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Hi,

Who could miss all the incredible movement this week for the world? So many positive vibrations rippling through all of our lives. Even if it was just the incredible audacity, courage and honesty of that amazing Greta Thunberg at the U.N.; but also many meetings, strikes, marches, teach ins, political speeches, promises...It's incredible as a motivation and so much learning.

Also, there's keen interest now globally about vaping. It seems to me, though, that we're all vaping. Our collective use of fossil fuels is destroying the lungs of the Earth, just as surely as vaping is now killing and maiming a host of young smokers. The message seems to be Stop! Quit that harmful terrible habit. That's also the message many environmentalists, young and old, have also been communicating. We must all rethink our stand.

Today in our 39th ***Planetary Health Weekly*** of 2019 there is a rich assortment of stories, perhaps some of the most important and useful to date. As mentioned a few weeks ago, there continues to be an increase in climate crisis research, reporting and analysis, especially this past week, and especially here in Canada as we are in a federal election campaign and the climate and carbon pollution is central for many Canadians.

See below on the basically total consensus among scientists for human induced climate change and a simple clear debunking of common denier spread myths. See also the others on a new drug for malaria, the global suicide crisis, rain in Spain, a giant wave in Newfoundland, abused ISIS children, Elections Canada and NGOs, a new

book by a residential school survivor, an infographic course, and how to be a good student!

Best, david

David Zakus, Editor and Publisher



Credit: David Zakus

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE TORONTO

University of Toronto, September 20, 2019

**THE GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE IS  
HAPPENING NOW**

[https://globalclimatestrike.net/?](https://globalclimatestrike.net/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=blast2019-09-20)

[utm\\_source=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=blast2019-09-20](https://globalclimatestrike.net/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=blast2019-09-20)

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**'No Doubt Left' About Scientific  
Consensus On Global Warming**





Credit: Sara\_winter/Getty/iStockphoto

The scientific consensus that humans are causing global warming is likely to have passed 99%, according to the lead author of the most authoritative study on the subject, and could rise further after separate research that clears up some of the remaining doubts. Three studies published in *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience* use extensive historical data to show there has never been a period in the last 2,000 years when temperature changes have been as fast and extensive as in recent decades. [Read more at The Guardian](#)

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## Crisis Suicide: One Person Dies Every 40 Seconds



Credit: Shutterstock

“Despite progress, one person still dies every 40 seconds from suicide,” said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Every death is a tragedy for family, friends and colleagues. Yet suicides are preventable. We call on all countries to incorporate proven suicide prevention strategies into national health and education programmes in a sustainable way.”

Suicide rates are highest in high-income countries; and it's the second leading cause of death among young people. [Read more at WHO](#)

**SEE ALSO:** [Study links prevalence of gun stores to higher suicide rates](#)

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## Could Climate Change Really End the World?





Credit: Josh Edelson/AFP/Getty Images

In its 2014 assessment of climate science, the IPCC reported that without significant emissions reductions, we're most likely to experience warming in the range of 7 F above preindustrial levels by the end of the century. Seven degrees Fahrenheit would be almost twice the 3.6 F rise that the UN climate system was ostensibly formed to prevent, all the way back in 1992. It would be a climate warmer than anything Homo sapiens has ever experienced before, warmer than it was during the Pliocene epoch more than 3 million years ago, when sea levels were as much as 82 feet higher than they are today. Would that represent an existential threat? Perhaps — although some of the worst impacts, like the coastline-reshaping rise in sea level, would still take centuries more to play out, giving us time to adapt, perhaps in ways we can't begin to anticipate now. [Read more at Medium](#)

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## Five Climate Change Science Misconceptions – Debunked



Credit: Shutterstock

#### **THE MYTHS:**

- 1. Climate change is just part of the natural cycle**
- 2. Changes are due to sunspots/galactic cosmic rays**
- 3. CO<sub>2</sub> is a small part of the atmosphere – it can't have a large heating affect**
- 4. Scientists manipulate all data sets to show a warming trend**
- 5. Climate models are unreliable and too sensitive to carbon dioxide**

