

# American Association for the Advancement of Science (On National Population Policies) Muffles ‘Obnoxious’ Canadians Too

By DAVID SCHINDLER, MADELINE WELD, AND STUART H. HURLBERT

*If the UN Conference on the Human Environment, to be held in Stockholm in 1972, faces this issue [human population as “the basic cause of environmental problems”] squarely, there will be hope for the future. If it does not, then those individuals, agencies and governments that feel strongly on the matter, should become obnoxious in bringing the issue into uninhibited discussion.*

— J.R. Vallentyne (1972)<sup>1</sup>

*[T]here is no shortage of censors and axers of truth out there in the scientific community. They normally work quietly, speak softly and euphemistically, and have a wide variety of pretexts for wielding the red pen, declaring certain topics taboo, and keeping the politically incorrect off the program. When challenged they are prone to embarrassing themselves.*

— S.H. Hurlbert (2011)<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction—the CAPS-AAAS saga

The first episode of the CAPS-AAAS saga was published in the Fall 2011 issue of *The Social Contract*. Stuart Hurlbert related how CAPS (Californians for Population Stabilization) had applied for, been granted, and then was denied an exhibitor’s booth at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in February, 2012.<sup>3</sup> The reason? CAPS apparently

did not “align” with AAAS. Further enquiries as to what exactly that meant revealed that CAPS was considered to have “a concerted political agenda and lobbying effort around immigration issues that impact the state of California and are of interest to its residents.” More unsuccessful rounds with the AAAS meetings manager, to whom it was explained that CAPS’ interests include the impact of population growth not only in California but throughout America and the world, led to an appeal to the AAAS Board of Directors. Alas, AAAS Chief Executive Officer Alan Leshner, on behalf of the Board, supported the meetings manager, saying that AAAS did not “provide space to organizations with as direct political and lobbying intent as CAPS has on issues that go beyond the multidisciplinary membership and meeting audience.”

Not surprisingly, CAPS noted that that response was a bit disingenuous, given that other organizations allowed to exhibit at the AAAS meeting have political agendas and engage in educating and lobbying. Furthermore, in July, two months before the exchange with CAPS, AAAS had published an issue of its flagship journal *Science* on population. One would think that AAAS might therefore considers the point of view of an organization such as CAPS, concerned as it is with population stabilization, to be of interest to its multidisciplinary membership.<sup>4</sup>

All key correspondence referenced here between CAPS and AAAS may be found in the appendix. This also includes key exchanges between PIC and AAAS during the former’s attempt, described below, to arrange for an exhibitor booth at the Vancouver meeting.

## The saga continues, with a new player, PIC

In the early stages of this saga, while CAPS was applying for and getting (or so we thought) a booth, CAPS secretary Stuart Hurlbert contacted the Ottawa-based Population Institute of Canada (PIC), the only organization in Canada whose focus is specifically on population. A shared CAPS/PIC booth seemed like a fine idea for an American science meeting being held in Canada. PIC president Madeline Weld responded enthusiastically

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*Madeline Weld is President of the Population Institute of Canada and a Toxicologist Evaluator for Health Canada, Ottawa; Contact: madweld@rogers.com*  
*Stuart H. Hurlbert is Emeritus Professor of Biology, San Diego State University, Fellow of AAAS, and secretary of Californians for Population Stabilization; Contact: shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu*

to the idea of a joint booth. She and PIC member David Schindler of the University of Alberta (Edmonton) even agreed to help man the booth. Naturally, all shared CAPS' disappointment when the offer was rescinded.

But the battle against censorship was not over! We contacted scientists in the U.S. and Canada and asked them if they would sign a document protesting the AAAS rejection of CAPS' application for a booth. One hundred people agreed to do so, many of them senior scientists or leaders of NGOs. Schindler and Weld also wrote a letter to AAAS, expressing their disappointment at its decision, and informing AAAS that PIC had been invited by CAPS to help design and provide material for its booth, and that both had volunteered to help staff it. Schindler and Weld asked AAAS to reconsider its decision regarding CAPS, but failing that, to allow PIC to have the booth that had been denied to CAPS. Schindler and Weld concluded their letter by saying that, with the planet's population reaching seven billion within a week [officially on October 31, 2011], and the populations of both the U.S. and Canada still growing at exponential rates, it was time to make population stabilization a visible issue within the scientific community. The "We Protest" letter signed by 100 scientists and the Schindler-Weld letter were included as attachments in an email sent to the AAAS Board on October 26, 2011. The "We Protest" letter is reprinted at the end of this essay.

Adding a little bit of fire to the issue, on November 9, Hurlbert notified the AAAS board of publication of the first article on this saga in the Fall 2011 issue of *The Social Contract*.<sup>3</sup>

On November 11, AAAS CEO Leshner replied to Schindler and Weld, informing them that PIC was welcome to submit an application for an exhibit booth. He reiterated that AAAS was a "rigorously nonpartisan and nonprofit association" and that the meeting was not intended as "a platform for promoting the political agendas of any individual organizations." CAPS' activities related to limiting immigration, whether legal or illegal, were primarily political in nature, he said. He informed PIC that only duly registered exhibitors could exhibit at the AAAS meeting, that a booth could not be shared, and that exhibitors who violated the agreement terms could be removed without refund.

Weld and Schindler responded by thanking AAAS, saying that PIC would assume full responsibility for the booth, and that all the people staffing it would be PIC members. They informed Leshner about PIC's objective of raising awareness about population growth in Canada and around the world. They also informed him that PIC interacted and collaborated with many other groups and

made use of available educational material that reflected PIC's point of view. In addition to PIC's own material, it would have material from about a dozen other organizations and individuals who shared PIC's concern about overpopulation, the letter said.

PIC duly filled out its online application. Exhibitors were required to put in a short description of their organization. PIC's seemed anodyne enough:

*The Population Institute of Canada is an environmental and educational organization dedicated to informing the public about the causes and dangers of overpopulation and to encouraging governments to take steps to slow population growth. Stop by our booth to see books and displays on this topic and for free literature from our own and many other organizations.*

On December 1, PIC received notification from "AAAS Meetings" that its application had been accepted. Information about payment and contacts was included.

So far, so good. Or so it seemed.

### **PICing a fight with a science powerhouse?**

Strangely, although the acceptance notice from AAAS had said that PIC would be contacted "shortly" by the sales manager to confirm a booth number, shortly seemed to be taking a while. Nor did the PIC treasurer receive a reply when he contacted the name provided in the acceptance notice about paying by check.

