Canadian and international civil society organizations, unions and investors' groups urge Canada to adopt mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation

As civil society organizations, trade unions, investors and/or subject-matter experts from around the world committed to upholding human rights (including Indigenous Peoples' rights), environmental protection, climate-change action, and fostering equitable and sustainable economic development, we call on the Government of Canada to adopt legislation requiring Canadian companies¹ to undertake human rights and environmental due diligence throughout their global operations and supply chains.

The draft model legislation the *Corporate Respect for Human Rights and Environment Abroad Act* (May 31, 2021) proposed by the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA) acknowledges that *all* human rights are worthy of protection, moves beyond the limitations of voluntary initiatives and reporting-only approaches, provides insight on important human rights and environmental considerations, and lays the groundwork for more robust and comprehensive human rights and environmental due diligence legislation in Canada.

The CNCA's proposed new law will:

- 1. establish a corporate duty to prevent human rights abuses and environmental damage;
- 2. create a corporate obligation to undertake comprehensive human rights due diligence; and
- establish a right of action in Canadian courts (civil lawsuit) if Canadian companies, their subsidiaries, suppliers or subcontractors cause human rights abuse or environmental damage abroad. It would also establish a right of action if companies don't develop, implement or report on adequate human rights and environmental due diligence procedures.

Adopting legislation such as the *Corporate Respect for Human Rights and Environment Abroad Act* (May 31, 2021) will incentivize Canadian companies to proactively prevent harms to human rights and environment, recognize the right to remedy for negatively impacted peoples, and help the Canadian government fulfill its international human rights responsibilities as set out in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

¹ Canadian companies includes those that are domiciled in Canada and those who sell goods or services in Canada if they also have a physical connection to Canada.

This call is endorsed by:

Canada

- 1. Above Ground
- 2. Americas Policy Group
- 3. Æquo, Services d'engagement actionnarial
- 4. Amnesty International Canada
- Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI)
- Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network (ARSN)
- 7. Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers
- 8. Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
- 9. Canadian Jesuits International
- 10. Canadian Labour Congress
- 11. Canadian Lawyers for International Human Rights (CLAIHR)
- 12. Centre Oblat A Voice for Justice
- 13. Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO)
- 14. Climate Action Network Canada
- 15. CoDevelopment Canada (CoDev)
- 16. Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine (CDHAL)
- La Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)
- 18. Cooperation Canada
- 19. Council of Canadians
- 20. Development and Peace: Caritas Canada
- 21. Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec (CSN)
- 22. Friends of the Earth Canada
- 23. Grandmothers Advocacy Network
- 24. Inter Pares
- 25. Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice

- 26. KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- 27. Ligue des droits et libertés (LDL)
- 28. Maquila Solidarity Network
- 29. Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network (BTS)
- 30. Mennonite Central Committee Canada
- 31. Mining Injustice Solidarity Network (MISN)
- 32. MiningWatch Canada
- 33. Office for Systemic Justice, Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada
- 34. Oil Change International
- 35. Oxfam Canada
- 36. Oxfam Québec
- 37. Peace Brigades International Canada
- 38. Projet Accompagnement Québec-Guatemala (PAQG)
- 39. Public Service Alliance of Canada
- 40. Le Regroupement pour la Responsabilité Sociale des Entreprises (RRSE)
- 41. Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE)
- 42. Sisters of Saint Martha
- 43. Solidarité Laurentides Amérique Centrale (SLAM)
- 44. Stop Ecocide Canada
- 45. Unifor
- 46. United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW Canada)
- 47. The United Church of Canada
- 48. United Steelworkers
- 49. Vancouver Investment Management
- 50. World Vision

International *

- 51. Accountability Counsel
- 52. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- 53. Corporate Justice Coalition (UK)
- 54. Due Process of Law Foundation
- 55. European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ)
- 56. International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (US)
- 57. Investors Alliance for Human Rights
- 58. Project HEARD (Netherlands)
- 59. Project Demokratie Cafe Reutlingen (Germany)
- 60. Project PODER (Mexico)
- 61. Gaia Amazonas (Colombia)

^{*} See also the letter signed by 150+ organisations and unions representing directly- impacted communities and workers at: https://cnca-rcrce.ca/site/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/GLOBAL-SIGN-ON-LETTER-FINAL-AS-OF-MAY-31-2021.pdf







AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL







Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale

CALL

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

| ACAMS

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES OF LABOUR LAWYERS | AVOCATS DU MOUVEMENT SYNDICAL





















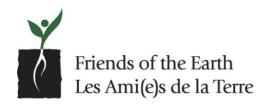




Development and Peace CARITAS CANADA

























Mennonite Central Committee























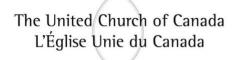
















Vancity Investment Management

International *























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