



# Time to accept truth about climate change

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“Scott Tripp, the chief civilian scientist on the mission, said that when he started coming to the Arctic in 2012, there was ice nearly all the way south to Alaska’s northern shores until June or July,” Dan Lamothe noted in an article ostensibly about icebreakers in last Sunday’s Daily News.

“That is no longer the case,” Tripp explained. “This was frozen and now it’s not.”

In case you have been in a coma, the weather has been getting much more extreme over the last few decades – and the change is accelerating at a quickening pace. Witness the recent string of “thousand year” hurricanes we seem to be experiencing every few weeks. Even with the best-case scenario, we are all in for a wild ride throughout the rest of this century.

It is high time we stopped the inane argument concerning whether or not climate change is real and face up to the enormous responsibilities we have to future generations. News flash: The evidence is in and it is conclusive. The planet is heating up at an unprecedented rate and the principal cause is human activity.

As is the case with health care, many of our business leaders and the legislators they have in their pocket obviously have no reservations about putting financial priorities over moral obligations. Anything that impedes the supposedly inalienable right to make a buck is seen as inherently bad, regardless of its actual impact on human beings either individually or collectively.

While the free market is undoubtedly a powerful economic driver, it is imperative we acknowledge its inherent limitations when it comes to doing the proverbial “right thing” on a whole host of emerging societal issues. Making money is important. But it should not be the only consideration as we tackle the immense challenges that lie ahead.

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