**LES CÔTÉS OPPOSANTS D’UN ENJEU DE RESSOURCES: LE GOVERNMENT vs LES ÉCOLOGISTS**

#1 Responsibly developing resources while protecting the environment:

Canada has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources in sectors as diverse as energy, forestry, minerals and metals. Prudently developing these resources is vital to our country’s current and long-term prosperity. Overall, resource industries create almost 800,000 Canadian jobs.

Canada has the third-largest known oil reserves in the world, is the fifth-largest producer of hydroelectricity and is the fifth-largest producer of natural gas. This means we not only have the resources to meet our needs, but we are also well positioned to supply the energy needs of growing markets.

As a trading nation, Canada is a reliable and secure energy supplier. Expanding international trade and opening markets in Europe, around the Pacific Rim and throughout the world is a key part of our government’s economic plan.

Atlantic Canada’s energy potential has never been greater and we must act now to capture the opportunities being presented.

One such project is TransCanada’s Energy East Pipeline. This proposed pipeline would create thousands of jobs during construction and after completion. It would also bring in roughly $10 billion in tax revenues to help fund important services that Canadians rely on, such as health care and education.

The Muskrat Falls – Lower Churchill River hydro-electric project will deliver a major new source of clean energy and a significant number of well paying jobs for our entire region.

Natural gas projects currently under exploration or development in Goldboro, Melford, and Pictou County have great potential to provide cost effective and environmentally friendly energy.

All of these projects will help Canadian companies expand into new markets abroad and help grow our local economies.

Our federal Conservative government understands the need to continue to protect Canada’s enviable natural heritage. We’ve strengthened fines for pollution and environmental damage, and are enshrining in law the ‘polluter pays’ principle. We’re also requiring that companies make public and transparent their emergency and environmental plans. For oil production and transportation our government has increased inspections of gas and oil pipelines, doubled the comprehensive audits of pipelines and required new safety measures for oil tankers.

At the same time, substantial investments have been made in the production of cleaner energy and cleaner fuels. Since 2006, our government has invested more than $10 billion on green infrastructure, energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, more than any other previous government.

In fact, a 2011 report by the International Energy Agency determined that Canada was second only to Germany in its rate of energy efficiency improvement among 16 industrialized countries.

Our federal Conservative government is promoting responsible development of Canada’s natural resources – creating good new jobs, while enhancing environmental protection. **Par: Peter Mackay (membrE du government conservateur)**

#2 Canada's poor environment record could hit energy exports, says watchdog

Canada is doing a bad job of protecting the environment, an official watchdog said on Tuesday, suggesting a poor image for the country on green issues could harm Canadian companies seeking to export crude oil and natural gas.

The [damning report](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201311_e_38658.html) by [Neil Maxwell](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/au_fs_e_8611.html), interim commissioner of the environment and sustainable development, puts more pressure on the Conservative government, which is already under fire for what critics say is a poor environmental record.

"Government has not met key commitments, deadlines and obligations to protect Canada's wildlife and natural spaces," Maxwell told a news conference.

The report will undoubtedly boost the spirits of [green activists in the United States who want President Barack Obama to block TransCanada Corp's proposed Keystone XL pipeline](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jun/15/al-gore-obama-keystone-pipeline), which would carry crude from the Alberta oil sands to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Environmentalists oppose development of the Alberta tar sands on the grounds that extracting oil from the clay-like bitumen there is very energy-intensive and greenhouse gas emissions are high.

Maxwell referred to "the wide and persistent gap between what the government commits to do and what it is achieving" and said the federal environment ministry has missed key deadlines to protect migratory birds, failed to protect wildlife habitat and has done nowhere near enough to protect species at risk.

Parks Canada, which runs Canada's national parks, is struggling to try to protect ecosystems, he added.

"The approval processes currently under way for large oil and gas pipelines in North America have shown that widespread acceptance of resource development depends, in part, on due consideration for protecting nature," Maxwell said.