The reason for the silence was revealed on December 9, when PIC received an email from the meetings manager, Barbara Rice, referring to the PIC exhibitor blurb that said we would provide "free literature from our own and many other organizations." This was counter to Section 3 of the Terms and Conditions, the letter said, and we would have to amend our description to adhere to exhibitor policies.

On December 13, Weld and Schindler responded to Rice's letter, saying they found it puzzling, reiterating that all the people staffing the booth would be PIC members, and that they did not see how providing literature from other organizations could be interpreted as sharing the booth. As PIC is a small organization with limited publications, it uses educational materials from many sources to promote awareness of population issues. Paying the large fee for a booth under such a restriction would not serve PIC's purpose, they wrote.

Weld and Schindler asked two questions. The first was whether all the material presented at the booth had to be written by a PIC member or under PIC's imprima-

tur (e.g., from PIC's website). If the answer was Yes, then PIC asked to withdraw its application for a booth.



ter by reminding AAAS that the delays were hampering PIC's ability to prepare.

Receiving no reply, on December 20 Weld and Schindler cut to the chase and wrote to Rice:

It has now been 35 days since we informed Dr. Leshner that our PIC booth planned to distribute literature from many organizations, and a week since we requested clarification, in response to your message of December 9, as to what kinds of non-PIC materials, if any, would be allowed at the PIC booth. Given the lack of a response, the implicit threat that any non-PIC materials could result in the closing down of our booth, and the very late hour, we hereby withdraw our application for a booth.

### Conclusions (and warnings!)

To summarize this sad tale: CAPS' application for a booth was rejected by AAAS because CAPS was considered (incorrectly) to be focused only on immigration and California and therefore perceived to be too political. On the other hand, PIC's application was rejected because it proposed to present literature from a wide variety of organizations and authors on population issues on national and global scales. Garrett Hardin, not a member of PIC, published *Tragedy of the Commons*<sup>5</sup> in a non-PIC venue (*Science*), so the tender sensibilities

of AAAS meeting attendees had to be protected from seeing a stack of that still relevant essay. Jack Vallentyne was not a PIC member either, so distribution to attendees of hot-off-the-press copies of his posthumously published essay on *Consumption: The Other Side of Population for Development*<sup>6</sup> was similarly proscribed. Go figure.

This article, the second (and presumably final) chapter of a sad tale, should serve as warning to other organizations to save their energy if they think they'd like to have a population booth at a AAAS meeting. We can hope that the culture of the AAAS evolves on this matter—for which it will perhaps need new leadership.

“Facing the issue squarely” indeed! If only Jack Vallentyne knew. ■

### Endnotes

1. John R. Vallentyne. 1972. Freshwater Supplies and Pollution: Effects of the Demographic Explosion on Water and Man. In: N. Polunin (ed.), *The Environmental Future*. Macmillan, London, pp. 181-211.
2. Stuart H. Hurlbert. 2011. The North American Lake Management Society: Axing Truth, Threatening Lawsuits. *The Social Contract* 21(3): 37-46.
3. Stuart H. Hurlbert. 2011. Is the AAAS Oblivious to U.S. Overpopulation and Its Consequences: Or Is It Just Another Censor? *The Social Contract* 22(1): 64-68.
4. In this regard it is worth noting that of the 18 articles published in the *Science* issue devoted to population, not one mentioned the rapidly growing U.S. population, which is driven primarily by immigration. CAPS lobbies for a reduced California and U.S. population, which can only be achieved by a reduction in immigration. Apparently, AAAS considers the sensitive subject of immigration to be off limits.
5. Garrett Hardin. 1968. The Tragedy of The Commons. *Science* 162:1243-1248.
6. Francisco J. Mata, Larry J. Onisto and John R. Vallentyne. 2011. Consumption: The Other Side of Population for Development. *Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics* (in press). [Originally prepared for and presented at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo, Egypt, September 5-13, 1994].

## Letter of protest over cancellation of an exhibitor booth for CAPS

Date: 26 October 2011

To: Dr Nina Federoff, AAAS President, and the AAAS Board of Directors (Alice Huang, California Institute of Technology; William Press, University of Texas, Austin; David Evans Shaw, Blackpoint Group; Alan Leshner, AAAS Chief Executive Officer; Nancy Knowlton, Smithsonian Institution; Stephen Mayo, California Institute of Technology; Raymond Orbach, University of Texas, Austin; Julia M. Phillips, Sandia National Labs, New; Sue V. Rosser, San Francisco State University; David D. Sabatini, NYU School of Medicine; Inder Verma, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; Thomas Woolsey, Washington University Medical School)

From: Dr. David Schindler, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta  
Dr. Madeline Weld, Population Institute of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

### WE PROTEST

The undersigned protest the rejection of Californians for Population Stabilization's application for an exhibitor booth at the AAAS meeting planned for February 2012 in Vancouver, Canada, by the entirely American AAAS board of directors

The following 100 persons are mostly senior scientists and scholars or leaders of NGOs focused on population and environmental issues. For retired individuals, their last professional affiliation is given. All listed affiliations are for purposes of identification only. They do not imply any endorsement of this protest by any organization or institution. [Note: As indicated at the end of each sublist, three additional scientists signed onto the letter after it was transmitted to AAAS.]

### Canadian Signers

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Kenneth Ashley  
BC Ministry of Environment, Vancouver BC

Spencer Barrett  
University of Toronto, Toronto ON

Suzanne Bayley  
University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

Sean Boyd  
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Environment Canada,  
Delta BC

James Bruce  
Director, Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington ON

Peter Dillon  
Trent University, Peterborough ON

Gordon Goldsborough  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB

Roger Green  
University of Western Ontario, Waterloo ON

Andrew Hamilton  
Former Head, Science Division, Commission for  
Environmental Cooperation, Ottawa ON

Fangliang He  
University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

Peter Hodson  
Queen's University, Kingston ON

Joseph Kerekes  
Canadian Wildlife Service, Dartmouth NS

Charles Krebs  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC

Joe Leach  
Ministry of Natural Resources Lake Erie Fisheries  
Station, Wheatley ON

Donald Ludwig  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC

Lynda McCarthy  
Ryerson University, Toronto ON

Kristi Miller  
Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Pacific Biological Station,  
Nanaimo BC

Larry Onisto  
Environment Ontario Power Generation, Toronto ON

John Post  
University of Calgary, Calgary AB

Ellie Prepas  
Lakehead University, Thunder Bay ON



Henry Regier  
University of Toronto, Toronto ON

Rick Riewe  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB

Gordon Robinson  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MN

David Schindler  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Gayle Shaw  
Grant MacEwan Community College,  
Edmonton AB

