

Advocacy guide:

TALKING ABOUT GLOBAL JUSTICE WITH YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

2017 Edition



**Development
and Peace**
CARITAS CANADA

Credits

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Ce guide est également disponible en français.

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About Development and Peace Introduction

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is one of the most established international development organizations in Canada. Founded in 1967 by the Catholic bishops of Canada, Development and Peace encourages Canadians to show solidarity towards their sisters and brothers in the Global South who are suffering the injustice of poverty. During its 50 years of existence, Development and Peace has invested \$600 million in over 15,000 development projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It is a strong and diverse movement of Canadians from coast to coast taking action for justice so that the poorest can live in dignity and respect. Development and Peace is also Caritas Canada, a member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of over 160 Catholic relief, development and social service organisations. Membership in this network enables Development and Peace to respond quickly and effectively to natural disasters, conflicts, and other humanitarian emergencies.

Development and Peace works in partnership with close to 150 local organizations in over 30 countries in the Global South to address the priorities of vulnerable communities and those living in poverty. Our partners work alongside these communities to defend their rights, meet the most fundamental human needs, act for peace and promote their own development. Our programs aim to address the structural causes of poverty and injustice by working on core issues such as democracy and citizen participation, ecological justice as well as equality between women and men.

In Canada, our education and action campaigns raise awareness among Canadians about poverty and injustice around the world and about the root causes that perpetuate these injustices. These campaigns also raise funds to support local organizations in the Global South. Development and Peace complements these activities with advocacy actions for greater social justice in government policies, programs, and decisions. In recent years, Development and Peace has campaigned on a variety of issues, such as support for small family farming, the right to water, and access to justice for communities affected by the extractive industry.

Development and Peace is a strong and diverse movement uniting thousands of members across Canada acting for justice who bring our campaigns to life and carry out our advocacy actions in their parishes, schools, universities, and in their communities-at-large.

Inspired by our faith and Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the preferential option for the poor, Development and Peace supports our sisters and brothers living in poverty in the Global South who are working to improve their lives. Our advocacy work at Development and Peace is based on our belief that the causes of poverty are structural, which means that poverty is a result of the decisions made by both public and private institutions at the national and international level. The goal of our advocacy program is not only to influence the opinions of Canadians, but also to influence our political decision makers in order to change policies. Development and Peace is pleased to note the openness of the current federal government to consultation; that said, we would like to see more concrete actions for social justice and the environment. It is time for the government to move from talk to action.

Development and Peace would like to support our members and supporters who wish to play an active role in the democratic life of our country and ensure that the voices of communities in the Global South are heard as we fight for global justice. In order to do this, we invite you to meet with your MP to introduce them to our mission and to our policy recommendations. There are several resources available on our website to assist you, including a sample letter you can use to request a meeting with your MP to discuss priorities and concerns. We believe that by collaborating with federal MPs, we can re-establish Canada's leadership on social, economic, and environmental justice.

To assist you in meeting your MP, several resources are available on line, including this Advocacy Guide, which presents our four priority advocacy issues: climate justice, women and peace, food sovereignty, and mining justice. In this guide, you will find details about our organization as well as information about our four current advocacy priorities: climate justice, women and peace, food sovereignty and mining justice. It is up to you as to whether you would like to address all of these topics with your MP or to choose the one that you feel the most strongly about.

This guide provides policy recommendations to the Canadian government, and suggests questions that you can ask your MP. Your local animator is also available to support you in preparing for your meeting. Their contact information is available on the Development and Peace website.

Advocacy Issues

This advocacy guide presents four current issues which are priorities for Development and Peace: **climate justice, women and peace, food sovereignty** and **mining justice**. Additional resources on these issues can be found at the end of each section. Development and Peace encourages you to participate actively in Canada's democratic life by meeting with your MP and asking them questions about the issues presented in this guide.



Climate justice

Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution. We must take action on both the causes, i.e. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and on the impacts of climate change. If current trends continue, the global temperature rise could reach between 2.7°C and 3.6°C, which will have very dangerous consequences for us all. This is why all countries, including Canada, must urgently re-evaluate their GHG objectives if the rise in temperature is not to exceed more than 2°C. While people in the Global South are most affected by the impacts of climate change, they contribute the least to its causes. Canada must also join in providing countries of the Global South with the financial and technical support that will enable them to adapt to climate change.