[Read more at The Conversation](#)

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## **Malaria Breakthrough As Scientists Find 'Highly Effective' Way To Kill Parasite**





Credit: Stephen Morrison/EPA

Human trials of new antimalarial drugs are in the pipeline after Kenyan scientists successfully used a derivative from bacteria to kill a parasite that causes the disease. The Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) and global health partners say the breakthrough could potentially lead to the development of a new way of tackling malaria in less than two years. The promise of a new treatment comes after trials in Burkina Faso found that Ivermectin, a conventional drug used for parasitic diseases including river blindness and elephantiasis, reduced malaria transmission rates.

[Read more at The Guardian](#)

**See Also:** [N.Y.C. health officials say measles outbreak has ended](#)

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## Could The Heat Of The Earth's Crust Become The Ultimate Energy Source?



Credit: Curiosmos

Although currently used renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy have their merits, there is a gigantic, permanent and untapped energy source quite literally under our noses: geothermal energy. Generating electricity from geothermal energy requires devices that make use of the heat within the Earth's crust. Recently, a team of scientists at Tokyo Tech, led by Dr. Sachiko Matsushita, have made great progress in the understanding and development of sensitized thermal cells (STCs), a kind of battery that can generate electric power at 100C or less. [Read more at Energy Daily](#)

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**See Also: Electric Cars Dominate  
Frankfurt Auto Show at The Star**

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**New Suffering For The Children Of The  
ISIS Caliphate As Hunger And Sickness  
Spread**





Credit: Alice Martins

At a makeshift clinic on the edge of this desolate camp, several dozen of the last and smallest inhabitants of the Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate bawled and whimpered as they waited to see the only doctor on duty. Shortages of food, clean water and medicine combined with the early arrival of the scorching summer heat have contributed to worsening conditions in the camp, which houses more than 73,000 family members of the Islamic State fighters who in March made their last stand in the Syrian village of Baghouz, the final sliver of the caliphate's territory. [Read more at The Washington Post](#)

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## OPINION

# Why Environmental Groups' Attack On Elections Canada Is Wrong, And Dangerous



Credit: File Photo

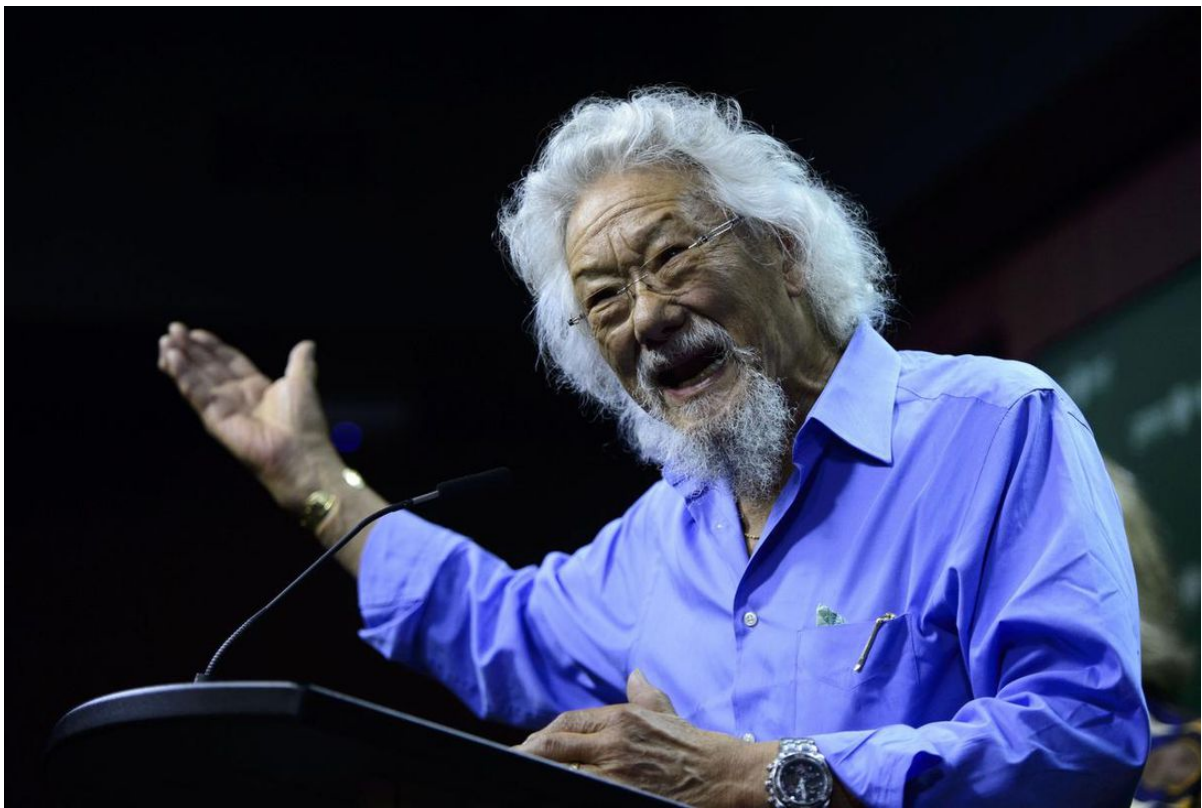
Environmental groups were concerned after Elections Canada warned that saying things like “humans are causing dangerous global warming” could be considered partisan, and they could be required to register as third party advertisers. The groups feared that in turn could lead to problems with Revenue Canada, given the limits on partisan activity by charities. Here’s why they should reconsider their opposition — and consider the dangerous door they are opening. [Read more at The Tyee](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

