Pay Dirt: Albertas Oil Sands - tells of the discovery and development of the Athabasca oil sands, from its early use by First Nations peoples to the current mega-projects working to develop oil reserves for the foreseeable future. The documentary follows the historic path by which the Alberta oil sands went from discovery to economically viable production. First technologically, and then socially and environmentally, the industry has moved onto the threshold of widespread development. As early as 1883 extracting the oil from the sand was attempted. Scientists working out of a tiny university basement laboratory made the first breakthrough in the 1920s. In the following decades the increasing need for petroleum resulted in the entrepreneurial trial and error, and determined advancement until today Canada has become one of the world's top oil supplying countries.

Pay Dirt: Albertas Oil Sands - Pay Dirt challenges its audience to consider the cost and need of oil and the oil sands.

No Other Versions Available

Arctic Rush
74864 DVD
46 min IS 2007 Canadian Broadcasting Corp.
The white blanket encircling the North Pole is receding. As the ice melts, Arctic Rush focuses on the last greatest land grab in human history with grave consequences for the world's economy, the environment and for the millions who live in the region. Against a stunning Arctic backdrop, local Inuit leaders and reindeer herders, polar scientists, environmental leaders and big thinkers present their concerns for the land and its people. With the probable evolution of a new ocean among other things to consider, the arctic is a land of high stakes and fascinating possibilities.

No Other Versions Available

The Battle for the Arctic
75389 DVD
43 min I 2009 Canadian Broadcasting Corp.
The Arctic is under siege as never before. The Russians send submarines deep below the North Pole. The Americans dispatch surveillance planes to monitor new threats in the north. And Canada is now forced to scramble to defend territories it has ignored for too long. Global warming is turning the Far North into a resource hotspot. The fabled Northwest Passage could become a new super highway for cargo and cruise ships. And beneath the rapidly melting ice lies much of the world's undiscovered oil and gas reserves. Canadian scientists are now joining the soldiers on the front lines of this new frontier, as they race to chart Canada's Arctic claims under the looming deadline of an international treaty. The Battle for the Arctic takes us from the far reaches of the North Pole to the waters of Alaska for a look into a struggle for sovereignty that could change the very face of Canada.

No Other Versions Available

Greenpeace: Making a Stand
74597 DVD
40 min IS 2006 Filmwest Associates
With dramatic action footage, still photographs, lively interviews with unforgettable characters, GREENPEACE: Making a Stand explores what inspires people to risk their lives for their beliefs - to sail a ship into a nuclear test zone, to get between a pod of whales and an explosive harpoon, or to block bulldozers mowing down a forest. This compelling documentary looks at the 35 year evolution of Greenpeace from the early days of the environmental movement in the 1970s, to the front lines of a potentially dangerous campaign in Argentina.

No Other Versions Available

Making the Unconventional - Conventional
74594 DVD
48 min JIS 2006 Filmwest Associates
Pay Dirt: Albertas Oil Sands - Making the Unconventional Conventional tells the dramatic story behind the development of the Alberta oil sands, the largest oil reserve in the world, projected to one day yield five million barrels of oil a day. The documentary guides the viewer through a fascinating and compelling investigation of the hows and whys of oil sands, including new technologies, environmental concerns (water, natural gas use, greenhouse gas emissions), social concerns regarding local Aboriginal communities, and infrastructure issues due to the tremendous growth. All this is framed by discussions of the need for oil sands due to a tight world-wide oil supply, increasing demand and political instability in many key oil producing countries. In a post 9/11 world, where Canada is the only country where oil reserves and production are increasing, PAY DIRT challenges its audience to consider the cost and need of oil and the oil sands.

No Other Versions Available