Women and peace

Although women's historic contribution to peace initiatives has been recognized, their participation in peace and reconciliation processes remains unfair and inequitable. If peace consolidation and reconciliation initiatives are to be sustainable in the long term, Canada must promote and support women's involvement at all levels and at all stages of peace and reconciliation processes, whether directly at the negotiating table or through various other mechanisms.



Food sovereignty

Small family farming offers social, economic, and food production alternatives that provide adequate solutions for combatting global warming, and for overhauling the prevailing economic model that is responsible for it. In order to promote the participation of both women and men peasants and ensure they have control over their products and means of production (land, seeds, and so on), the Canadian government must support the development of environmentally responsible farming practices, family farming, and small-scale farming.



Mining justice

Canada's economy benefits extensively from the extractive industry, but unfortunately, this is often at the expense of poor and marginalized communities in the countries where these industries operate. Communities in the Global South that are affected by Canadian mining activities need access to justice. The Canadian government must provide real solutions to ensure that Canadian mining companies apply the highest standards for respecting human rights and protecting the environment, no matter where they operate.



Climate justice

Context

Canada is among the countries with the least ambitious national greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets, despite being one of the most significant GHG emitters per capita in the world. Environmentalists and scientists agree that a drastic change of course is needed to limit the effects of climate change.

On December 12, 2015, a global agreement was accepted by consensus by 195 countries at the 21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21). This agreement lays out an international framework for action on climate that goes into effect in 2020. The Paris agreement sets the objective of keeping the increase in global average temperature “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C.” However, based on the national commitments to reduce GHG emissions that were presented in Paris, we will still experience an increase in temperature between 2.7°C and 3.6°C by 2100. The effects of climatic disruptions are already being felt, and people in the Global South are those most affected. This is why Canada must contribute to international efforts to mitigate GHG emissions and provide funding for adaptation efforts in vulnerable countries, including through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) ¹.

Our dependence on fossil fuels, for energy and for our economy is the main reason why Canada has not yet significantly limited its GHG emissions. According to various expert reports, in order to avoid the devastating consequences of climate change, two-thirds of currently identified fossil fuel energy reserves must remain in the ground. A transformation of how we produce and consume energy in Canada is urgently needed. Federal and provincial government subsidies for the production and consumption of fossil fuels in Canada (which reached \$3.3 billion in 2015) could be redirected to the development of renewable energies or financing of projects in the Global South.

In October 2015, the election of a new liberal government generated much hope about the role that Canada can play in the face of climate change and a number of encouraging promises were made in this regard. Some of these promises were kept, but unfortunately, the set of measures taken by the current Canadian government to fight climate change is far from satisfactory. Not only were the GHG reduction targets insufficient (the targets announced in the context of the Paris Agreement are identical to those that were adopted by the conservative government), but there is also a high chance that even these low targets will not be attained given the weak policies that are currently in force.

¹ The **Green Climate Fund** (GCF) is a financing mechanism which was set up as part of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to transfer funds from economically-advantaged countries to vulnerable countries in order to reduce the effects of climate change.

In addition, in 2016 and 2017, the Canadian government disappointed many Canadians by making a number of decisions that placed the economy ahead of the environment and Indigenous peoples' rights:

- Approval for construction, extension, and replacement of a number of oil pipelines (Kinder Morgan, Enbridge - Line 3, and Keystone XL). If built, all of these projects will generate major increases in GHG emissions.
- Of the \$2.65 billion pledged to be disbursed by 2020 to support the countries of the Global South that are most affected by climate change, only 25% is dedicated to projects related to adapting to climate change.

Pope Francis exposes the problems associated with unlimited economic growth and our current production and consump-

tion models in *Laudato Si*, his encyclical on ecology and the protection of our common home, published in July 2015. The Pope reminds us to question the myth of progress, which assumes that environmental problems can be resolved simply through the use of technology without considering moral and ethical issues². He invites us to look further than the symptoms of climate change and asks us to target the causes of these changes, which are the current economic models of production and consumption³. He also calls for access for all to clean and renewable energy⁴.

Now more than ever, we must mobilize in favour of climate justice by denouncing Canadian government policies that are incompatible with the need for urgent action in order to avoid catastrophic global warming.

