

IMPORTANT: Inquiries About Oak Grants to Environmental Groups in Canada

April 27, 2015 at 1:56 PM

From VIVIAN KRAUSE

To naep@oakfnd.org, info@oakfnd.ch

 [1 Oak Grants 2013 & 2014.pdf 40.1 KB](#),  [2 Oak Gran...ax Returns.pdf 34.35 KB](#),
 [3 Oak Gran...ax returns.pdf 41.33 KB](#)

To whom it concerns:

I am writing to introduce myself and to request information about the funding that The Oak Foundation has provided to environmental organizations in Canada.

By way of background, I contribute occasionally to The Financial Post where I have written a series of articles about the funding of environmental activism. I have also testified to committees of the House of Commons and the Senate. On May 6, 2015, I am scheduled to testify again to the House of Commons Finance Committee. In preparation for that, I have compiled three tables (attached) of information about the grants that the Oak Foundation has made to environmental organizations in Canada.

By my analysis, since 2005 The Oak Foundation made at least 56 grants for a total of \$20.2 million to Canadian environmental groups. Of that, I have found 12 grants totalling \$US2.8 million to be listed in the U.S. tax returns of the Oak Foundation. I have found that 44 grants totalling \$17.8 million are not listed in the Oak Foundation's U.S. tax returns. If I am incorrect, or if I have missed something, please let me know.

My questions are as follows:

- 1) Who is the donor(s) of the \$20.2 million that the Oak Foundation has granted to Canadian environmental groups?
- 2) Why are some payments listed in the Oak Foundation's U.S. tax returns while others are not?
- 3) If some of the grants from the Oak Foundation were not paid out of its U.S. operations, which country were they paid from? The reason that I ask this question is because I would like to know under what rules these grants were made and, in particular, whether they were made in compliance with the U.S. rules for charitable foundations. If they were not paid out of the U.S., then under which country's rules were these grants made?

Attached, please find the three tables that I have compiled. Again, if anything here is incorrect or if I have missed any important points, please let me know.

As I am scheduled to provide testimony to the Finance Committee of the House of Commons on May 6, 2015, I would appreciate it if you would please reply to my correspondence during the course of this week.

In Vancouver, I can be reached at 604.618.8110. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Vivian Krause

Oak Foundation Grants to Organizations Active in Canada in 2013 & 2014

Recipient	Year	Stated Purpose	Amount
350.org	2014	To provide core support to 350.org in building a global movement to address climate change by strengthening leadership and political power in key countries. The project will also work to: disrupt the fossil fuel industry's social license; pressure the United Nations to agree to atmospheric CO2 limits in line with the 350 ppm target that the group takes as its name; and develop political power in the United States for climate action. 350.org works around the world to prevent disastrous climate change.	\$1,500,000
DeSmog Canada	2013	To demonstrate and map the threat that misinformation and distorted public relations pose to democratic conversations about Canada's energy and environment, and to counter such misinformation with credible research and access to information.	\$217,960
Dogwood Initiative	2013	To work with supporters of Dogwood Initiative, businesses and communities to find common sense solutions for some of British Columbia's most pressing environmental problems.	\$229,128
New Venture Fund	2013	To contain expansion of unconventional forms of oil that are carbon-intensive, by focusing on infrastructure, policy and mining in the United States, Canada and Europe.	\$300,000
	2014	To reduce the United State's dependence on oil by 50 per cent by 2030. The Freedom from Oil Fund is a donor collaborative for sub-granting.	\$900,000
Tides Canada	2013	To support collaboration, increase awareness and enhance communication on Arctic issues to improve and strengthen the role of grant-makers in the region.	\$59,512
	2013	To support Tides Canada to foster Canada's charitable and non-profit sector.	\$25,000
Tides Foundation	2013	To build a clean energy vision for Canada. Once implemented, it will: provide accessible, fair and efficient energy services; create a vibrant clean energy economy and employment; reduce the risk of climate change; protect Canada's natural resources; and restore and enhance Canada's reputation as an energy leader, innovator and solutions provider.	\$198,985
West Coast Environmental Law	2013	To provide legal support to First Nations communities in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada in order to establish indigenous law declarations that protect their territories from unwanted resource development.	\$146,142
World Wildlife Fund Canada Foundation	2014	To promote ecosystem-based management and planning principles by supporting local hunters and trappers committees in mapping important cultural and ecological areas in the Arctic. Efforts will build on the strong foundation of existing stewardship and management by Iñupiat and Inuvialuit groups, linking them to Arctic Council initiatives.	\$350,153
			\$3,926,880

Source: Compiled from the Oak Foundation's on-line database.