George Shaw  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Edmonton AB

John Shearer  
Freshwater Institute, Winnipeg MB

John Stockner  
Eco-Logic Ltd; UBC Fisheries Centre, Vancouver BC

William Tonn  
University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

Julie Turgeon  
Laval University, Quebec City QC

Warwick Vincent  
Laval University, Quebec City QC

Bruce Ward  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC

Madeline Weld  
President, Population Institute of Canada, Ottawa ON

### American Signers

John Alcock  
Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Daniel Anderson  
University of California, Davis CA

Gerald Bakus  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles CA

Albert Bartlett  
University of Colorado, Boulder CO

Colden Baxter  
Idaho State University, Pocatello ID

Brent Blackwelder  
President Emeritus, Friends of the Earth,  
Washington DC

James Brown  
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM

Gregg Brunskill  
Australian Institute for Marine Science, Townsville,  
Queensland, Australia

Gordon Burghardt  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN

JoAnn Burkholder  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC

John Cairns, Jr.  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,  
Blacksburg VA

Robert Costanza  
Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Portland State  
University, Portland OR

David Culver  
Ohio State University, Columbus OH

Brian Czech  
President, Center for the Advancement of the Steady  
State Economy, Arlington VA

Deborah Dexter  
San Diego State University, San Diego CA

John Downing  
Iowa State University, Ames IA

Dell Erickson  
Director of Research, Minnesotans for Sustainability,  
Minneapolis MN

Carlos Fetterolf  
Past Executive Secretary, Canada/U.S. Great Lakes  
Fishery Commission, Ann Arbor MI

Stuart Fisher  
Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Erica Fleishman  
University of California, Davis CA

David Ford  
University of Washington, Seattle WA

Dave Foreman  
Executive Director, Rewilding Institute,  
Albuquerque NM

Helen Ghiradella  
State University of New York, Albany NY

Charles Goldman  
University of California, Davis CA

Otis Graham, Jr.  
University of California, Santa Barbara CA

Lindsey Grant  
Writer; Former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
for Environmental & Population Affairs, Washington DC

Theodore Griswold  
Environmental Attorney, Procopio Cory Hargreaves and  
Savitch LLP, San Diego CA

Daniel Guthrie  
Claremont McKenna College, Pomona CA

Charles Hall  
State University of New York, Syracuse NY

Peter Jumars  
University of Maine, Orono ME

- Astrid Kodric-Brown  
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM
- Donald Kroodasma  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA
- Denise Lach  
Oregon State University, Corvallis OR
- Richard Lamm  
Former Governor of Colorado (1975-1987), Denver CO
- Gene Likens  
President Emeritus, Institute of Ecosystem Studies,  
Millbrook NY
- Gary Meffe  
University of Florida, Gainesville FL
- Hal Michael  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife,  
Olympia WA
- Ross McCluney  
Florida Solar Energy Center UCF, Cocoa FL
- Roger Moon  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul MN
- Peter Moyle  
University of California, Davis CA
- Paul Murtaugh  
Oregon State University, Corvallis OR
- Reed Noss  
University of Central Florida, Orlando FL
- Gordon Orians  
University of Washington, Seattle WA
- Robert Paine  
University of Washington, Seattle WA
- Harold Pashler  
University of California, San Diego CA
- David Paxson  
President, World Population Balance, Minneapolis MN
- Peter Petraitis  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA
- David Pimentel  
Cornell University, Ithaca NY
- Ronald Pulliam  
University of Georgia, Athens GA
- Stephen Roeder  
San Diego State University, San Diego CA
- Forest Rohwer  
San Diego State University, San Diego CA
- Michael Russell  
Villanova University, Villanova PA
- William Ryerson  
CEO, The Population Institute, Washington DC
- William Schmid  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul MN
- Andrew Sheldon  
University of Montana, Missoula MT
- Jack Stanford  
Director, Flathead Biological Station UMT,  
Polson MT
- Donald Strong  
University of California, Davis CA
- George Sugihara  
Scripps Institute of Oceanography UCSD,  
La Jolla CA
- Joyce Tarnow  
President, Floridians for a Sustainable Population
- Webb Van Winkle  
DOE Oak Ridge National Lab, Oak Ridge TN
- David Wake  
University of California, Berkeley CA
- William Walton  
University of California, Riverside CA
- Peter Wood  
President, National Association of Scholars,  
Washington DC
- Joy Zedler  
University of Wisconsin, Madison WI
- Paul Zedler  
University of Wisconsin, Madison WI
- Benjamin Zuckerman  
University of California, Los Angeles CA
- SIGNED ON after transmittal to AAAS
- Gretchen Daily  
Stanford University, Palo Alto CA
- Jere Lipps  
University of California, Berkeley CA
- Wayne Wurtsbaugh  
Utah State University, Logan UT ■

## Appendix

Correspondence concerning the applications by *Californians for Population Stabilization* and the *Population Institute of Canada* to operate exhibitor booths on population at the February 2012 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the sad fate of those applications. Messages are dated and arranged chronologically.

### CAPS application acknowledged

From: aaas@confex.com  
 Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2011 4:12 PM  
 To: Jo Wideman  
 Subject: Exhibitor Submitted for Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS)

Dear Josephine Wideman,

Thank you for submitting a request to exhibit at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver. Upon review and approval of your request, we will contact you to discuss your booth selections, finalize your booth reservation and information for publication, and collect payment.

If you plan to provide a purchase order number or wish to pay by check, please contact Martin Clock at [mclock@aaas.org](mailto:mclock@aaas.org) or call 202-326-6451.

To log back into your submission in order to pay by credit card online or to edit your booth description (100 words or less), please use the following link:

<http://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2012/exhibitors/index.cgi?usename=xxxx&password=xxxxxx>

Champion is our General Services contractor. The link for the exhibitor kit will be available in late summer. If you have questions, please contact Champion's Customer Service at 1-800-723-1123.

To learn more about how you can extend your visibility at the Annual Meeting, please download the attendee promotion form.

<http://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2012/AttendeePromotion.pdf>

We look forward to working with you.

Thank you, AAAS Meetings

### CAPS application accepted

From: Martin Clock [<mailto:mclock@aaas.org>]  
 Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 12:08 PM  
 To: Jo Wideman  
 Cc: Jill Perla  
 Subject: Receipt for AAAS Meeting Booth Fee

Jo Wideman  
 Californians for Population Stabilization  
 1129 State Street, Suite 3-D  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Ms. Wideman,

Thank you for your decision to participate in the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada, in February 2012.

