

Canadian Civil Society Statement: Closing the International Accountability Gap in the Extractive Sector

As organizations committed to upholding human rights, environmental protection, and fostering equitable and sustainable economic development, we recognize that there are significant challenges associated with resource extraction in developing countries. We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that people harmed by the overseas operations of Canadian mining, oil and gas companies are able to access justice in Canada.

Canada is home to more than half of the world's mining companies, with active projects in more than 100 countries. Environmental damage and human rights violations, including forced displacement and failure to respect the right of Indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent, violation of women's rights and violation of children's rights, have been associated with many of these projects. Those who are harmed often have nowhere to seek effective redress.

Given the existing international accountability gap, we ask the Government of Canada to take the following measures to ensure that those who are negatively affected by these operations can seek remedy in Canada:

1. Create a human rights Ombudsperson for the international extractive sector, which is independent, impartial and empowered to investigate (including using gender-based analysis), report publicly and make recommendations to companies and to the government;
2. Facilitate access to Canadian courts for people who have been seriously harmed by the international operations of Canadian companies, especially marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples and women, who tend to face greater barriers in accessing justice.

Instituting these measures will help ensure that Canadian mining, oil and gas companies live up to international human rights, labour and environmental standards, including those outlined in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Signed:

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| 1. Above Ground | 26. Justice and Corporate Accountability Project |
| 2. Africa-Canada Forum | 27. Inter Pares |
| 3. Alberta Council for Global Cooperation | 28. KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives |
| 4. Americas Policy Group | 29. L'Entraide Missionnaire |
| 5. Amnesty International Canada | 30. Mennonite Central Committee Canada |
| 6. Amnistie internationale Canada francophone | 31. Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network |
| 7. L'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale | 32. Mining Injustice Solidarity Network |
| 8. British Columbia Teachers' Federation | 33. MiningWatch Canada |
| 9. Canada Tibet Committee | 34. Pacific Peoples Partnership |
| 10. Canadian Council for International Cooperation | 35. Plan International Canada |
| 11. Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) | 36. Publish What You Pay Canada |
| 12. Canadian Jesuits International | 37. Oxfam Quebec |
| 13. Canadian Labour Congress | 38. Oxfam Canada |
| 14. Canadian Union of Postal Workers | 39. Save the Children |
| 15. Canadian Union of Public Employees | 40. Sierra Club of BC Foundation |
| 16. Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability | 41. Social Justice Connection |
| 17. Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale | 42. Solidarité Laurentides Amérique Centrale |
| 18. Citizens for Public Justice | 43. Steelworkers Humanity Fund |
| 19. CoDevelopment Canada | 44. Stop the Institute (UBC) |
| 20. Common Frontiers | 45. Unifor |
| 21. Committee for human rights in Latin America | 46. United Church of Canada |
| 22. Crossroads International | 47. United Steelworkers Union |
| 23. Development and Peace | 48. World University Service of Canada |
| 24. David Suzuki Foundation | 49. World Vision Canada |
| 25. Friends of the Earth Canada | 50. World Renew |