



Climate & Your Cash

My fossil fuel divestment journey

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Glebe Community Centre
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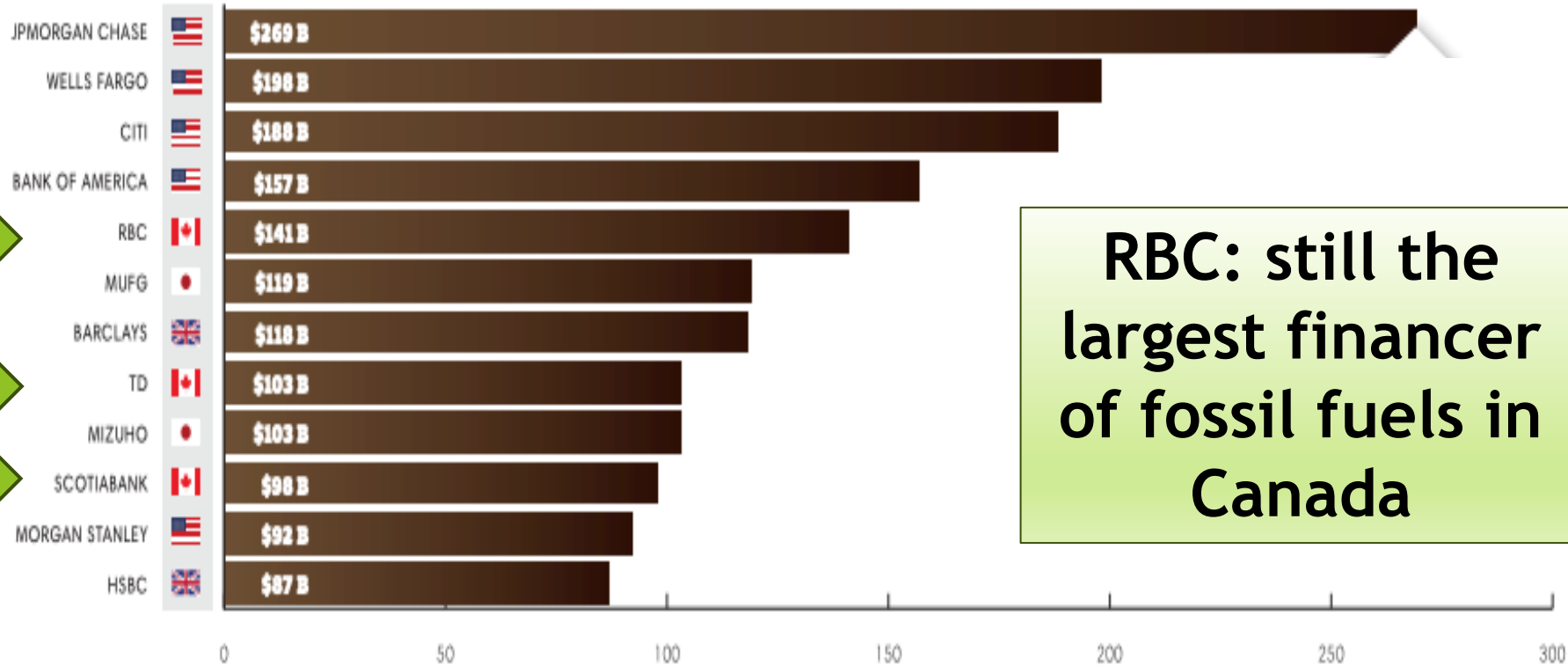


My starting point, circa 2020

- ▶ Personal commitment to fighting climate change
- ▶ My last frontier: aligning my personal finances with my values
- ▶ Decision to divest from fossil fuels - largest source of GHG emissions
 - ▶ Selling investments in fossil fuel related companies
 - ▶ Saying good-bye to RBC

DIRTY DOZEN: Worst Banks Since the Paris Agreement (2016-2019)

Finance for All Fossil Fuels Globally (\$USD)



Source: *Banking on Climate Chaos 2020 Report*

My interim strategy, 2021-2023

1. Applied pressure on RBC to divest
2. Reduced exposure to fossil fuels
3. Searched for alternatives



Finding my new home with Desjardins



- ▶ Nationally recognized investment advisor at Desjardins Securities: **Sebastien St-Hilaire**
- ▶ All new portfolios are sustainable/ESG, and exclude fossil fuels and big banks
- ▶ Strong returns
- ▶ Bilingual client service



Co-op banking aligned with my values



- ▶ **Desjardins Group:** Federation of member-owned credit unions
 - ▶ a climate leader - in top 10 globally
 - ▶ 69% energy finance = renewable
- ▶ **Caisse d'économie solidaire:**
 - ▶ Unique - keeps \$ local - 90% to non-profits and co-ops



A few tips to leave you with...

1. Credit unions: a great way to reduce exposure to fossil fuels
2. Find a knowledgeable advisor who shares your values
3. Dig into individual holdings of sustainable or fossil fuel free funds - you may find:
 - ▶ Banks that finance fossil fuels
 - ▶ Petrochemicals and plastics manufacturers
 - ▶ Energy hogging sectors, like Big Tech/AI

THANK YOU!