Please accept this letter as confirmation of payment for exhibit space at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting. Your Visa credit card ending in 5397 was charged \$2,500.00 on August 16, 2011 to cover the cost of the space. Jill Perla will be in touch with you shortly regarding details on booth specs.

Thank you for your commitment to AAAS and science in the service of society. We appreciate your support of our vision and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Martin Clock  
 Business Manager, Office of Public Programs  
 American Association for the  
 Advancement of Science (AAAS)  
 1200 New York Avenue, NW  
 Washington, DC 20005  
 TEL: 202-326-6451  
 FAX: 202-789-0455  
 EML: [mclock@aaas.org](mailto:mclock@aaas.org)

### CAPS application rejected for lack of 'alignment'

From: Jill Perla [<mailto:jperla@aaas.org>]  
 Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 5:08 AM  
 To: Jo Wideman  
 Cc: Martin Clock  
 Subject: Re: Receipt for AAAS Meeting Booth Fee

Dear Ms. Wideman,

My boss, Barbara Rice, Associate Director of the Office of Public Programs, and the Director of Meetings, reviews organizations prior to final acceptance and assignment of exhibit space, and after close review of Californians for Population Stabilization, CAPS, it has been decided that we are unable to accept your request for space.

AAAS is a non-profit, non-partisan, scientific association and unfortunately, CAPS, does not align with AAAS.

Martin Clock, our finance manager, will refund the \$2,500 that you paid as soon as possible.

Thank you. Jill

**CAPS requests explanation of rejection**

Date: Mon, 26 Sep 2011 12:35:43 -0700  
 To: brice@aaas.org  
 From: "Stuart H. Hurlbert" <shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu>  
 Subject: Denial of CAPS booth: AAAS Meeting  
 Cc: jperla@aaas.org, shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu, jo@capsweb.org

Dear Ms. Rice,

Ms. Jo Wideman, Executive Director of CAPS, has just forwarded to me the message below from Ms. Perla, informing us that CAPS is being denied the opportunity to have an exhibitors booth at the Vancouver AAAS meeting. I respond as secretary to the CAPS board of directors.

Since you have done a "close review" of CAPS you will be aware that CAPS is a science-based, non-profit, non-partisan, environmental organization focused on population issues.

Thus we are completely non-plussed to be told that we do "not align with AAAS." Can you tell us the substantive grounds for that conclusion?

Please reconsider your decision, perhaps after consulting with the entire AAAS board of directors. Our next level of appeal would be addressed to them, if that proved necessary.

Our booth would seem a perfect complement to the July 29, 2011 issue of *Science*, which had 18 separate articles and essays on population but, surprisingly, none on U.S. population issues.

As further evidence of our credentials, I might mention those of the CAPS president, Marilyn Brant Chandler DeYoung, who was a member of the 1972 Rockefeller Commission on Population and the American Future. Their report was published in *Science*! (Would it be accepted there today? Perhaps not at all certain!) Before becoming CAPS president, Ms. DeYoung had served as president or director for several other population organizations.

Another director of CAPS is UCLA Astronomer Benjamin Zuckerman, recent co-recipient of the AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize for the outstanding paper published in *Science* from 1 June 2008 to 31 May 2009. He also is vice-president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and a former director of the Sierra Club.

Personally, I have been a AAAS Fellow for more than 20 years.... It is embarrassing to me and, I would guess, to my CAPS colleagues that we even have to defend ourselves in this way. And against the vaguest of accusations no less.

I hope you will see the large benefit to AAAS, science and society at large that would accrue from a reversal of your initial tentative decision. Please also consider that a number of top scientists in Canada already know of and are looking forward to our booth, and a few have even volunteered to help run it.

Sincerely,

Stuart H. Hurlbert

Department of Biology  
 San Diego State University  
 San Diego, California 92182-4614

**AAAS claims CAPS only concerned with immigration and California**

Date: Mon, 26 Sep 2011 16:08:57 -0400  
 From: "Barbara Rice" <brice@aaas.org>  
 To: "Stuart H. Hurlbert" <shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu>  
 Cc: "Jill Perla" <jperla@aaas.org>, <jo@capsweb.org>  
 Subject: Re: Denial of CAPS booth: AAAS Meeting

Dear Dr. Hurlbert,

You deserve a fuller explanation. To quote our terms of agreement as laid out by AAAS Administration and read by all who submit exhibitor applications, "Exhibitors shall be selected from those companies generally providing products or services related or of interest to the multidisciplinary scientific industry."

The description of your organization on your web site indicates CAPS has a concerted political agenda and lobbying effort around immigration issues that impact the state of California and are of interest to its residents.

Thank you,

Barbara

**Misrepresentations of CAPS by AAAS are corrected**

Date: Mon, 26 Sep 2011 20:10:53 -0700  
 To: "Barbara Rice" <brice@aaas.org>  
 From: "Stuart H. Hurlbert" <shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu>  
 Subject: No substantive grounds: Denial of CAPS booth: AAAS Meeting  
 Cc: jperla@aaas.org, jo@capsweb.org, shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Dear Ms. Rice,

We'll give this one more try before trying the folks upstairs.

You have a busy schedule and probably had little time to browse the CAPS website. But you have considerably mischaracterized the CAPS organization in your capsule summary of it.

CAPS is a lean-staffed, California-based organization, and a majority of our 90,000+ members are indeed Californians. Also, we do use much of our limited funding on California-based projects. But our main focus is on U.S. population levels and the economic and environmental costs, past, present and future of their increase. Our daily activities and writing projects are mostly nationally focused simply because when there is a threat of further increased



immigration or a threat to availability of family planning programs, those threats come mostly from Congress or the White House. That has been true for decades.

Thus you are mistaken when you imply our activities and agenda concern only immigration and only effects on California and its residents. Our website gives abundant proof of the error.

Just after putting out a special issue (July 29) of Science focused on "Population", AAAS can hardly with a straight face argue that a booth focused on "population stabilization" will be of little interest to AAAS meeting attendees.

We took a look at your list of "recent exhibitors" posted on the AAAS website at:

[http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2011/resources\\_media/am11prospectus\\_p6-7.pdf](http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2011/resources_media/am11prospectus_p6-7.pdf)

We note that the majority of these exhibitors are not even "companies", yet if the "terms of agreement" you quote in your message are taken at face value, they imply that all these non-companies were not eligible for having a booth. How did they qualify? Maybe AAAS has some unwritten standards that are applied selectively? Maybe these "terms of agreement" need to be updated?

