



COMMISSIONER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FINDINGS FROM THE FALL 2014 REPORT

Webinar - Webinaire
12 Novembre, 2014

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Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada



Presentation Outline

- Who we are
- Findings from the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development's Fall 2014 Report



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Auditor General of Canada

- Independent Officer of Parliament (10-year term)
 - Established in 1878; powers and responsibilities are set forth in the *Auditor General Act*.
- Reports directly to Canada's Parliament; audits federal government departments and agencies.
- Audit reports:
 - Contain observations and recommendations
 - Fact-based, objective
 - Made public and are well covered by the media
 - Focus on management and implementation of policy, not merits of policy (we are policy neutral/not policy advocates)
- Also the auditor for Canada's territorial governments: Nunavut, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories



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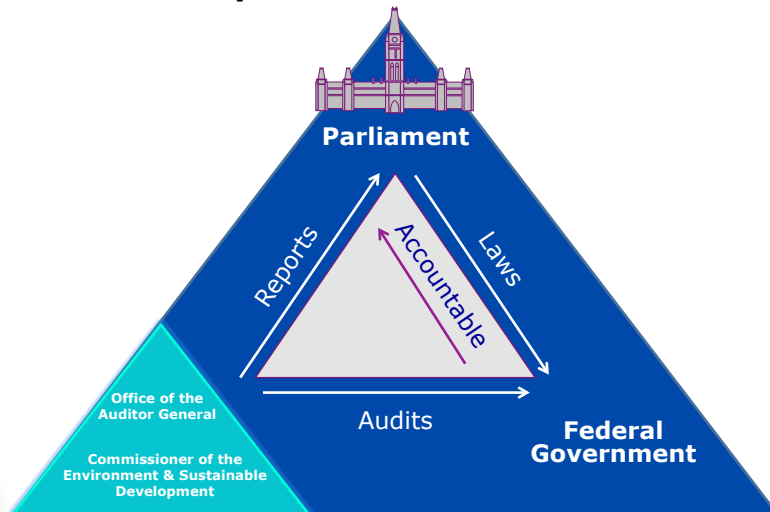
Commissaire à l'environnement et au développement durable

- Établi en vertu de la *Loi sur le vérificateur général* (1995) :
 - Poste créé en 1995
 - Nommé par le vérificateur général du Canada (mandat de sept ans)
 - Audite les résultats des programmes fédéraux liés à l'environnement et au développement durable; surveille la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie fédérale de développement durable du Canada (SFDD) et les stratégies de développement durable (SDD) des ministères
 - Gère le processus de pétition en matière d'environnement
- Tout comme le vérificateur général, le CEDD relève directement du Parlement du Canada



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Relationship to the Federal Government



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Commissioner's Fall 2014 Report

- Mitigating Climate Change
- Environmental Monitoring of Oil Sands
- Marine Navigation in the Canadian Arctic
- Implementation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*
- Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment in the federal family
- Petitions
- Commissioner's Perspective



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Questions remain unanswered

Despite some initiatives and progress in certain areas, it is not clear how the government intends to address significant environmental challenges that future growth and development will likely bring about:

- What will Environment Canada's role be in future oil sands monitoring?
- What is the rationale for projects being subject to federal environmental assessments?
- What level of service will the federal government provide in the Arctic to support increased marine navigation?
- Where is the national plan to achieve Canada's international GHG emissions reduction target?



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L'atténuation des changements climatiques

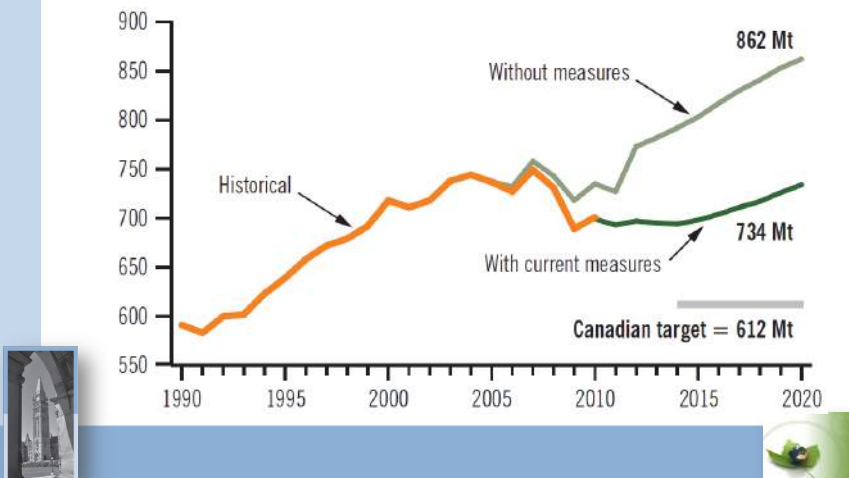
- Ce sujet a fait l'objet d'un audit à cinq reprises depuis 2006.
- En 2014, nous avons examiné :
 - si des mesures visant à réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre avaient été mises en place (et si le gouvernement fédéral s'était conformé à de bonnes pratiques pour établir les règlements);
 - si les mesures en place faisaient l'objet d'une évaluation;
 - si les gouvernements fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux coordonnaient leurs actions;
 - s'il y avait des plans en place pour atteindre la cible fixée dans l'Accord de Copenhague pour 2020;
 - si les indicateurs utilisés pour estimer les émissions futures et en rendre compte étaient adéquats;
 - si le Canada avait atteint ses objectifs de financement accéléré.



