

2nd March 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, Ontario
By email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Cc:
François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Trade
By email: Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

Ombudsman

I write on behalf of the Justice in Mining Network, a global network of Jesuits and Jesuit institutions concerned with issues of equity and sustainability in mining projects.

Our Network works to raise awareness of the impact of our lifestyles on the environment, and to support local communities affected by extractives projects, particularly around issues of displacement, environmental damage and human rights abuses. This includes those affected by Canadian mining companies operating abroad.

We have received indications from Network members based in Canada that the Canadian government is considering creating a new ombudsperson office to receive complaints concerning the overseas operations of Canadian extractive companies. We believe there is great need for such an office, and commend the Canadian government for this action.

There are a number of elements that we believe are essential to ensure that the mechanism is credible. They include the following:

- the office will be independent (from government and industry)
- company participation in the process will be mandatory
- the ombudsperson will undertake investigations
- the process will be transparent
- it will feature public reporting, including reports on ombudsperson investigations

- the ombudsperson will publish a final report for each case that includes recommendations (this can include recommendations for the Canadian government)
- the ombudsperson will monitor compliance with recommendations
- companies that do not comply with recommendations will become ineligible for several forms of government support

There is no doubt that the work of Canadian mining companies has an impact on the lives of individuals and organisations globally. While people around the world depend on some of the materials extracted, they also have an interest in ensuring this is done in a sustainable manner that respects the environment and human rights. The appointment of an independent Ombudsman would be an important step in showing that Canada understands this.

Yours sincerely

Julie M. Edwards

Julie Edwards
CEO Jesuit Social Services and Leader, Justice in Mining Network