

GARBAGE CLEANUP ACTIVITY

STAND FOR
THE LAND

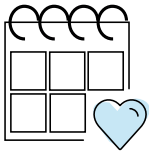
CLEANING UP THE LAND!

Connecting local action with global solidarity

Many of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's most successful and memorable campaigns have involved Fall actions that allowed people outside of our membership base to participate in a hands-on way (e.g., bottled-water-free parishes, buying fair trade clothing, climate marches, solidarity walks, etc.). While our letter writing and signature gathering campaigns are incredibly important, it is often the addition of local community events or activities that allows for broader and more engaged participation. Given the unique challenges of the past few years, it seems like an ideal time to provide an activity that allows for groups to connect with and through Development and Peace — Caritas Canada in a meaningful and memorable way.

This idea is simple: an individual, family, parish, school, community, group or workplace will organize a day of garbage cleanup. The scale, location and duration of the event can be decided locally. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada staff or members can use these events as opportunities to share more about our **Create Hope: Stand for the Land** campaign and gather signatures.

Organize a cleanup



1. PICK YOUR DATE AND FORM A GROUP

Decide on a date and place and invite people in your church community, your classroom, your school, your youth group, your confirmation class, your family....

How about:

SEPTEMBER 15 → World Cleanup Day

SEPTEMBER 26 → World Environmental Health Day

ANY DAY OF OCTOBER → Circular Economy Month

Or any other suitable day!



2. GATHER YOUR GROUP AND PICK YOUR SPOT

Maybe you want to walk in a block around your church, school or house? Maybe a nearby park or beach? Or maybe you want to go on a hike with your gloves and bags?



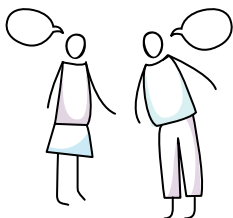
3. GATHER YOUR EQUIPMENT AND CLEAN UP GARBAGE

Wear gloves, closed shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Bring garbage bags that are strong and resistant. Bring garbage pickup tools if you want. It is important to remind people to be careful and observant when grabbing items – safety first!



4. TAKE A PHOTO!

Send it to your regional animator and tag us on social media @DevPeace #StandfortheLand #CreateHope #Cleanup.



5. INVITE PEOPLE TO CONNECT

While you are cleaning up garbage, you are working in solidarity with land defenders around the world. Take some time to reflect on how you feel about your home, the land and your community. Think about how you feel when you see how people pollute them with their garbage. Connect this idea with land defenders who are confronted with people destroying their community and destroying lives and livelihood in the name of profit.



6. PRESENT THE CAMPAIGN

If you or someone in your group is comfortable, share a little bit about Development and Peace — Caritas Canada’s **Stand for the Land** campaign. Visit devp.org/campaign/resources to discover resources for doing this, such as our Poster, Action Sheet, Backgrounder and Letter to the ambassador. Explain how our partner ERIC-Radio Progreso has invited us to stand in solidarity with the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector in their struggle against a mining company whose operations in the Carlos Escaleras National Park are poisoning their water and destroying their livelihoods.

Share what the Guapinol defenders Juana, Leonel and Daniel have to say:



“We live every day with the fear of being killed or having one of our children taken away.”

— Juana Zúniga, member of the Committee for the Defence of Common and Public Goods in Tocoa, Colón, Honduras.



“Communitites are displaced. Rights are violated. Access and right to water are denied. All this to give priority to the extration and pillage of resources.”

— Leonel George, member of the Committee for the Defence of Common and Public Goods in Tocoa, Colón, Honduras.



“It is urgent to cancel all mining in this area of our park. The company must be stopped, and all the damage it has caused to our rivers and mountains must be repaired.”

— Daniel Márquez, defender and former political prisoner, one of the Guapinol Eight.



7. SIGN THE LETTER

Invite everyone to stand in solidarity with the land and water defenders of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. Ask them to sign the letter to the ambassador of Honduras in Canada. You can share the printed version of the letter or invite them to sign online at devp.org/act.



8. BONUS - ORGANIZE A SCREENING EVENT

Invite people to enjoy some coffee together and show one or all of the following videos about land defenders:

- ***Stand for the Land*** – Guapinol animated 1 minute video clip
- ***Testimonials from Guapinol defenders*** (Juana, Leonel and Daniel)
- ***Standing for the Land in Honduras*** – a 10-minute documentary produced by our partner ERIC-Radio Progreso

