

Religious Investor Responses to CLIMATE CHANGE

John Paul II Pastoral Centre | April 8, 2016

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This is not new

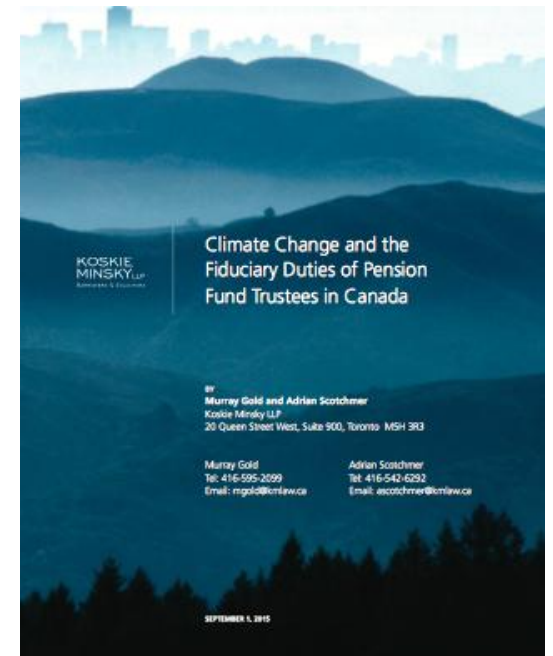
- Church concern about climate change emerges in the 1980s (*Basil Ecumenical Conference – 1989*)
- Religious investors long history of avoiding certain investments and of shareholder activism (*Taskforce on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility, 1975-2001*)

Fiduciary duty



Sustainability is an important factor in the long-term success of a business. Therefore as with any other issue related to the prudent management of capital, considering sustainability is not only important to upholding fiduciary duty, it is obligatory.

Given the overwhelming scientific consensus about the causes and implications of global climate change, climate change denial is not an option for pension fiduciaries.



Investor Tools to Address Climate Change



- ✓ Divest
- ✓ Reinvest
- ✓ Footprint
- ✓ Engage
- ✓ Voting
- ✓ Public Policy

Divestment

- ✓ Why?
 - ✓ Moral imperative
 - ✓ Influence others
 - ✓ Invest in companies developing cleaner energy
 - ✓ Risk management (avoiding risk of financial loss)
- ✓ How?
 - ✓ All fossil fuels
 - ✓ Coal/oil sands only
 - ✓ Pipelines
 - ✓ Coal-dependent rail lines

Divestment

In Canada

- ✓ The United Church of Canada
- ✓ Catherine Donnelly Foundation
- ✓ Canadian Medical Association

International

- ✓ Church of Sweden
- ✓ Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Responding to climate change



Reallocate

Responding to climate change: Engagement

- ✓ Asking Canadian companies to measure, disclose and reduce climate risk
- ✓ Asking Canada's major bank provide a timeline for measuring and disclosing the carbon footprint of lending and investment portfolios and establish strategies to reduce carbon exposure

Responding to climate change: Proxy voting

Shareholder proposals

- ✓ Greenhouse Gas Disclosure
- ✓ “Aiming for A” (led by UK churches)
- ✓ Climate change lobbying (ICCR)
- ✓ More than a hundred proposal
- ✓ Many asset managers routinely vote “no”



Responding to climate change: Public policy

- ✓ April 2015 - Canadian church investor letter to Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver asking him to set a clear, reliable and effective price for carbon emissions.
 - ✓ 53 institutional investors
 - ✓ More than \$2 billion assets
- ✓ September 2015 – Investor letter to Alberta Premier Rachel Notley calling for “robust and credible climate policy”
 - ✓ 120 institutional investors
 - ✓ \$4.6 trillion

Religious investors collaborating through SHARE

Anglican Church of Canada, General Synod
Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Name
of Jesus and Mary
Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada
Presentation Sisters of Newfoundland and Labrador
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto
Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland
Sisters of Saint Martha
Society of the Sacred Heart (Canada)
The United Church of Canada
University of St. Michael's College
Youville Provident Fund

Anglican Church of Canada, Diocese of Ottawa
Daly Foundation
IBVM Canadian Province (Loretto Sisters)
Jesuits in English Canada
Sisters of Charity – Halifax
Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus
Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus
Sisters of Saint Ann (Victoria)
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The United Church of Canada Pension Fund
Ursuline Sisters of Chatham





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