Oak Foundation Grants That Are Listed in U.S. Tax Returns

Recipient	Year	Amount	Stated Purpose
Tides Foundation	2009	\$490,000	Tar Sands Campaign & Athabasca Tar Sands Research and TPW Energy Collaborative
	2010	\$250,000	Tar Sands Campaign & Athabasca Tar Sands Research
	2010	\$50,000	Launching the Nunavut Marine Council
	2011	\$100,000	Tides Canada Initiatives: A New Energy Vision for Canada
	2012	\$100,000	Tides Canada Initiatives: A New Energy Vision for Canada
Forest Ethics	2010	\$149,940	Tar Sands Campaign
	2011	\$149,939	Tar Sands Campaign
	2012	\$250,000	Flexible Tar Sands Support
	2012	\$250,000	Flexible Tar Sands Support (Approved for Future Payment)
350.org	2011	\$488,110	Core support
New Venture Fund	2012	\$270,000	Tar Sands Campaign
	2012	\$270,000	Tar Sands Campaign (Approved for Future Payment)
		\$2,817,989	

Source: Compiled from the U.S. tax returns of the Oak Foundation

Oak Foundation Grants That Are NOT Listed in the U.S. Tax Returns of the Oak Foundation

Recipient	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2005-2014
CPAWS - BC Chapter	\$156,043								\$156,043
Climate Action Network Canada				\$299,461		\$47,897			\$347,358
Ecology Action Center		\$87,877		\$280,584				\$99,999	\$468,460
Ecotrust Canada	\$293,479	\$129,556		\$442,044					\$865,079
Environment Northeast	\$138,090		\$200,004		\$304,095				\$642,189
Environmental Defence Canada						\$426,857			\$426,857
Equiterre		\$263,408		\$376,861				\$304,290	\$944,559
Global Campaign for Climate Action					\$5,000,000	\$1,073,746		\$600,000	\$6,673,746
Greenpeace Canada			\$436,675			\$424,373			\$861,048
Living Oceans Society	\$200,000			\$485,057			\$104,641		\$789,698
National Environmental Trust		\$75,000							\$75,000
New Brunswick Lung Association		\$86,397							\$86,397
New Venture Fund								\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Ontario Sustainable Energy		\$98,239							\$98,239
Pembina Institute	\$269,971	\$51,458	\$479,678			\$484,106		\$404,533	\$1,689,746
Pew Charitable Trusts					\$300,000				\$300,000
Pollution Probe Foundation		\$86,780							\$86,780
RAVEN								\$50,906	\$50,906
Sierra Club of Canada	\$217,893								\$217,893
Tides Canada	\$208,181	\$440,587				\$50,000		\$326,993	\$1,025,761
West Coast Environmental Law						\$97,131			\$97,131
WWF Canada Foundation				\$200,702		\$300,000			\$500,702
	\$1,483,657	\$1,319,302	\$1,116,357	\$2,084,709	\$5,604,095	\$2,904,110	\$104,641	\$2,786,721	\$17,403,592

Source: Compiled from the Oak Foundation's on-line database as of January 28, 2015.

Oak Foundation Media Enquiry

May 01, 2015 at 5:17 AM

From Virginia Ruan

Dear Ms. Krause,

Thank you for your enquiry and your interest in Oak Foundation. We believe that our website contains all of the information you might require concerning our work, including the strategies of our programmes and detailed descriptions of our grants (i.e., amounts, programme, year of funding, etc.). In addition, you can find information on the history and make up of our Foundation, including the source of Oak Foundation's resources and the fact that it comprises a group of philanthropic organisations based in various countries around the world.

Thank you for informing us of your testimony at the Finance Committee of the House of Commons next week. As part of Oak Foundation's guiding principles, if requested by relevant government authorities, we would be happy to answer their questions.

Yours truly,

Virginia Ruan
Oak Foundation
Communications Officer