



The federal government is missing in action on regulating an end to tar sands destruction.

Photo : LOUIS HELBIG, www.egamiimage.ca

Canada on Climate – Loopholes “R” Us

So far, the centerpiece of Canada's climate policy has been the proposal of so-called “intensity” targets for major polluters in industrial sectors such as oil and gas, manufacturing, mining, aluminium and pulp and paper. This approach requires companies to emit less pollution per unit of production, but allows overall emissions to rise as production increases, thereby failing to achieve the absolute emissions reductions needed to address global warming. Moreover, the Canadian proposal adds further loopholes, such as payments into a technology fund in lieu of reducing emissions and the use of unlimited amounts of “offsets” – paying others to reduce emissions. This thoroughly discredited system¹² has never been implemented, and now may never be implemented,¹³ meaning that Canada's industrial polluters have been operating unchecked by Ottawa since the ratification of Kyoto over six years ago.