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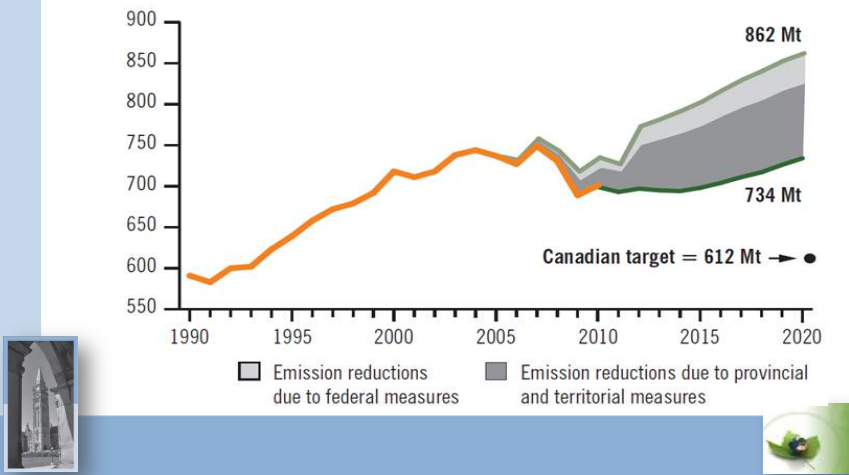
Evidence is stronger that 2020 target will be missed

Greenhouse gas emissions in megatonnes (Mt)



Current federal measures will have little effect on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020

Greenhouse gas emissions in megatonnes (Mt)



Need to develop an overall plan to achieve targets

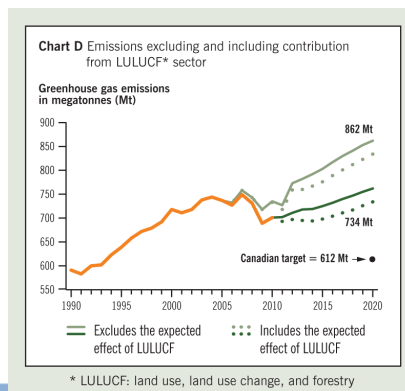
- Quantitative description of what contribution the federal government will make to Canada's 2020 target (and beyond).
- Detailed description of what measures it will take and planned timelines.
- Regular reviews to assess progress.
- Regular reports to Parliament.



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Methods to estimate and report future emissions are sound

Recommend separating the effects of federal and provincial policy measures and consistently reporting the future emissions from Canada's forests.



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La majeure partie de l'aide versée par le Canada aux pays en développement n'est pas parvenue aux bénéficiaires finaux



Le Canada a fourni un financement accéléré de 1,2 milliard de dollars de 2010 à 2012.



La majeure partie des fonds (73 %) n'est pas encore parvenue aux bénéficiaires finaux.



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Environmental Monitoring of Oil Sands

- In 2012, the governments of Canada and Alberta committed to implementing an environmental monitoring program for the oil sands.
- The Joint Canada-Alberta Implementation Plan for Oil Sands Monitoring (Joint Plan) aims to enhance understanding of cumulative effects and environmental change.
- We looked at whether Environment Canada planned and implemented its monitoring projects under the Joint Plan according to timelines and budgets, and the objectives and approaches set out in the Joint Plan.



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Overall, Environment Canada implemented the monitoring projects we examined on time and on budget



Water quality monitoring north of Fort McMurray, Alberta
Surveillance de la qualité de l'eau, au nord de Fort McMurray, Alberta



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Further efforts needed to engage stakeholders, incorporate traditional ecological knowledge, and integrate monitoring results



Oil sands operations north of Fort McMurray, Alberta
Exploitation de sables bitumineux, au nord de Fort McMurray, Alberta



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Le rôle d'Environnement Canada à l'égard de la surveillance des sables bitumineux après mars 2015 n'est pas clairement défini



Exploitation de sables bitumineux, au nord de Fort McMurray, Alberta
Oil sands operations, north of Fort McMurray, Alberta



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Marine Navigation in the Canadian Arctic

- Do federal departments adequately support safe marine navigation in Canadian Arctic waters?
- Is there a shared vision and coordinated strategy to support safe navigation?
- We looked at
 - Surveys and charts
 - Aids to navigation
 - Weather and ice information
 - Icebreaking services
 - Surveillance of marine traffic and spills



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Weather and ice information improving