We also note that many of these recent exhibitors are commercial and other organizations of very parochial scope. They are unlikely to be of interest to more than narrow segments of the multidisciplinary AAAS membership. By all means if their nickels are not wooden, take their nickels and keep giving them booths, of course.

But it would be silly to pretend that such exhibitors are/will be of greater interest or relevance to the AAAS membership than would a booth that, for the first time, puts U.S. and Canadian population and population-environment issues front and center. Our booth will be possibly the most educational one at the meeting.

Like AAAS, CAPS is indeed an organization with a strong "political agenda and lobbying effort." But AAAS would be hypocritical to deny CAPS a booth on that ground, no?

While the entire CAPS board applauds AAAS's current agenda of fighting the climate change-deniers and evolution-deniers, we are perplexed that AAAS would not want to also be in the forefront of fighting the population-deniers -- of both the right and the left.

Why on that topic would AAAS want to be on the side of the anti-science, anti-environmental forces? Or to show such disrespect for one of the most effective organizations in the country opposing the population-deniers?

We are not asking AAAS to endorse CAPS. If AAAS wants to just continue sitting on the fence, or urge that a U.S. population policy not be developed, that is fine with us — or at least beyond our control.

The clear facts show that a CAPS booth would be highly appropriate one for the Vancouver meeting and that no substantive grounds for rejecting our application have been put forward. We should not be held to any standards that do not apply equally to AAAS and other exhibitors.

We hope you will agree.

Sincerely,

Stuart H. Hurlbert  
Secretary, Californians for Population Stabilization  
Department of Biology  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, California 92182-4614

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#### AAAS director of meetings holds her ground

Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2011 12:12:55 -0400  
From: "Barbara Rice" <brice@aaas.org>  
To: "Stuart H. Hurlbert" <shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu>  
Cc: "Jill Perla" <jperla@aaas.org>, <jo@capsweb.org>  
Subject: Re: No substantive grounds: Denial of CAPS booth: AAAS Meeting

Hello Dr. Hurlbert,

After additional review, the decision still stands.

Kind regards,  
Barbara

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#### CAPS asks entire AAAS board of directors to intervene

Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2011 11:15:27 -0700  
To: alice.huang@caltech.edu, nvf1@psu.edu,  
David.Shaw@DEShawResearch.com, cknowlton@si.edu,  
steve@mayo.caltech.edu, srosser@sfsu.edu, David.  
Sabatini@nyumc.org, verma@salk.edu, woolseyt@  
medicine.wustl.edu  
From: Stuart Hurlbert <shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu>  
Subject: No substantive grounds: Denial of CAPS booth:  
AAAS Meeting  
Cc: brice@aaas.org, jperla@aaas.org, jo@capsweb.org,  
shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Dear Dr. Federoff and members of the AAAS board,

I write as a AAAS Fellow and Secretary to the board of Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS).

We are asking your intervention in what appears to be a very untoward and biased decision by AAAS staff, specifically Ms. Barbara Rice, to deny CAPS' application to run an exhibitors booth at the Vancouver AAAS meeting. This matter should be below your "pay grade", but we've run out of options.

No intelligible and honest grounds for denial of our application have been given, despite our repeated requests. See our extensive correspondence with Ms. Rice below, for details.

CAPS is a highly reputable, educational and lobbying organization whose main focus is achieving US population stabilization via a combination of reductions in immigration, a favoring of small families, and maintenance of family

planning services for all women. It has long had the support of many members of AAAS, the NAS, and numerous environmental scientists in particular. Brief vitae of our board members may be seen at [http://www.capsweb.org/content.php?id=5&menu\\_id=3&menu\\_item\\_id=14](http://www.capsweb.org/content.php?id=5&menu_id=3&menu_item_id=14)

Perhaps some or all members of the NSF Directorate are ideologically opposed to immigration reductions, family planning services, U.S. population stabilization, or development of a coherent U.S. population policy. CAPS believes that opposition to such objectives cannot be well-defended on scientific, environmental, economic or any other grounds. But AAAS directors certainly have the right to hold such positions on the basis of their personal ideologies or preferences.

We do not believe it is proper, however, for the personal ideologies of AAAS directors or staff to serve as the basis for denial of our application to run a CAPS booth at the AAAS meeting. Objective observers will understand that this is what has been going on so far.

We therefore ask the AAAS directorate to reverse this decision. As we pointed out to Ms. Rice this is already a binational issue as some well-known Canadian environmental scientists know of and were looking forward to our booth, and a few have even volunteered to help man it.

We believe it would be very much against your own interests, those of AAAS, and those of open discussion of the intersections of science and society, for the AAAS directorate to go on public record in support of this denial, and to do so before both the entire American and the Canadian scientific communities.

If any of you would like to offer your personal support, we would naturally be grateful to hear from you individually.

Perhaps you, Dr. Federoff, could forward this to Alan Leshner and Julia Phillips, for whom email addresses seem not to be publicly available.

Thank you for your consideration -- and apologies for the lengthy reading assignment!

Sincerely,

Stuart H. Hurlbert  
Secretary, Californians for Population Stabilization  
Department of Biology  
Life Science Building  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, California 92182-4614

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### CEO of AAAS responds negatively on behalf of the AAAS board

Date: Wed, 28 Sep 2011 09:31:12 -0700

To: shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

From: "Alan Leshner" <aleshner@aaas.org> (by way of Stuart Hurlbert)

Subject: CAPS Booth at AAAS Meeting

The AAAS Board leadership has shared your email with me and I am responding on our collective behalf. First, I want to apologize for the confusion that initially surrounded the possibility of a CAPS booth at the upcoming AAAS meeting. Our policies have been consistent for many years and, as Ms. Rice points out, we do not provide booth space to organizations with as direct political and lobbying intent as CAPS has on issues that go beyond the interests of our multidisciplinary membership and meeting audience. At times the judgements about what would or would not be appropriate can be difficult, but our staffs judgement in this case is supported by the AAAS leadership.

Again, I'm sorry for the confusion all this may have caused.

