



Temuco- Santiago, Chile, March 2, 2017

Subject: Call for a human rights Ombudsperson for Canada's international extractive sector

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

On behalf of the Observatorio Ciudadano (Citizens Watch), a Chilean non governmental organization aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights, I am writing to urge you to create a Human Rights Ombudsperson for Canada's international extractive sector, a commitment made by the Liberal party during the 2015 election campaign. It has been over a year since the election and I am very concerned that there has been no action taken on this urgent matter.

We make this recommendation on the basis of our experience working with communities in Latin America which have been impacted in the enjoyment of their human rights by extractive industries, several of them domiciled in Canada. An Ombudsperson could be of great relevance to help prevent and mitigate human rights violations committed in the context of the activities of Canadian extractive industries in the region.

I strongly encourage you to use the draft model legislation prepared by the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (www.cnca-rcrce.ca) as a blueprint for the Human Rights Ombudsperson. The model bill would create an office that investigates human rights allegations and recommends remedial action, is independent of political or corporate influence, and is accountable to Canadians through public reporting. A Human Rights Ombudsperson will help protect human rights internationally and improve the performance and reputation of Canada's extractive sector.

I look forward to hearing from you about what concrete action you are taking to create the Ombudsperson office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Aylwin', written over a light grey rectangular background.

José Aylwin
Director
Observatorio Ciudadano

CC. The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, PC Minister of International Trade Government of Canada