# David Suzuki On Climate Change: ‘We Have To Address It As If It’s War’





Credit: The Star

"It becomes an issue that is no longer a partisan issue of whether the right or left have the right policy," said Suzuki. "It's now something we have to embrace as a nation. We have to address it as if it's war." For many environment leaders, deciding where to plant their support this fall is a major conundrum. Neither of the two leading parties has plans that would even hit Canada's relatively timid emissions-reductions targets. [Read more at The Star](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

# Five Ways Indigenous Peoples Are Helping The World Achieve #ZeroHunger



Credit: FAO/Min Qingwen

Constituting only 5% of the world population, indigenous peoples are nevertheless vital stewards of the environment. 28% of the world's land surface, including some of the most ecologically intact and biodiverse forest areas, are primarily managed by indigenous peoples, families, smallholders and local communities. These forests are crucial for curbing gas emissions and maintaining biodiversity. Indigenous foods are also particularly nutritious, and their associated food systems are remarkably climate-resilient and well-adapted to the environment. [Read more at FAO](#)

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## Quote Of The Week

At a meeting of the US Senate climate crisis task force on September 17 lawmakers praised a group of young activists for their leadership, their gumption and their display of wisdom far beyond their years. The Senators then asked the teens for advice on how Congress might combat one of the most urgent and politically contentious threats confronting world leaders: climate change.

Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish activist who has galvanized young people across the world to strike for more action to combat the impact of global warming, politely reminded them that she was a student, not a scientist – or a senator.

“Please save your praise. We don’t want it,” she said. “Don’t invite us here to just tell us how inspiring we are without actually doing anything about it because it doesn’t lead to anything.

“If you want advice for what you should do, invite scientists, ask scientists for their expertise. We don’t want to be heard. We want the science to be heard.”

In remarks meant for Congress as a whole, she said: “I know you are trying but just not hard enough. Sorry.” She was joined by activists from across the US and South America, part of a “multiracial, intergenerational” effort to combat climate change.

