

## Husky Sunrise and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program

The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) received calls from workers in the oil sands concerned about Saipem Canada Inc.'s use of non-Canadian workers on the Husky Sunrise Site. Callers expressed concerns about workplace safety and that Canadian workers were being displaced. One worker estimated that only one-third of Sunrise workers are Canadians.

### The Husky Sunrise Project

Husky's Sunrise Project is a Steam Assisted Gravitational Drainage (SAGD) project with estimated reserves of 3.7 billion barrels of bitumen. In 2008, Husky entered into an agreement with BP. Under the agreement, Husky traded 50 per cent of the Sunrise stock for 50 per cent of BP's refinery in Toledo, Ohio. This allows Husky to send up to 200,000 barrels/day of unprocessed bitumen to the U.S. for value-added upgrading and refining.

Husky planned an expansion of the Lloydminster upgrader to handle bitumen from the Sunrise project, but, in 2007, Husky reneged on its commitment. This expansion could have provided hundreds, if not thousands, of good jobs, as well as increased royalties and public revenues for the provincial government.

Saipem Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of the Italian-controlled company Eni. In 2010, Saipem was awarded a \$1 billion contract from Husky for the first phase of the Sunrise project.

Black and MacDonald was brought in by Saipem Canada Inc. to do the piping and mechanical work.

### The Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Saipem Canada Inc. had a Labour Market Opinion (LMO) as of June 13, 2013.<sup>1</sup> An LMO authorizes is to hire workers through the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program. However, Saipem must show that it has made efforts to hire Canadians in order to get an LMO.

Alberta has a unique stream within the TFW Program which allows employers waive the usual advertising and recruiting requirements. The "Alberta Pilot for Occupation-Specific Work Permits" allows an employer to hire non-Canadian workers in seven approved occupations without having to consider hiring Canadians first.

The approved occupations are:

- Steamfitter/Pipefitter
- Welder
- Heavy-duty Mechanic
- Ironworker
- Millwright/Industrial Mechanic
- Carpenter
- Estimator

Under this Pilot, workers with an Interprovincial Red Seal certification are issued a two-year open permit. Without certification, a one-year permit with one employer will be issued.

Non-Canadian workers must simply have a job offer in one of the designated occupations in order to be eligible for the Alberta Pilot.

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<sup>1</sup> Verified by the AFL through an information request to the federal government for a list of all LMOs issued between June 1, 2010 and June 13, 2012