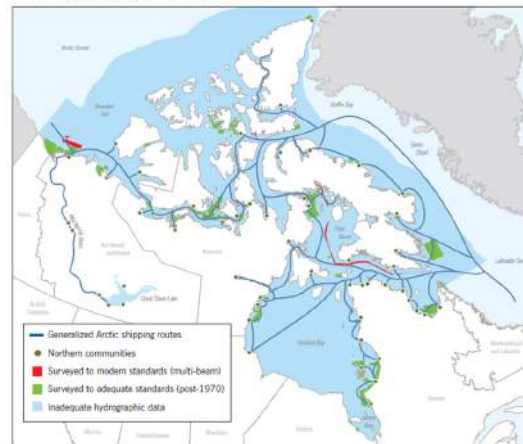
The National Aerial Surveillance Program plane routinely monitors ice conditions.
L'avion du Programme national de surveillance aérienne surveille régulièrement l'état des glaces.



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Canadian Arctic waters are inadequately surveyed and charted

Exhibit 2.4 Many Arctic shipping routes have inadequate surveys and charts



Note: Not all northern communities are represented on the map.
Source: Adapted from Fisheries and Oceans Canada



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Canadian Coast Guard does not know if it is meeting user needs re: aids to navigation



A shore light, Cape Hopes Advance, Quebec
Photo: Canadian Coast Guard



An unlit fixed aid, Tibjak Point,
Northwest Territories
Photo: Canadian Coast Guard



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La présence de brise-glaces dans l'Arctique diminue alors que le trafic maritime augmente



Le brise-glace Terry Fox de la Garde côtière (au premier plan)
libère un navire dans la baie Frobisher le 25 juillet 2012.
Photo : Denis Lambert, Environnement Canada

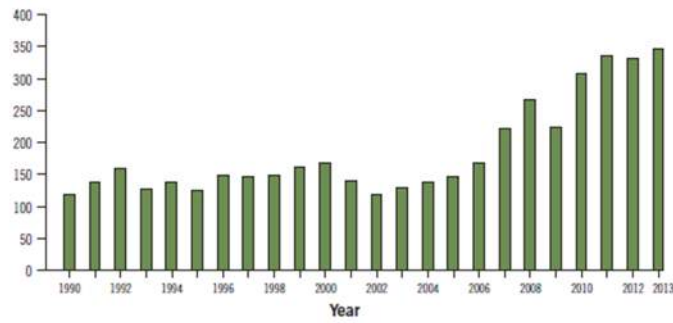


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No long-term strategic vision for Arctic marine transportation

Exhibit 3.2 Vessel voyages in the Canadian Arctic since 1990

Number of voyages



Source: Coast Guard estimates up to 31 December 2013



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Implementation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*

- Project list
- Public participation
- Substitution & equivalency
- Cumulative effects

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire



National Energy Board



Office national de l'énergie



Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale



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Clarity and transparency of projects subject to EA (project list) needs to be improved

- In-situ oil sands, dredging, and wind turbines are not on the project list.
- Screening decisions for determining which projects on the list will undergo an assessment is not public.



Oil sands operations, north of Fort McMurray, Alberta
Exploitation de sables bitumineux, au nord de Fort McMurray, Alberta



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Public participation needs to be improved

- Stakeholders and Aboriginal groups raised concerns about capacity to participate effectively in the EA process.



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Substitution and Cumulative Effects

- Cumulative effects guidance is not yet finalized; Agency is exploring regional studies possibilities.
- Agency has ensured conditions in place for substituting provincial process for federal process.
 - Minister has approved eight substitutions in B.C.



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Integration of environmental considerations into proposals to Cabinet and Treasury Board can be improved

- Most departments examined have established mechanisms to apply **strategic environmental assessments** to proposals going to Cabinet and the Treasury Board.
 - Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Transport Canada have developed SD assessment tools.
- Privy Council Office and Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat have recently revised their internal processes.
- Environmental implications (potential positive and negative effects, impacts on FSDS goals and targets) are not systematically included in policy, plan and program proposals submitted to Cabinet or the Treasury Board.



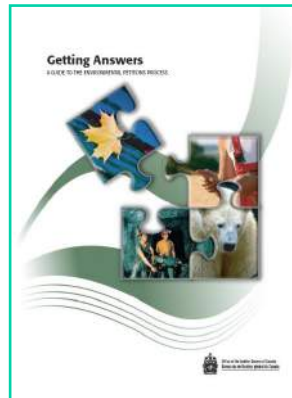
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Petitions

- **Getting Answers—A Guide to the Environmental Petitions Process**

- Available at

<http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca>



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Commissioner's Perspective

- Canadians expect the federal government to prepare for the future.
- To address issues ranging from climate change, the impacts of oil sands development and arctic shipping, the government needs to answer:
 - How will it reach its GHG emission targets?
 - What services should it provide in the Arctic to support increased navigation and minimize environmental risk?
 - What should be Environment Canada's role in future oil sands environmental monitoring?
- Federal departments need to take a more integrated approach to decision making. They can do this by investing in better information, acting on the information they acquire, and engaging Canadians in their decisions.



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Thank you/Merci !

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