With best wishes,

Alan Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Publisher, Science  
American Association for the  
Advancement of Science  
Voice: 202-326-6639  
FAX: 202-371-9526  
aleshner@aaas.org

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### President of PIC notifies AAAS of displeasure of many Canadian and American scientists over the rejection of CAPS' application

From: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca  
To: nvfl@psu.edu, alice.huang@caltech.edu, David.Shaw@DEShawResearch.com, knowlton@si.edu, steve@mayo.caltech.edu, srosser@sfsu.edu, David.Sabatini@nyumc.org, verma@salk.edu, woolseyt@medicine.wustl.edu  
Cc: shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu, d.schindler@ualberta.ca, jo@capsweb.org, brice@aaas.org

Subject: Letter of protest from American and Canadian scientists re treatment of CAPS

Dear Dr. Federoff and AAAS Board of Directors,

Attached please find two documents.

One is a letter signed by 100 Canadian and American scientists protesting your rejection of the Californians for Population Stabilization's request to operate a booth at the meetings in Vancouver in February 2012. The signers include many members of AAAS, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of Canada.

The other is a letter from Dr. David Schindler and myself requesting you reverse your decision with regard to a booth for CAPS. If you do not wish to do that, we request that you

allow the Population Institute of Canada to operate a booth at the Vancouver meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Madeline Weld

President, Population Institute of Canada  
 president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca

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**President of PIC and University of Alberta environmental scientist transmit to AAAS board of directors the letter of protest and ask AAAS to allow PIC to have a booth at meeting**

Date: October 26, 2011

To: Dr Nina Federoff, AAAS President, and the AAAS Board of Directors (Alice Huang, California Institute of Technology; William Press, University of Texas, Austin; David Evans Shaw, Blackpoint Group; Alan Leshner, AAAS Chief Executive Officer; Nancy Knowlton, Smithsonian Institution; Stephen Mayo, California Institute of Technology; Raymond Orbach, University of Texas, Austin; Julia M. Phillips, Sandia National Labs, New; Sue V. Rosser, San Francisco State University; David D. Sabatini, NYU School of Medicine; Inder Verma, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; Thomas Woolsey, Washington University Medical School)

Cc: Barbara Rice, AAAS Director of Meetings

From:

David Schindler, OC, AOE, FRSC, FRS  
 Killam Memorial Chair and Professor of Ecology  
 Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta,  
 Edmonton, Alberta

Dr. Madeline Weld, Ph.D.

Toxicologist Evaluator, Food Directorate, Health Canada  
 President, Population Institute of Canada  
 Ottawa, Ontario

Dear AAAS Directors,

We wish to protest, on behalf of a large segment of the Canadian and American scientific community, the denial by AAAS of the application by Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS) to operate a booth at the AAAS meeting in Vancouver in February 2012. We request reconsideration of that decision or, alternatively, the granting to the Population Institute of Canada the option of operating a booth at this meeting. We note that the AAAS board has no Canadian members, and that your earlier decision was made without, as far as we can ascertain, any consultation with the Canadian scientific community. Canada is your host.

Our personal concern and disappointment over the actions of AAAS to date stem from the fact that CAPS had invited both of us to help design and provide materials for

the CAPS booth and that we both had volunteered to help staff it. CAPS Secretary Dr. Stuart Hurlbert shared with us the communication from AAAS that the granting of a booth had been rescinded. This decision was all the more surprising in view of the fact that Dr. Hurlbert also informs us that, when CAPS was applying for a booth, AAAS made no inquiry as to the general nature of their proposed booth, the materials it would make available or have on display, or who might be helping staff it.

Our formal letter of protest is attached, signed by 100 environmental scientists, ecologists, other scholars and NGO leaders in Canada and the U.S. We do not list (in most cases) their titles or honours, but many are members of the AAAS, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and/or the Royal Society of Canada.

Our letter soliciting the participation of these scientists gave them a detailed account of the communications between AAAS and Dr. Hurlbert, including the reasons given by AAAS for denial of CAPS' application. Many of them were already familiar with CAPS. Some had even seen the educational booths that CAPS has had at Earth Day events in California for more than a decade. We emphasize that our letter is one in protest of censorship, not one that endorses the particular philosophy or agenda of CAPS. Indeed, a few signers even explicitly mentioned that they were pro-choice or pro increased immigration rates, but felt strongly that a booth focused on population issues would perform a valuable function in sparking public discussion among scientists. This is especially true given the reluctance of AAAS itself to address U.S. or Canadian population problems in its own venues (e.g. the July 29, 2011 issue of *Science*).

**If AAAS is not willing for a U.S. organization like CAPS to operate a booth at the Vancouver meeting, then we formally request that, despite the late date, a Canadian organization — the Population Institute of Canada (PIC) — be allowed to do so.** This request is made with the full backing of the PIC board of directors. The AAAS does define itself as a "global organization," the composition of its board of directors notwithstanding.

We believe that with the planet's population reaching seven billion within the next week, and the populations of both the USA and Canada still growing at exponential rates, it is time to make population stabilization a visible issue within the scientific community.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Article on censorship by AAAS is transmitted to AAAS board**

Date: Wed, 9 Nov 2011 15:56:13 -0700

To: aleshner@aaas.org, alice.huang@caltech.edu, David Sabatini@nyumc.org, David.Shaw@DEShawResearch.com, knowlton@si.edu, nvfl@psu.edu, srosser@sfsu.edu, steve@mayo.caltech.edu, verma@

salk.edu,woolseyt@medicine.wustl.edu  
 From: "Stuart H. Hurlbert"  
 <shurlbert@sunstroke.sdsu.edu>  
 Subject: "Is AAAS Oblivious...?"  
 Cc: brice@aaas.org, jo@capsweb.org,  
 d.schindler@ualberta.ca, madweld@rogers.com

Dear AAAS Board of Directors,

Please find attached an article titled, "**Is the AAAS Oblivious to the U.S. Overpopulation? Or Is It Just Another Censor?**" which has just been published.

You will see how it relates to your current discussions as to whether to allow a population booth, under CAPS or PIC, at the Vancouver AAAS meeting. Some of you may be unaware of how the rejection of CAPS' application for an exhibitor booth is far from an isolated incident.

To an increasing segment of the scientific community the rejection seems just one more consequence a long-standing ideological bias on the part of both AAAS and PCAST (President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology). One more piece of evidence of a soft, insidious censorship that leaves few fingerprints but does much damage. The article summarizes strong evidence for this claim.

Understandably, this article is not likely to increase your sympathy for the request of Dr. David Schindler and Dr. Madeline Weld that you either approve CAPS application or grant the Population Institute of Canada the option of having an exhibitor booth at the meeting. However, the article is just out and better you get it straight from the horse's mouth.

There will be a sequel to this article. The full nature of that sequel remains undetermined at the moment, but it is half written.