"Our trading partners see Canada as a steward of globally significant resources. Canada's success as a trading nation depends on continued leadership in meeting international expectations for environmental protection," he said.

Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq did not directly respond to Maxwell's concerns in a statement issued after the report.

"Canada continues to strengthen its environmental protection and conservation, leading to healthy ecosystems that will ultimately benefit the economy and support the health of Canadians," she said, but offered no details.

Environmentalists said the report underlines Canada's failure to meet international commitments to protect biodiversity, and called for more federal action.

"Our ecosystems are in decline and the number of species at risk is increasing each year. Human pressures on Canada's ecosystems from resource development are at an all-time high," said Alison Woodley, spokeswoman for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

The governing Conservatives, whose political heartland is in Alberta, the centre of the energy industry, have worked hard to make it easier for companies to extract and export oil and gas. The 2012 federal budget reduced the amount of time it takes to complete environmental assessments of major energy and industrial projects.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other senior officials have regularly pressed Washington to approve Keystone XL. The US State Department is expected to soon finalise an environmental assessment that will focus on the pipeline's climate impact and a final decision on Keystone XL is expected sometime next year.

In a separate report, energy research group [IHS Cera](http://www.ihs.com/products/cera/index.aspx) said that when upstream fuel consumed in crude production and processing is taken into account, greenhouse gas emissions from oil sands crude refined in the United States are 12% higher than the average crude consumed in the country.

IHS Senior Director Jackie Forrest said oil sands emissions are 9% higher than the average U.S. crude when those upstream emissions are stripped out, unchanged from the group's estimate last year.

"At this level, oil sands are on par with other sources of US crude, including crudes from Venezuela, Nigeria, Iraq and heavy oil production in the US," IHS said in a statement.

Oil sands greenhouse gas emissions have come under close scrutiny since Obama said Keystone XL should not be approved if it raises emissions.

Canada is also involved in [a protracted political struggle with the European Union](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/feb/20/canada-eu-tar-sands), which is contemplating whether to label oil sands crude as particularly dirty. The government fears this could set a damaging precedent

**Article par: Une journaliste environnementale**

DEUX CÔTÉS

**Prenez des notes sur les questions suivantes pendant que nous discutons**

1. Quel sujet est discuté dans les deux articles ci-dessous? Comment affecte-t’il le Canada?

2. Que penses Peter Mackay du développement des ressources au Canada?

3. Quel opinion le journaliste environnementale a-t’il ou elle au même sujet?

4. Pensez de deux raisons pourquoi leurs raisons se diffèrent de l’un et l’autre.

5. Dressez une liste de 3 actions positives que Peter Mackay croit que le Canada fait pour préserver nos ressources naturelles.

6. Dressez une liste de 3 actions négatives que le Canada a négligé à faire selon le journaliste environnementale.

7. Le 2e article dit que le “heartland” du parti conservateur se trouve en Alberta, où la majorité des ressources sont extraits et un tas d’emplois sont créés. Pourquoi pensez-vous que le gouvernement conservateur pousse pour l’extraction étendu des ressources ici?

8. Pourquoi pensez-vous qu’un écologiste concentrerait sur Alberta comme l’endroit à attaquer pour protéger l’environnement?

9. Quel niveau d’industrie l’huile et le gaz sont-ils? Comment savez-vous ?

**QUESTION À REMETTRE EN CLASSE:**

**10. Écrivez un paragraphe (300-400 mots) décrivant avec quel auteur vous êtes d’accord et pourquoi. Utilisez des citations ou des statistiques de chaque article et essayez de convaincre Mlle Agnew qu’une des affirmations suivantes est vraie :**

**A) Le Canada fait beaucoup pour protéger l’environnement**

**B) Le Canada fait très peu, ou même rien, pour protéger l’environnement**

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Critères:

J’ai expliqué avec quel côté je suis dans mon phrase d’introduction

J’ai inclus au moins 3 statistiques des articles qui supportent mon opinion

Mon opinion est claire et écrit avec confiance

**/10**