and terrorism as witnesses. From beginning to end, the report focuses almost exclusively on “far-right” extremism. There was a recognition of this ideological bias within the report.

It reads: “Witnesses testified that there may be an imbalance of resources directed towards IMVE on different sides of the ideological spectrum.” (p. 17). A witness representing an organization combatting IMVE explicitly stated that there is a lack of any funding allocated towards studying extremist causes associated with the left.

It is ironic that only a few days after Canada’s federal government invoked public order emergency legislation designed to address security threats to Canada on the level of terrorism, a group of masked assailants wielding axes entered a pipeline worksite, smashing millions of dollars worth of equipment and terrorizing pipeline workers who had to flee the work site.

Although senior members of the federal government did condemn this eco-extremist attack on natural gas pipeline infrastructure through words and on social media, their response was nowhere near as robust as their reaction to convoy protesters who gathered in the nation’s capital to protest ongoing pandemic restrictions at the time.

No emergency legislation was invoked, no legislation was introduced, and no special studies into this act of eco-terrorism were ever brought forward. In noticeable contrast, influential members of the federal government attacked the convoy protesters, marginalizing them as extremists, alleged racism and misogyny against their supporters, and even made startling accusations of foreign funding and interference within the movement. Of course, these claims have all been debunked.

Clearly, the federal government believed the convoy protests constituted an extremist threat. Unfortunately, the government does not take extremism associated with environmental and climate change zealotry seriously at all. As shown in this study, the federal government and government agencies tend to downplay or ignore this emerging threat.

Most organizations professing to monitor “hate” have been shown to focus solely or disproportionately on the “far right.” Some of these organizations—that were represented as witnesses at the Commons committee studying ideological extremism—are taxpayer-funded and have links to the Liberal government. For example, the Canadian Anti-Hate Network focuses solely on “far-right” extremism but was shown to be casting its net so widely that it was demonizing many mainstream conservative viewpoints.¹⁴

“...the federal government believed the convoy protests constituted an extremist threat.”

The media also shows a glaring bias towards only covering "far right" extremism to the exclusion of much else.

Not surprisingly, this organization was funded by the federal government. In a curious turn of events, the Anti-Hate Network was shown to have documented links to far-left Antifa groups, a point a Canadian judge mentioned openly, stating that this association with violent organizations tarnished the organization that professed to combat hate and extremism.

The media also shows a glaring bias towards only covering "far right" extremism to the exclusion of much else. The convoy protests were a significant example where the mainstream media outlets spent a vastly disproportionate amount of time and coverage demonizing the protesters and attempting to smear the movement as somehow connected to far-right elements, often foreign-funded.

Some left-wing media pundits like Rachel Gilmore and left-wing news ideologues like Max Fawcett at the National Observer laughingly were fixated on trying to prove a connection¹⁵ between the convoy protest movements to the so-called Diagon organization, a loose network of extremists calling for a white ethno-state in Canada and the United States. While certain emblems believed to be linked to the Diagon organization (of which the true extent remains uncertain) were discovered at the Coutts blockade site, there was no evidence indicating any connection between the convoy protests, which involved thousands of participants, and this movement.

Unsurprisingly, Gilmore and many other mainstream journalists and pundits largely ignored the Coastal GasLink terror attack and only gave attention to far-right actors. Thankfully, independent conservative media outlets—such as True North, Rebel Media and others—have been examining eco-extremism. But mainstream media must turn off its ideological blinders and devote serious investigative reporting work to unmask and expose eco-extremism in Canada. In the meantime, exposing media blind spots on this issue can help pressure them to finally address this threat.

The ongoing threat of 'Indigeno-anarchism'

On the Coastal GasLink terror attacks, most mainstream media outlets gave cursory mention of the attack, with virtually none of them speculating as to extremist motive or tying it to any far-left eco-terrorism networks. The CBC went to the furthest in analysis but did not mention climate change eco-terrorism.

Incredibly, a segment of the CBC's Fifth Estate was devoted to the Coastal GasLink extremist attacks but devoted most of the segment to smearing the Community-Industry Response Group—a specialized unit of the RCMP that was assigned to address these kinds of infrastructure attacks and less than one minute (just over 20 seconds in a roughly 45-minute segment) towards describing the terror attack itself. It was found much closer to the end of the investigative piece.¹⁶

This segment was presented over seven months after the terror attacks. CBC Vancouver News, in April 2023, released a segment that attempted to update the public on the investigation and presented RCMP evidence that "outside anarchists" were responsible and had infiltrated the Wet'suwet'en community. This segment was more balanced and gave more context, but the piece did not delve into ideological motivation or mention anything beyond calling the group "anarchists" with no coherent ideology.