In retrospect it should be clear that AAAS would not be in its present embarrassing position if it had bothered to discover the high level of integrity of CAPS as an educational organization before it "shot from the hip" and denied our application. We then would have calmly operated our booth in Vancouver with the help of our Canadian colleagues of equally high integrity. We would have gotten good information out to and had productive conversations with perhaps a few hundred scientists and students.

We do not complain too much. As matters stand the intransigent censoriousness of AAAS, aided by our own stubbornness, has created an international incident that already is being followed by thousands of scientists, members of the Canadian Parliament, and well beyond the borders of Canada and the U.S. And the meeting is still far away. We could never have hoped for so much from a simple booth. We nevertheless again request your permission to operate such via a speedy reply.

Sincerely,

Stuart Hurlbert  
 Secretary  
 Californians for Population Stabilization

**AAAS CEO offers PIC the opportunity to have a booth that "cannot be shared"**

From: Alan Leshner  
 <<mailto:aleshner@aaas.org>aleshner@aaas.org>

Date: Fri, Nov 11, 2011 at 7:37 AM

Subject: Exhibit by Population Institute of Canada

To: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca, d.schindler@ualberta.ca

Cc: brice@aaas.org, cstruss@aaas.org, gpinhols@aaas.org, gseiler@aaas.org, flohwate@aaas.org, flohwate@aaas.org

Dr. David Schindler, OC, AOE, FRSC, FRS  
 Killam Memorial Chair and Professor of Ecology  
 Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta,  
 Edmonton, Alberta

Dr. Madeline Weld, Ph.D.

Toxicologist Evaluator, Food Directorate, Health Canada  
 President, Population Institute of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Drs. Schindler and Weld,

Thank you for your followup communication on this issue. I've read your cover letter as well as the related letter of protest sent to Nina Fedoroff, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Since AAAS declined a request by Californians for Population Stabilization (CAPS) to exhibit at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting, you have asked whether the Population Institute of Canada (PIC) might be able to exhibit instead. PIC is welcome to submit an application for an exhibit booth.

AAAS is a global organization, and while it is true that the Board of Directors does not include Canadians at this time, the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting program in fact reflects significant input and advice from the Canadian scientific leadership community. Staff have been working very closely with large committees of Canadian advisors based in Ottawa and Vancouver. Review of submitted proposals also included strong Canadian participation, which is clearly evident in the approved sessions.

AAAS is a rigorously nonpartisan and nonprofit association. Our Annual Meeting includes topics for discussion on a wide range of science- and technology-based research and policy, including issues of population growth and its effects. The meeting is not intended, however, as a platform for promoting the political agendas of any individual organizations. We concluded, following assessments by staff and consultation with advisors, that CAPS\* activities related to limiting immigration, whether legal or illegal, are primarily political in nature.

In keeping with our long-standing terms and conditions for exhibitors, AAAS reserves the right to decline exhibit requests by any entity deemed inconsistent with our own policies or objectives. In addition, please note as you make your decision that only duly-registered exhibitors can exhibit at the AAAS Annual Meeting, and a booth cannot be shared. Exhibitors who violate the agreement terms will be removed



without right of refund.

We will await an application from the Population Institute of Canada.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner, Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Publisher, Science  
American Association for the  
Advancement of Science  
Voice: <tel:202-326-6639>202-326-6639  
FAX: <tel:202-371-9526>202-371-9526  
<mailto:aleshner@aaas.org>aleshner@aaas.org

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**PIC thanks CEO for opportunity, notes the PIC booth will have literature from many sources**

Date: Tue, 15 Nov 2011 00:31:20 -0500  
From: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca  
Reply-To: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca  
Subject: pic exhibit at aaas meeting in vancouver  
To: aleshner@aaas.org  
Cc: nvfl@psu.edu, alicehuang@caltech.edu, David.Shaw@DEShawResearch.com, knowlton@si.edu, steve@mayo.caltech.edu, srosser@sfsu.edu, David.Sabatini@nyumc.org, verma@salk.edu, woolseyt@medicine.wustl.edu, brice@aaas.org, d.schindler@ualberta.ca

Dear Dr. Leshner,

Thank you for your email of November 11, 2011. We are pleased that AAAS has approved a booth for the Population Institute of Canada (PIC) at their annual meeting in Vancouver in 2012. We will be submitting our online application shortly. PIC assumes full responsibility of the booth and everyone staffing it will be a PIC member. Of course, membership in PIC does not preclude membership in other organizations.

The focus of PIC's activities (as its name implies) is population. PIC strives to raise awareness of the consequences of population growth in Canada and around the world and promotes the stabilization and subsequent reversal of human population growth. The material that we intend to display in our booth will reflect that perspective. PIC interacts and collaborates with many other groups and makes use of available educational material that reflects our point of view. In addition to our own material, PIC will have material from about a dozen organizations and individuals who share our concerns about overpopulation.

Once again, we thank you for granting our request for a booth. We are looking forward to participating in the Vancouver meeting as exhibitors.

Sincerely,

Madeline Weld, Ph.D.  
Toxicologist Evaluator, Food Directorate, Health Canada  
President, Population Institute of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

David Schindler, OC, AOE, FRSC, FRS  
Killam Memorial Chair and Professor of Ecology  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta

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**PIC's application is approved by AAAS**

Date: Thu, 01 Dec 2011 10:17:50 -0500  
From: aaas@confex.com  
Reply-To: aaas@confex.com  
Subject: Exhibit Request Accepted  
To: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca

Dear Madeline Weld,

Your request to exhibit at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver has been approved. You will be contacted shortly by the sales manager to confirm your booth number. Please note: To comply with Canadian regulations, sales orders for services and products can be taken, but merchandise cannot be sold, on the show floor.

Your payment is due in full. If you plan to provide a purchase order number or wish to pay by check, please contact Martin Clock at mclock@aaas.org or call 202-326-6451.

To log back into your submission in order to pay by credit card online or to edit your booth description (100 words or less), please use the following link:

<http://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2012/exhibitors/index.cgi?username=2164&password=518069>

Freeman is our General Services contractor, who will provide you with a link to the exhibitor kit. If you have questions, please contact Freeman's Customer Service at 1-800-723-1123.

Keep in mind also that data-roaming cellular telephone charges may apply to international regions and please plan accordingly.

To learn more about how you can extend your visibility at the Annual Meeting, please download the attendee promotion form.

<http://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2012/AttendeePromotion.pdf>  
See you in Vancouver.