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## Upcoming Events

- September 27th - 29th: [2019 Water is Life Alliance \(WILA\) Summit: Water Justice in a Climate Emergency](#) (London, Ontario)
- October 7th - 11th: [Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power](#) (Vienna, Austria)
- October 15th - 18th: [Global Symposium of Citizenship, Governance and Accountability in Health](#) (New Delhi, India)
- October 17th - 19th: [Canadian Conference on Global Health](#) (Ottawa, Canada)
- November 4th -5th: [International Conference on Global Healthcare](#) (Tokyo, Japan)



- November 7th - 8th: [Global Experts Meeting on Healthcare and Nursing](#) (Melbourne, Australia)
- November 7th - 8th: [Global Summit on Healthcare and Nutrition](#) (Melbourne, Australia)
- November 13th - 14th: [World Congress on Mental Health](#) (London, UK)
- November 22nd -24th: [2nd International Symposium on Community Health Workers](#) (Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- February 19th - 20th, 2020: [2nd World Congress on Primary Healthcare and Medicare Summit](#) (Paris, France)
- April 6th -7th, 2020: [17th World Congress on Paediatrics and Neonatology](#) (Tokyo, Japan)
- April 18th -20th, 2020: [CUGH Conference 2020: Global Health in a Time of Worldwide Political Change](#) (Washington, D.C., USA)
- April 24th - 26th, 2020: [PEGASUS IV Migration - Climate Change - Sustainable Development](#) (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada)

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## FYI#1 SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA: ONLINE COURSE

# Infographics 101



Sujani Siva and team of Public Health Spot (PH Spot) are preparing, via a countdown for enrolments into Cohort #3 of the Infographics 101 course. It will open on September 28. And this time around, they're offering something very special: **a scholarship to the Infographics 101 course!** See below for eligibility and application details. Send it around to anyone and everyone you know who qualifies! This will be an excellent preparation to learn about a wonderful way to communicate messages - INFOGRAPHICS.

[Read More at PH Spot](#)

## FYI #2

# Climate Change: 'Invest \$1.8 Trillion To Adapt'



Investing \$1.8 trillion over the next decade - in measures to adapt to climate change - could produce net benefits worth more than \$7 trillion. This is according to a global cost-benefit analysis setting out five adaptation strategies. The analysis was carried out by the Global Commission on Adaptation - a group of 34 leaders in politics, business and science. They say the world urgently needs to be made more "climate change resilient". The commission, led by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, World Bank chief executive Kristalina Georgieva and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, argues that it is an urgent moral obligation of richer countries to invest in adaptation measures that will benefit the world.

[Read More at BBC](#)

### FYI #3

## Aid Workers Explain: What Is It Like To Live And Work In Remote South Sudan?





South Sudan is slowly emerging from a civil war that has killed almost 400,000 people and displaced millions. Almost 25,000 local staff and more than 2,600 foreigners comprise the aid sector, according to figures seen by Devex from South Sudan's NGO Forum and the U.N. Office for the Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs. Devex spoke with three aid workers with extensive field experience outside of the capital Juba to gain insights into what it's like living and working in remote areas in complex contexts.

[Read More at Devex](#)

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## FYI #4

# One-Hundred-Foot Wave Recorded Off He Coast of Newfoundland During Dorian



Credit: ANDREW VAUGHAN / THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Hurricane Dorian blazed a trail of destruction from the Bahamas to the Maritimes, but it didn't just cause turmoil on land, according to a team at Memorial University who say they recorded a 100-foot wave off the southwestern coast of Newfoundland in the wake of the post-tropical storm. Bill Carter, director of the Marine Institute's Centre for Applied Ocean Technology, said the more than 30-metre wave was detected at around 2 a.m. September 8 by an oceanographic buoy about 2.5 kilometres off the coast of Port aux Basques at the tail end of what was then a post-tropical storm.