Figures on Canadian emissions

Independent Canadian studies show that GHG emissions in Canada increased by 20% between 1990 and 2014 and that over 70% of this rise can be attributed to tar sand extraction. Within the framework of the 2009 Copenhagen Agreement, Canada committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 17% in relation to 2005 levels by 2020 (*i.e.* bring them down to 622 megatons). In 2015, the government announced its new intention to instead reduce emissions by 30% in relation to 2005 levels by 2030 (*i.e.* bring them down to 524 megatons). However, the latest projections indicate a strong rise in emissions in the oil and gas sector that will increase Canadian emissions to 768 megatons by 2020, and to 815 megatons by 2030.

Our recommendations

In order for Canada to take a leadership role on climate issues on the national and international stage, Development and Peace is calling on the government to:

- Put in place appropriate climate policies that will allow Canada to meet its GHG reduction targets for 2020.
- Set new, more ambitious GHG reduction targets for 2025 and 2030.
- Immediately put an end to all public subsidies to the fossil fuel industry so Canada can honour the commitment it made in 2009 to gradually eliminate such funding by 2020 (together with the other G20 member States).
- Ban any new infrastructure projects that supports an economy that is dependent on polluting, non-renewable natural resource exploitation (this applies to oil and gas pipelines, hydraulic fracturing projects, and projects involving increased oil traffic along the Canadian shoreline).
- Actively contribute to public financial mechanisms that provide countries of the Global South with the resources they need to adapt to climate change in accordance with the concept of "common but differentiated responsibilities."⁵

² Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'* (24 May 2015), n° 60.

³ *Ibid.* n° 26

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Under Article 2 of the Paris Agreement, the Agreement "will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances." This principle structures the collective effort to combat climate change by distinguishing between countries depending on their historic responsibility and their capabilities.

Questions you can ask your MP:

- The most recent projections in terms of GHG emissions show that Canada is far from reaching the targets that the government set in 2009 and 2015. In your view, what concrete measures should be implemented by Canada in order to meet these goals?
- In 2009, in partnership with the G20 member States, Canada pledged to immediately put an end to all public funding to the fossil fuel industry. However, in 2015, Canadian public subsidies to oil and gas companies exceeded \$3.3 billion. How do you explain this situation and what remedies is your party proposing in order to address it?
- Canada has an historic responsibility where climate change is concerned. This is why it pledged \$2.65 billion to be paid by 2020 to help countries of the Global South that are most affected by climate change. According to you, is this amount sufficient?
- What can be done to ensure a fair transition towards an economic model that is sustainable and based on renewable energies?

Notes:

For further information

- The report **"Feeling the Heat: How Climate Change is Driving Extreme Weather in the Global South and Recommendations for Action in Canada"** produced by Development and Peace.
- The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) website: <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>.
- Development and Peace supports the Leap Manifesto: <https://leapmanifesto.org/en/the-leap-manifesto/>
- The report "Acting on Climate Change: Solutions from Canadian Scholars": <http://www.sustainablecanadialogues.ca/en/scd/endorsement>
- For more information on climate justice, please refer to Development and Peace's education campaign **Create a Climate of Change**.



Women and peace

Context

Development and Peace strongly believes in dialogue and tolerance as the foundation for creating peaceful societies. Over the course of our 50 years of existence, we have led many campaigns promoting peace and that oppose militarization. We have also supported a number of civil society organizations, coalitions and social movements to enable them to play a positive role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, notably in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, and Timor-Leste.

Drawing from this experience, we have seen that the inclusion and participation of women in peace and reconciliation processes are essential to the development of peaceful and safe societies. As tried and tested agents of change, women must have the means and power to do even more for peace and peacebuilding efforts. Unfortunately, to date, women are still mostly excluded from formal peace negotiations, peace operations, and reconstruction processes. This exclusion means that they are less likely to obtain justice for violations of their rights or to be considered when reforms of public policies and institutions are enacted.

However, women have long been associated with peace and peacebuilding in the world. Women peacebuilders have made essential contributions to peace processes and to rebuilding communities in various parts of the world, such as in Colombia, Guatemala, Liberia, Northern Ireland, and the Philippines, to name only a few. There are also countless examples of women's associations and movements involved in peace and reconciliation processes, whether at the national or international level, going as far back as the First World War.

Over the years, whether as mediators, activists, or community leaders, women have challenged militarism, opposed nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and prevented violent extremism, sometimes at the cost of their lives. By adopting community-based and non-violent approaches rooted in cooperation and trust, and by forming networks that cross political, religious, and ethnic boundaries, women have transformed peace and reconciliation processes on all continents.

