Oil Sands in Canada

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Athabasca oil sands are Canada's largest oil deposits. Canada exports oil to different countries including America. Currently, the major oil sources for America are The Alberta tar sands. These oil sands produce and supply more oil than any other source in Canada. The political and economic development of Canada is highly dependent on the oil industry of Alberta. (Leahy, 2019) Undoubtedly, Canada just cannot afford to lose this oil trade business as it produces around 460,000 jobs and approximately $20 billion into its economy annually. (Sands, 2019)

Besides the benefit it provides, the oil sand companies in Canada have some serious and harmful effects on the environment. The Alberta tar oil sands are located by the river of Athabasca. When the water from the river is transferred into the lake, it creates one of the most important ecosystems of freshwater. But, the sand of oil fields of Alberta contains a chemical, known as bitumen. Bitumen is often carried inside the pipelines. However, this chemical can easily spill and leak into the water, thus polluting the ecosystem. (Mullin, 2018) Thus, the creatures living underwater in that ecosystem are highly affected. Thousands of ducks became the victims of this chemical in 2008 and therefore died. (Sinemma, 2010)

Moreover, the increase in water pollution due to the waste coming from the oil sands has taken many precious human lives by spreading some life taking diseases like cancer and brain tumor. (Gosselin & Xu, 2010) These deaths revoked the attention of people and the oil sand companies were asked to test the quality of water and make the necessary changes to protect lives and the overall environment. However, surprisingly, the oil companies rejected this issue of pollution & continued their procedures to put the lives of the citizens in danger. The viewpoints, attitude, and behaviors of these oil sand companies are fully against the following three basic pillars of social teaching (WASHINGTON):

* Importance of life and grace of human beings
* Fulfillment of rights and responsibility
* Care for the creation of God

Due to this unexpected and surprising behavior of oil sand companies, the general public has to condemn and criticize their activities and try their best to produce improvements.

The oil companies, however, can make the excuse that they were not careful enough about their operating procedures, which caused the mixing of some toxic chemicals in the freshwater. Numerous people were getting sick after using the polluted water, made the water quality suspicious for the scientists as well as the general public. (Timoney, 2012) Afte reporting of this issue, it was expected that these companies will pause their businesses for some time and carry out proper investigation about the in, as it was very serious and had taken many precious lives. However, the companies repeatedly stated that the water was safe/clean and did not carry out any kind of investigation. They completely ignored the fact that people were dying due to the usage of polluted water. The only things that mattered to the companies were their reputation and the profit they were generating out of their businesses.

At this crucial time, the oil sand companies of Alberta, who are solely responsible for this issue, should come out and take the responsibility for resolving this problem. When the issue of polluted water was raised against them, the Alberta oil sand companies, instead of investigating the issue, made a comparison with an American electricity producing company. They stated that the production of electricity with the help of coal produces forty times the pollution than their own oil sands. The thought process and logic of these companies is shameful and disappointing.

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