Thank you,  
AAAS Meetings

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**AAAS demands that PIC remove from its application its statement that "literature from...many other organizations" will be provided**

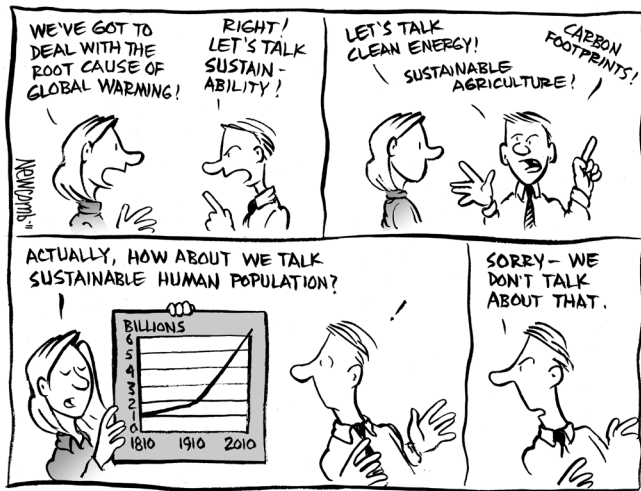
Date: Fri, 09 Dec 2011 17:50:59 -0500  
From: Barbara Rice <brice@aaas.org>  
Subject: Exhibitor Application for AAAS Annual Meeting  
To: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca  
Cc: gpinhols@aaas.org, Gretchen Seiler, gseiler@aaas.org

Dear Dr. Weld,

We have received your application, as requested by Dr. Leshner, on behalf of the Population Institute of Canada to exhibit at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver. The application states that you intend to provide “free literature from our own and many other organizations.”

Unfortunately, this plan is counter to our long-standing “Terms and Conditions of Agreement” for exhibiting, namely Section 3, “Exhibitor shall not assign or share, in whole or in part, its exhibit space.” This is a common requirement for exhibitors at conferences.

Please advise us on how you would prefer to amend your description in adherence with our exhibitor policies. The description you had submitted to us is pasted below for your convenience.



“The Population Institute of Canada is an environmental and educational organization dedicated to informing the public about the causes and dangers of overpopulation and to encouraging governments to take steps to slow population growth. Stop by our booth to see books and displays on this topic and for free literature from our own and many other organizations.”

I await your reply.

Kind regards,  
Barbara Rice

**PIC and University of Alberta ask for clarification of AAAS's interpretation of its own regulations**

From: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca  
Sent: December-13-11 11:48 PM  
To: Barbara Rice  
Cc: d.schindler@ualberta.ca  
Subject: Re: Exhibitor Application for AAAS Annual Meeting

Dear Ms. Rice,

Thank you for your message of December 9. Forgive us for saying that we found it puzzling.

PIC understands the terms and conditions of Section 3 and is not intending to share its booth with any other organization. Every person who would attend to the booth would be a paid-up PIC member.

We have some difficulty grasping how providing free literature from our own and many other organizations could reasonably be interpreted as “assigning” or “sharing” our booth. PIC is a small organization and our publications are limited. We send our members a newsletter several times a year, but perhaps you’ll agree that that is not the sort of material one would display at an exhibitor’s booth. PIC members have written a number of published and online articles, some of which can be seen on our website. Some of these articles, along with PIC brochures, would be of course be among the material that we would make available.

One of PIC’s primary goals is education about human population growth and its many ramifications. As such, we work with and use material from other organizations with similar objectives. We have a close relationship with Population Matters (formerly Optimum Population Trust) in the UK, with the Washington DC-based Population Institute and VT-based Population Media Center, and with Sustainable Population Australia. We are concerned about issues such as resource scarcity and peak oil, and had planned to use material from organizations such as the Post Carbon Institute and the Association for the Study of Peak Oil in addition to material from the Canadian Centre for Sexual Health (formerly Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada). We would like to have presented material from authors such as William Ryerson, Jack Vallentyne, Paul Ehrlich, Gretchen Daily, Herman Daly, Lester Brown, Otis Graham, Robert Costanza, Garrett Hardin, and Brian Czech. None of these people are or were members of PIC.

While PIC members may have written some excellent articles and while we may have some excellent information on our website, allowing only material produced by PIC to be displayed at our booth would be very limiting indeed and would exclude contributions from leading thinkers in the field. Given PIC’s limited resources, it would not serve our purpose to spend over \$2000 for a booth in addition to many other associated fees under such a restriction.

Therefore we feel obliged to ask two blunt questions.

(1) Must all the material that is presented at our booth be written by PIC members or under the PIC imprimatur (e.g., from our website)? In other words, are all op-eds, articles, newsletters, books, monographs, etc. published by individuals who are not PIC members or by organizations other than PIC proscribed by AAAS rules?

If the answer to the above questions is Yes, then PIC has no choice but to withdraw our application for a booth.

If the answer to the above questions is No, then we ask another question for clarification.

(2) If there is a limited number of authors, publishers, or organizations whose materials you wish to proscribe, can

you let us know who they are?

We would then be able to decide whether we would choose to operate under the conditions set by AAAS.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. As you are no doubt aware, the delays in securing a booth have hampered our ability to prepare for what we had hoped would be a rewarding meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Madeline Weld, PhD

Population Institute of Canada, Ottawa

David Schindler, OC, AOE, FRSC, FRS

University of Alberta, Edmonton

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**AAAS stonewalls, PIC cuts to the chase**

Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2011 14:26:13 -0500

From: president@populationinstituteofcanada.ca

To: brice@aaas.org

Cc: d.schindler@ualberta.ca, 4garrards@sympatico.ca,  
ldegen@primus.ca

Subject: withdrawal of application for a booth

Dear Ms. Rice,

It has now been 35 days since we informed Dr. Leshner that our PIC booth planned to distribute literature from many organizations, and a week since we requested clarification, in response to your message of December 9, as to what kinds of non-PIC materials, if any, would be allowed at the PIC booth.

Given the lack of a response, the implicit threat that any non-PIC materials could result in the closing down of our booth, and the very late hour, we hereby withdraw our application for a booth.

Sincerely,

Madeline Weld, Ph.D.

Population Institute of Canada, Ottawa

David Schindler, OC, AOE, FRSC, FRS

University of Alberta, Edmonton ■



*“Where have all the scientists gone, long time passing.  
Where have all the scientists gone, long time ago.  
Where have all the scientists gone, gone to cover most of ‘em.  
When will they ever learn, when will they ever learn?”*