Since the impact of armed conflicts on women differs greatly from those experienced by men, women make a distinct and essential contribution to peace processes. In situations of armed conflict or forced displacement, women are at greater risk of being sexually assaulted. They are often responsible for ensuring that their families are fed and housed and that their children have access to education. Because of these realities, women bring perspectives and priorities that are different from those of men, which means that when they participate in peace processes, the nature of the dialogue changes. Extensive research and studies have shown that including women



Some Statistics

- Of the 504 agreements signed since the adoption of Resolution 1325, only 138 (i.e. 27%) mention women.⁶
- In peace processes between 1992 and 2011, women represented only 2% of chief mediators, 4% of witnesses and signatories, and 9% of negotiators.⁷
- A peace agreement is 35% more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in its creation.⁸

and taking them into account in decision-making processes contributes to preventing conflicts, fostering peace, improving reconciliation processes, and extending security after the end of a war or conflict.

The need for equal participation of women in peace and reconciliation processes has been repeated many times, directly or indirectly, in a number of international declarations and key documents as well as by a good many high-level bodies. Among these was Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, which was adopted unanimously by the United Nations Security Council on October 31, 2000. This resolution reiterates the important role played by women in preventing and resolving armed conflicts, in peace negotiations, in peacebuilding and consolidation, and in post-conflict resolution. It calls on signatory States to ensure equitable participation of women in

these processes and to commit to protecting women against gender-based violence, in particular rape and sexual exploitation, in times of conflict.

Since its adoption, many other important resolutions concerning women, peace, and security have been adopted, but only marginal progress has been made. Endemic discrimination, marginalization by decision-makers, and gender-based violence remain important obstacles to the achievement of the objectives of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions. Tradition and cultural practices are also huge obstacles to the inclusion of women in peace and reconciliation processes or governance during the post-conflict period, unless a formal mechanism, such as the use of quotas, is in place to foster it. Finally, lack of resources is another major challenge faced by women peacebuilders.

Canada's role

Canada is a fervent supporter of international laws and mandates concerning women's rights and empowerment, including Resolution 1325. For example, Canada played a very active role in negotiating the Darfur Peace Agreement. The Government of Canada and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) provided important support to help women from civil society make their voices heard during the talks. In November 2017, the federal government renewed Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which will guide Canada's efforts from 2017 to 2022 to advance the role of women and girls in all stages of peace and to protect their human rights in fragile, conflict or post-conflict countries.

6 UN Women (undated). "Facts and figures: Peace and security." Online: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures> (page consulted on March 22, 2017).

7 Idem.

8 M. O'Reilly. Why women? Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies, Inclusive Society. October 2015, p.3. Online: <https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Why-Women-Report-2017.pdf> (page consulted on October 12, 2017).

Our recommendations

In order for Canada to be a true leader on the national and international stage concerning the issue of women and peace, Development and Peace calls on the government to:

- Strengthen its international diplomacy so it can contribute to lasting peace through political rather than military means.
 - Support women and women’s organization working for peace
- by adopting a tangible strategy and a specific timetable to reach a level of public development assistance that represents 0.7% of gross national income (GNI).
 - Propose international criteria and standards, particularly for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council.

Questions for your MP

- Despite announcements by the Liberal government to the effect that “Canada is back,” we witnessed a reduction of 4.4% of the international aid budget in 2016. What are your thoughts concerning this situation and how do you propose to rectify it?
- How do you explain that the national defense budget is being increased by 70% over 10 years while the international aid budget stagnates?
- Could you discuss concrete actions taken by Canada to promote the inclusion of women in recent peace negotiations, in Syria for example?

Notes:

For more information

- The thematic analysis **Women at the Heart of Change** published by Development and Peace (see p. 18 to 23).
- The political guidance document **How Canada can ensure a lasting peace in Syria?** published by Development and Peace (see p. 4).
- The UN Women **website**, and in particular its publication **Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325** which was prepared for the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325.
- The **website** of the American organization Inclusive Security. Their report **Why Women? Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies** is particularly interesting.
- The **Women, Peace and Security: Canada Moves Forward to Increase Women’s Engagement** report published by the Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights.



Food sovereignty

Context

It was at the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996 that the idea of food sovereignty was introduced for the first time into the public debate, as neoliberal policies and free trade agreements were having, and continue to have, devastating effects on small family farmers. Since then, this concept has become a major topic in the international agricultural debate. Two decades later, food sovereignty remains a relevant and vital approach to food. Our world produces enough food to feed the entire planet but due, among other things, to our unjust agricultural and economic models, one person in every nine currently suffers from hunger (*i.e.* 795 million people).⁹ Food crises are recurrent and more complex and multifaceted than in the past.

