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Climate change expert visits Laurier to explore why we aren't fighting extreme climate change

WATERLOO – Tom Rand, a senior cleantech advisor at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto, will deliver a talk, titled “Waking the Frog: Breaking our Paralysis on Climate Change,” on March 6 at Wilfrid Laurier University. The lecture begins at 6 p.m. in the Senate and Board Chamber on Laurier’s Waterloo campus.

Rand explores the underlying reasons that keep the global economy from acting with effort and on a scale necessary to combat climate change, from the psychology of denial and impoverished economic models, to a misunderstanding of market dynamics and a deep and inherent conservatism in the business community.

“Dr. Rand is a dynamic and highly engaging speaker who will share with us a pragmatic roadmap to combat human-induced climate change,” said Hind Al-Abadleh, associate professor of Chemistry at Laurier. “This approach is based on his critical analysis of the reasons behind the lack of serious action on this issue from governments and businesses in the conventional energy sector.”

Al-Abadleh said the International Panel on Climate Change recently released a report that verifies “with higher levels of confidence that humans are the dominant cause behind a warming world,” which makes Rand’s lecture especially timely.

Rand is author of *Kick the Fossil Fuel Habit* and *Waking the Frog*, and will be signing copies after the lecture.

“The aim of this lecture is to shed light on these pressing issues, and in doing so, inspire students, staff and faculty to meaningful action,” said Claire Bennett, Laurier’s sustainability coordinator.

Rand’s lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture is sponsored by a number of Laurier offices and research centres, including the Sustainability Office, Laurier Bookstore, Faculty of Science, Women in Science, Office of the Vice-President: Academic and Provost, Office of the President, Net Impact, Laurier Students’ Public Interest Research Group, Laurier Institute for Water Science, Faculty of Science Student Association, P&G Centre for Business & Sustainability, and the Centre for Community Research Learning and Action.

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