To say this is unhelpful is a serious understatement. Canadians deserve to understand this threat and from where it is originating. This vague media coverage leaves the impression that anarchists are just out to destroy things, which is disingenuous to the public.

The Coastal GasLink terror attacks happened over a year ago. The RCMP believe they are connected to anarchist groups (largely in Montreal), yet there is no mention of their ideological motivations. Anarchism in Canada's larger cities is deeply embedded in leftist causes, including climate change extremism. Scholars of extremism within Canada, as well as active participants, have documented the growing convergence between anti-extractive industry activism, radical ideas of "Indigenous resurgence," and even extremist elements within the pro-Palestinian movement.¹⁷ Under the banner of so-called 'anti-colonialist' rhetoric, they falsely try to equate their anti-Israel narratives with Indigenous "struggles" against colonialism. Tying these disparate strands together is leftist ideology, heavily influenced by radical anarchism, anti-fossil fuel rhetoric and climate change alarmism.

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As shown on the cover of this study, one trailer on the Coastal GasLink property that was destroyed in the February 2022 terror attacks was emblazoned in spray paint with the words “LAND BACK” and “CGL EVICT.” “Land Back” is a term with meaning. It is a political movement that began with certain Indigenous people in 2018¹⁸ but has been co-opted by Indigenous activists as well as many anarchists and far-left advocates. It signified returning lands that activists believed were stolen back to Indigenous sovereignty.

However, the term has come to be associated with “decolonization” movements and movements to dismantle so-called “White Supremacy.” One doesn’t need deep investigative journalism to discover this term is associated with far-left anarchism and radical identity politics. However, as far as one can see, no mainstream journalist in Canada has shown much curiosity to explore this link.

These groups are also intimately linked to the belief that they are pro-Indigenous. For quite a while, there has been an overlap between activists who purport to be “pro-Indigenous” and climate change zealotry that is often against fossil fuels. The Wet’suwet’en solidarity events surrounding Coastal GasLink in 2019 and 2020 attracted much interest and support from far-left anarchist groups. This ideological connection to the 2022 terror attacks on Coastal GasLink is unexplored, except by opinion media outlets associated with the right.

Elite opinion institutions in Canada have a serious blind spot to the extent of far-left extremism in its midst. This is why they are ignoring the looming eco-extremist threat. To address it, these institutions must completely re-orient their thinking and include these threats in their monitoring and anti-extremist actions.



Source: <https://www.euronews.com/green/2022/07/09/just-stop-oil-climate-activists-explain-why-they-are-gluing-themselves-to-art>.

Climate anxiety, alarmism and radicalization

The idea of climate change has taken centre stage in our political discourse. For many Canadians, the current rhetoric and perception of climate change aren't merely distant issues. Influenced by apocalyptic perspectives on climate change, some young people in Western nations, including Canada, are opting not to have children.

Growing anxiety surrounding climate change is a well-documented phenomenon. The Canadian Climate Institute wrote on its website in August 2023 that "Three out of every four Canadians feel that climate change impacts their mental health with anxiety about our rapidly warming climate."¹⁹

The web article ironically cautions calm and self-care for "climate anxiety," even as the article contains a photographed image of a forest fire. Sadly, scholars and researchers have now documented how eco-anxiety is particularly strong among young people.²⁰ They are receiving over-heated rhetoric about a coming apocalypse in the discourse and within educational institutions. They are experiencing feelings of sadness, anger, anxiety, and powerlessness over the whole issue. This study contends that this climate of anxiety and fear is a fertile ground for eco-extremists as individuals and as groups exploiting this environment for political ends.

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The real tragedy is much of this anxiety and fear is unfounded and being promoted for political goals. A growing number of scientists and climate researchers are making clear delineations between what we know about climate change—with its uncertainties and unknowns—versus a particular alarmist narrative that is promoted by political activists, many of whom have other ulterior motives (e.g., anti-fossil fuel, anti-economic growth, etc.) for promoting a hyper-radicalized and apocalyptic climate narrative.

Climate alarmists frequently capitalize on fears surrounding weather events like wildfires, floods, or hurricanes to advance their extremist agenda. These events are also radicalizing activists who, gripped by fear of the future, increasingly believe that such circumstances warrant progressively radical actions, resulting in actions that endanger both property and lives.