Food sovereignty is defined as “the right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, pastoral, labour, fishing, food and land policies, which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances. It includes the true right to food and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and food-producing resources, and the ability to sustain themselves and their societies.”¹⁰ It is therefore a “sustainable” practice, that is to say, unlike industrial agriculture, it is environmentally sound and does not contribute to global warming.

The current dominant food system relies mostly on industrial agriculture, which is a major contributor to climate change. This industrialized form of food production is responsible for almost half of GHG emissions and absorbs 70% of the world’s freshwater supply. The agro-industry, including the processing and distribution of food, are subject to a number of legitimate criticisms, and many agricultural stakeholders agree on the urgency of improving practices in order to limit the impact of the industrial agricultural model on climate change. Until now, measures taken to fight global warming and reduce GHG emissions (including climate-smart agriculture and the international carbon market) have proven to be inefficient and even disastrous for small family farmers. However, if small family farming¹¹ were to disappear because of global warming and pressure from multinationals, food security would be greatly undermined to the point of reaching unprecedented levels. There cannot be a world without small family farmers because not only are they the purveyors of food sovereignty, but they are also key players in the fight against global warming. For

9 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015*. Rome, 2015. Online: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646f/index.html> (page consulted on March 29, 2017).

10 This English version of the Declaration may be found online at <https://nyeleni.org/spip.php?article125> (text consulted on March 27, 2017).

11 When we refer to small-scale agriculture, also known as subsistence farming or peasant agriculture, we are referring to farmers who raise their livestock and grow their cereals, vegetables, and fruit on small plots of land, mainly to meet their family’s basic needs.

them to properly fulfill this dual function, however, they must be appropriately supported, especially women, who make up a large proportion of farmers in the Global South.

Not only is food sovereignty an inspirational means for fighting global warming, but it also proposes legitimate alternatives to the dominant food system, whose impacts on global warming are disastrous. One proposal that stands out due to its credibility, effectiveness, and capacity to address environmental and social justice issues, is agroecology. This approach to agriculture views human activities as an integral part of nature and its ecosystems and should follow its rules. Agroecological practices can help small family farmers improve their production

outputs, thus increasing their food security and income, while also significantly reducing GHG emissions.

To achieve food sovereignty, we need profound change. Both agroecology and food sovereignty require a transformation of society's power structures. Development and Peace works with small family farmers in the poorest regions in the world in order to help them overcome the challenges caused by climate change, unjust economic structures, and obstacles to accessing to land, water, and seeds. In solidarity with its partners, including a number of peasant movements, Development and Peace challenges the industrial agricultural model and supports peasant agriculture in order for food sovereignty to become a reality for our sisters and brothers all over the world.

Canada's role

In 2009, with other G8 countries, Canada endorsed the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. This initiative called for significant investments in agriculture and food security in order to reduce hunger in the world. That same year, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) adopted a new Food Security Strategy in which it promoted the following three areas of intervention: sustainable agricultural development, food assistance and nutrition, and research and development. Since the adoption of the Strategy, much has been achieved through hard work. However, while funding for food security and nutrition has continued to increase in recent years, research funding has remained stable and investments in agriculture have decreased significantly since 2011.¹² It is now time for Canada to review its Food Security Strategy and renew its long-term commitment through innovative approaches and new investments that meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people. Canada should focus its efforts on promoting sustainable agriculture and supporting small family farmers, while prioritizing food sovereignty and the environment, both nationally and internationally.

Our recommendations

Development and Peace calls on the Canadian government to:

- Support the transition, at the national and international level, to a locally-based, sustainable agricultural system, which will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, promote carbon sequestration in the soil, and help people face temporary food shortages, all while producing healthy and affordable food for all.
 - Promote policies that will help both women and men small family farmers access the resources and inputs that they need to produce food, i.e. land, water, seeds, and technical assistance. Control of these resources by large companies must be reduced so that they can once again become
- part of the common good. It also means ensuring that the voice of small family farmers is included, through the movements representing them, in all forums and decisions concerning them.
 - Create incentives to ensure a transition toward sustainable food systems involving, in particular, support for agroecological practices.
 - Promote women's rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as their full participation in the development of agricultural policies, decision-making, and small-scale sustainable agriculture.