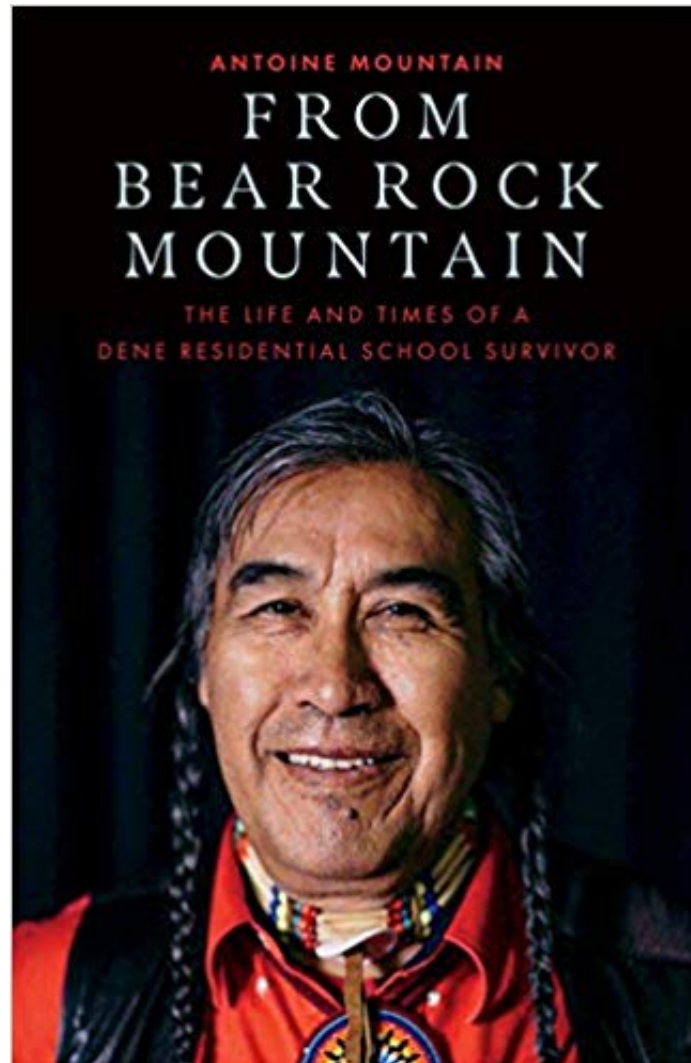
[Read More at The Star](#)

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**FYI #5: AUTUMN READING**

**From Bear Rock Mountain: The Life**

# And Times Of A Dene Residential School Survivor



Credit: Vince Beiser

***In this poetic, poignant memoir, Dene artist and social activist Antoine Mountain paints an unforgettable picture of his journey from residential school to art school—and his path to healing.***

In 1949, Antoine Mountain was born on the land near Radelie Koe, Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories. At the tender age of seven, he was stolen away from his home and sent to a residential school—run by the Roman Catholic Church in collusion with the Government of Canada—three hundred kilometres away. Over the next twelve years, the three residential schools Mountain was forced to attend systematically worked to erase his language and culture, the very roots of his identity.

While reconnecting to that which had been taken from him, he had a disturbing and painful revelation of the bitter depths of colonialism and its legacy of cultural



genocide. Canada has its own holocaust, Mountain argues.

[Read More at Amazon](#)

## FYI#6: SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

# Advice For The Class Of 2024: Be High-Maintenance!



Credit: La Mort de Socrate by Jacques-Louis David, public domain

**Athenians democratically condemned Socrates to death just for asking questions. You'll need to find out where we've succeeded and failed before — as individuals and as societies.**

Welcome to one of the most conservative cultures on the planet, North American post-secondary education. High-maintenance students train high-performance

teachers, and most teachers are grateful for the feedback. No colleague or administrator will be as tough as an honest student who wants to learn or push us harder to improve.

Bear in mind that post-secondary is conservative, because for centuries it was a reliable launch pad for the socially mobile. Post-secondary is still seen as a worthwhile gamble for those hoping for a job higher up the class ladder. But this is important: whatever you study, and whatever you do with your hard-won learning, when you graduate in 2024, *be a high-maintenance citizen*.

[Read more at The Tyee](#)



Credit: David Zakus

## GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION TORONTO

University of Toronto

September 20, 2019

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