

**TRENT UNIVERSITY
PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY SEMINAR PROGRAM**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

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Is Global Warming Hot Air?

ABSTRACT

There have been increasingly shrill warnings over the past 20 years about man's effect on the climate. These primarily arise due to the combustion of fossil fuels that releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal". The report goes on to discuss record melting of the Arctic ice cap, rising sea levels, ocean acidification as well as changes in precipitation and more severe storms. The preponderance of scientists apparently support this view and strongly encourage drastic action be undertaken to decrease our use of fossil fuels. Indeed, President Obama recently stated "climate change is settled science". However, some scientists express varying levels of concern about some of these climate change claims. This talk shall begin by discussing the science behind the changing climate including the effect of the sun's intensity, volcanoes and atmospheric composition. Temperature and precipitation observations of the past few hundred years will be shown and compared to the predictions of global climate models. Observed changes in sea level, ocean acidity as well as the frequency of storms will also be presented.

SCIENCE COMPLEX ROOM 115

11:00 AM

All Welcome!

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