Questions for your MP

- In your view, what is the role of sustainable agriculture and agroecology in the Canadian agricultural model?
- In your view, what concrete measures should Canada put in place in order to ensure that the voice of small family farmers can be taken into account in all forums and decisions concerning them?
- Canada's Food Security Strategy dates back to 2009. When does Canada plan to review this strategy? And, in your view, which approaches should be put forward to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people and ensure a transition toward sustainable agriculture?

¹² Canadian Food Security Policy Group (2015). *Re-committing to Global Food Security. A Multi-dimensional Approach for Canada to Advance a Food Secure Future*. Online: (page consulted on March 30, 2017).

Notes:

For more information

- The analysis *Small Family Farmers: at the Heart of Climate Justice* published by Development and Peace.
- The analysis *Let's Demystify Agroecology*, published by Development and Peace.
- Development and Peace's 2014 education and mobilization campaign, *Sow Much Love*.
- The *Agenda for Food Security and Resilience* by the Canadian Food Security Policy Group.
- The website of **La Via Campesina** movement and **USC Canada**.



Mining justice

Background information

The Canadian extractive industry has a presence throughout the world, in particular in the Global South. In fact, a large number of companies from this sector are registered in Canada: in 2015, over 55% of the world's public mining companies were listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and they operated in over 100 countries.¹³ Latin America, where 41% of operating large-scale mining companies are Canadian, is particularly impacted by the actions of these companies.¹⁴ In June 2016, 180 organizations promoting environmental protection and human rights in Latin America wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau asking him to deliver on his promise to introduce a mechanism aimed at holding the State and corporations to standards of social responsibility.

Canada draws important benefits from its extractive industry, sometimes to the detriment of citizens' interests and rights, particularly women and Indigenous peoples of the countries where these companies operate. Some Canadian mining companies remain in impunity in the face of a growing number of credible accusations of human rights violations ranging from gang rape to assassination.¹⁵ Many Development and Peace partner communities of the Global South have reported that their rights are being infringed, and that their health and living conditions are threatened by Canadian mining companies' operations.

Canadian courts have consistently declined jurisdiction over cases of human rights violations committed by Canadian companies operating abroad. So far, of the large number of accusations, very few cases relating to human rights violations by Canadian companies operating abroad have been accepted by Canadian judicial bodies.

The existing non-judicial mechanisms in Canada have proved to be inadequate, notably Canada's National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines (NCP) and Canada's Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility Counsellor. Because of their weak mandates, these two mechanisms have so far been ineffective in resolving conflicts and have not provided concrete solutions for communities and victims living the damage and violations of companies.

In addition, the finger is often pointed at Canada on the international stage: four United Nations agencies have demanded that Canada hold Canadian companies accountable for their operations abroad and the Inter-American Human Rights

13 Natural Resources Canada (2016). *Exploration and Mining in Canada: An investor's Brief*. Online: http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/mineralsmetals/pdf/mms-smm/poli-poli/pdf/Investment_Brief_e.pdf (page accessed on April 6, 2017).

14 S. Imai, L. Gardner and S. Weinberger (2016). "The 'Canada Brand': Violence and Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America." Osgoode Legal Studies Research Paper No. 17/2017. Online: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2886584 (page accessed on April 6, 2017).

15 Ibid.

Commission has held three hearings on the issue. One such hearing was granted in March 2015 to a coalition of Latin American Catholic organizations.¹⁶ During this hearing, which was attended by bishops from Canada and the United States, these organizations presented a report entitled “Position of the Catholic Church on the Violations and Abuse of Human Rights” in which they exposed human rights violations and abuse of communities by mining companies, and proposed solutions, such as the creation of an ombudsperson so that communities can have access to justice.

The Catholic Church has been promoting dialogue and action on mining for the last few years. In 2013, the Vatican hosted the first of three dialogues on the issue of mining. These meetings brought together mining company directors and representatives from communities affected by mining activities in order to encourage dialogue on the impacts of mining.

The Iglesia y Minería (Church and Mining) network, which unites several Catholic groups based in Latin America facing common challenges and impacts from mining projects in their communities, is a good example of an initiative emerging from the Church on this theme.

Canadians have a special responsibility to demand from their government and from the corporations headquartered here to come clean about the impacts of the extractive industry. This would be a voice for justice in Canada and for the persons whose rights have been violated by Canadian extractive companies operating abroad.