In 2020, environmentalist and climate change activist Michael Shellenberger shocked the environmental activist community as well as the punditry when he declared that the climate change alarmist narrative was false.²¹ Before that, Bjorn Lomborg, a Danish environmentalist and author, had challenged the alarmist narrative, releasing a book in 2020 that directly argued for different ways to deal with human-induced climate change.

Assessing the whole body of climate science and its interpretation is beyond the scope of this study but suffice it to say that there is a growing gulf between those who remind us that the influential Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) is much more conservative, unclear, and tentative in its science, as opposed to politically influenced activists, politicians and pundits who are alarmist and apocalyptic. Noticeable shifts in terminology from “global warming” to “climate change” to “climate crisis” to “climate emergency” reflect not science but public relations and desperation in messaging. Climate activists feel they need to focus on far-fetched doomsday scenarios to get attention. Have they considered that they are needlessly contributing to public anxiety and radicalization in the process?

And as we know, in the real world, ideas have consequences. People respond to ideas. If they genuinely believe that “the earth is on fire” or the human race faces imminent extinction (pushed by climate zealots but with no basis in science), they could face radicalization.

Climate hysteria is leading to radicalization within society, particularly within Western Europe and parts of North America.

In the UK, groups like Extinction Rebellion promote increasingly radical ideas to get attention for their cause. Just Stop Oil is an organization that started in 2022, calling for a moratorium on new fossil licensing and production agreements.²² To call Just Stop Oil extremist in its rhetoric and goals would be an understatement.

In its own writings,²³ the group claims extracting new fossil fuels “will kill our children and condemn humanity to oblivion” and that human-induced climate change “will destroy human civilization unless emergency action is taken to rapidly reduce our Greenhouse Gas Emissions to zero in a very short timescale.” All these statements are alarmist, apocalyptic and, most importantly, well beyond anything that current climate science is saying.

This organization has received international attention for its constant disruption on roadways, leading to the scenario described above, where traffic accidents cause injury and death, and their disruption obstructs ambulances and other emergency vehicles from reaching people who require immediate medical attention.

In other words, eco-terrorism in Britain is reaching the terrorism threshold in terms of causing serious bodily injury and death. Great Britain is now taking environmental extremism seriously and should serve as an example to Canada and other Western countries.

For instance, in 2020, Britain’s counter-terrorism police placed groups such as Extinction Rebellion on their list of extremist ideologies. Predictably, left wing media outlets like the Guardian and the BBC cried afoul when the government took this wise step.²⁴

An increasing number of eco-radicals are finding themselves on the British government’s list of activists in danger of radicalization.²⁵ The public has seen growing evidence of individuals and organizations which have become radicalized by climate change alarmism and zealotry.

In the United States, there is evidence that climate change extremists are bent on causing disruption in that country as the 2024 election approaches.²⁶ They have disrupted events attended by major politicians associated with fossil fuels. These disruptions have shown no signs of ending soon and may become more extreme and radical in the future.

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Conclusions

“Canada’s security apparatus seems solely focused on alleged far-right extremism to the complete exclusion of far-left extremism, let alone just eco-extremism.”

Climate change extremism is on the rise among a certain segment of the Canadian population. Fueled by misguided climate change alarmism and hysteria, climate zealots in Canada are becoming progressively extreme in their outspoken rhetoric. This underscores the urgent need for Canada to act before some climate extremists begin adopting the more radical tactics observed in other Western countries.

As shown, Canada’s security apparatus seems solely focused on alleged far-right extremism to the complete exclusion of far-left extremism, let alone just eco-extremism. This serious blind spot is allowing the eco-extremist threat to go unchallenged.

The mainstream media have been willing accomplices in allowing eco-extremism (indeed all far-left extremism) to go unreported. Canada’s universities have become a breeding ground for eco-extremist ideologies, especially of the “anarcho-indigenist” variety, with non-Indigenous anarchists often convincing themselves that they are championing Indigenous causes by obstructing and sometimes even attacking energy infrastructure projects linked to First Nation communities, notably the Wet’suwet’en Nation with Coastal GasLink.

At the same time, groups such as Extinction Rebellion and other actors are in Canada engaging in disruptive tactics. European countries—especially in the United Kingdom—have shown how radical eco-extremist groups can become—in their case, endangering human life with stunts that delay traffic and emergency vehicles. The United Kingdom provides a ‘good’ model for Canada to follow to begin recognizing the eco-extremist threat by passing laws and criminalizing unlawful tactics that intimidate and endanger lives.