It is essential, now more than ever, that the Canadian government take concrete measures to ensure that all Canadian mining companies live up to the highest standards regarding human rights, labour laws and environmental legislation regardless of where they operate.

Development and Peace has been calling for access to justice since 2006

2006: Development and Peace launched its five-year campaign *Life Before Profit*. In its first year, 150,000 cards were signed asking that the Canadian government develop mechanisms to hold Canadian extractive companies accountable for their actions overseas.

2007: Development and Peace asked the Canadian government to establish an independent ombudsperson, as recommended by *The Final Report of the National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Canadian Extractive Industry in Developing Countries*. This time, 200,000 signatures were collected in support of this request.

2008: Development and Peace reiterated to the Canadian government its call for the implementation of the National Roundtables recommendations. Another 150,000 cards were signed in support of this action, for a total of 500,000 signatures asking for greater accountability from the extractive sector.

2009: Member of Parliament John McKay introduced Private Member’s Bill C-300, also known as the Responsible Mining Bill, which would legislate many of the recommendations from the National Roundtables. The same year, the Government of Canada created the Office of the Extractive Sector CSR Counsellor.

2010: Despite the mass mobilization of civil society organizations, including Development and Peace, Bill C-300 was narrowly defeated in the House of Commons by only six votes.

2013: Development and Peace joined the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA) in calling for the creation of an independent ombudsperson in Canada. The Voice for Justice campaign was launched and collected 85,000 signatures in favour of this proposal.

2014: Despite widespread support from opposition parties, Ève Péclet’s private member’s bill seeking to create an Ombudsperson was defeated with 127 votes for and 150 votes against. On May 14, 2014, hundreds of Development and Peace members and campaign allies gathered on Parliament Hill to hand the citizen-signed action cards to MPs. During this campaign, members met with 91 members of parliament throughout the country.

2015: During the federal election campaign, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party, and the Bloc Québécois committed to creating an Ombudsperson for the extractive sector. The Liberal government was elected.

2017: Despite its election promise, the Liberal government continues to delay the creation of the Ombudsperson.

¹⁶ Departamento de justicia y solidaridad del Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM), Secretariado latinoamericano y del Caribe de Cáritas (SELACC), Confederación latinoamericana y caribeña de religiosos y religiosas (CLAR), Comisión amazónica de Conferencia Nacional de Obispos de Brasil (CNBB), Red Eclesial Pan-amazónica (REPAM)

Our recommendations

Development and Peace, along with the other members of the *Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability* (CNCA), is asking the Canadian government to implement two measures so that people overseas who have been harmed by the activities of Canadian oil, gas and mining companies can have recourse to justice here in Canada. These two actions are:

- The creation of an extractive sector ombudsperson in Canada. This mechanism needs to have the power to receive complaints, undertake independent investigations

to determine if a company has acted inappropriately and, if so, to make recommendations to the company and to the Canadian government so there can be a remedy the situation. The ombudsperson should make its findings public and should be able to recommend the suspension or cessation of political, financial and diplomatic support by the Government of Canada. The ombudsperson also needs to be mandated to perform these functions regardless of a company's willingness to participate.

Questions for your MP

- | | |
|---|---|
| → Do you support the creation of an extractive sector ombudsperson in Canada? If so, what do you intend to do to support the establishment of this mechanism? | → What do you intend to do to ensure that individuals and communities affected by the activities of Canadian mining companies have access to justice? |
|---|---|

Notes:

[illegible]

For further information

- The website of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA), including the Parliamentary Report Card, and the document Talk is Not Enough.
- The report *The “Canada Brand”: Violence and Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America*.
- The 2013 Development and Peace campaign **A Voice for Justice**.

Conclusion

This guide was intended to provide you with the information you need to initiate constructive dialogue with your MP. By consulting the [House of Commons Calendar](#), you can see the times when the House is not sitting. It is best to request a meeting during those periods, as your MP will likely be in your riding at that time.

Development and Peace hopes that you will be able to engage in constructive dialogue with your MP, and congratulates you for your commitment to social justice. After you have met with or communicated with your MP, we ask you to fill out our [MP Report form](#) to let us know how it went. This type of information is very useful for the organization's follow-up activities and for continuing to engage elected officials on key issues throughout our advocacy program.

We want to hear from you!

If you have any questions, please contact us by [email](#) at advocacy@devp.org or by phone at 1 888 234-8533.