Finally, to truly address eco-radicalism, the government, the media, and other public institutions need to acknowledge that climate change rhetoric has become distorted, removed from reality and entirely unscientific. It has morphed into a political ideology that is unnecessarily alarmist, apocalyptic and dire in its manifestation—well beyond the conservative, careful nature of the scientific evidence. The alarmism in the climate rhetoric has created unnecessary fear and anxiety among the public and, tragically, among younger Canadians.

This fear of unjustified scenarios is radicalizing activists and turning them into self-righteous extremists—who increasingly believe they can take radical steps to “save the planet.” Discrediting the foundational lies of the climate alarmist political agenda will help de-radicalize a new generation and address this looming threat.

Policy Recommendations

Government, media, educational institutions, and activist organizations must end their unscientific climate change alarmist rhetoric immediately.

This battle is, at its core, a battle for the hearts and minds of the younger generation that has been raised on apocalyptic climate alarmism and hysteria. We need to restore climate sanity and realism. So much money and investment has been made in the current climate narrative that many feel they cannot go back. But the reality is the narrative has become alarmist and political, not based on science. Elite institutions need to accept the uncertainty of climate science and be much less dogmatic in their conclusions. They must immediately stop ascribing climate change to every weather event. We need to move away from scare words like “climate crisis,” “climate emergency,” and “climate catastrophe” and all this unscientific doomsday talk about the “earth burning and “imminent human extinction.” These are all scare tactics that are political and not based on scientific reason. We need to talk more about the uncertainty of climate models and about climate adaptation based on ingenuity as we enter an uncertain future.

Canadian universities have become cesspools of eco-extremist thought and potential recruitment grounds for extremist organizations. Academic institutions must dissociate themselves from eco-extremist academics who promote unlawful acts, such as property destruction, arson and sabotage of energy infrastructure.

The Canadian intelligence and security apparatus should follow the lead of the United Kingdom and start listing eco-extremist groups in their lists of extremist groups and start monitoring these groups closely for evidence of extremism and violence.

Canada’s security agencies, such as the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the RCMP and Public Safety Canada, must abandon their bias of only being concerned about the “Far Right” and elements associated with the right. Security agencies must stop being afraid of tackling the looming threat of the “Far Left” to public safety.

“*But the reality is the narrative has become alarmist and political, not based on science.*”

Climate change zealots do not have a right to disrupt our lives or intimidate the public because of what they perceive as the “urgency” of their cause, especially considering how their views are based on exaggerated and non-empirical beliefs.

If the Government of Canada is funding organizations to study extremism, they must give equal funding and attention to organizations examining far-left extremism, including eco-terrorism.

Scholars and non-profit organizations studying security threats must closely examine the rise of eco-extremism and its prevalence in Canada.

Canada should follow the British model and insist now on serious sentences for eco-extremists who cause disturbances intended to intimidate the public. This includes disrupting lawful events, damaging priceless art pieces, and blocking critical infrastructure. Canadians should be able to report eco-extremists to CSIS and/or the RCMP and have those reports taken seriously.

Eco-extremists believe they are “raising public consciousness” with their disruptive antics. But, when they commit acts that are shocking or potentially dangerous, they meet the “intimidation” definition that is part of a terrorist act. Damage to property (art or vehicles, etc.) and blocking a roadway or a bridge is also an element that is part of terrorism.

Climate change zealots do not have a right to disrupt our lives or intimidate the public because of what they perceive as the “urgency” of their cause, especially considering how their views are based on exaggerated and non-empirical beliefs. We all have Charter-protected rights of freedom of expression and peaceful association and assembly, but no more rights than anyone else to engage in a peaceful protest that is not disruptive.

Our Criminal Code clearly states that protest becomes unlawful when it seeks to intimidate or obstruct the public. We have laws on the books against terrorism that comply with the Charter. That message must be made clear with clear and serious penalties for breaking the law, especially for “smaller” deeds, as left unchecked can lead to more serious offences as eco-extremists become emboldened.

For example, during the protests surrounding the Israel-Hamas conflict, pro-Palestinian demonstrators felt increasingly emboldened to threaten and intimidate the public when the police did not enforce applicable laws. Canada needs to learn from this unfortunate episode involving disruptive events perpetrated by pro-Palestinian groups using hateful rhetoric. Eco-extremists need to face immediate criminal sanctions when they cross into unlawful acts.

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