ADVOCACY GUIDE:
TALKING ABOUT GLOBAL JUSTICE WITH YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
Introduction

Inspired by our faith and Catholic Social Teaching, including 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. Over the past decade, the Canadian government’s actions on social justice here in Canada and on the international stage have not measured up to the expectations of Canadians, nor to its prior commitments. However, Development and Peace is hopeful that by engaging with Members of Parliament (MPs) we will be able to make real progress in re-establishing Canada’s leadership on social, economic and environmental justice. Development and Peace hopes to actively engage with the new federal government, which has expressed its commitment to dialogue and consultation.

Development and Peace would like to assist our members who are interested in meeting with their newly (re)elected MPs 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. In addition to the sample letter, this advocacy guide was created to help you prepare for your meeting with your MP. In this guide, you will find details about our organization as well as information about our four current advocacy priorities: climate change, the Syrian crisis, international aid 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. Your regional animator is available to assist you to request and prepare for your MP meeting. Their contact information is available on our Contact Us page.

About Development and Peace

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 with their 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. 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. 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.

Who is this guide intended for and how can it be used?

This guide was created for all members and supporters of Development and Peace who wish to play an active role in our advocacy efforts and ensure that the voices of communities in the Global South are heard as we fight for global justice. It provides background information on our advocacy priorities, our policy recommendations for the Government of Canada, and suggested questions that may be asked during meetings with your MP.

If you are able to hold a meeting with your MP, we ask that you fill out our MP meeting reporting form, available on our website, so that we can record the number of meetings that were held across the country and what was discussed. This information is very useful for continuing to engage elected officials on our issues through our advocacy program.

What is advocacy and why is it important for Development and Peace?

As a Catholic international solidarity organization, the mission of Development and Peace is to educate, mobilize and take action against the systems that create, perpetuate or exacerbate injustice and poverty. Our organization believes that the root causes of poverty are structural, meaning that they largely result from decisions made by national and international institutions, both public and private. Our advocacy program aims to influence the decision makers who develop, reform, and implement policies, who distribute resources or who make any other decisions that affect the life of vulnerable communities.
Issues

This advocacy guide presents four current issues which are priorities for Development and Peace: climate change, the Syrian crisis, international aid 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 MPs and asking them questions about the issues presented in this guide.

Climate change

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, global warming 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 global warming 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.

The Syrian crisis

Since 2011, Syria has been experiencing a brutal civil war with little hope for an end to the conflict. What many believed would be a short-lived struggle has turned into the largest refugee crisis in the world, and one of the worst humanitarian emergencies today. The Government of Canada must show leadership in contributing to the resolution of the conflict through political and diplomatic measures, rather than through a military solution. In the meantime, Canada must respond to the suffering of Syrian civilians in their own country, as well as refugees exiled in neighbouring countries.

International aid

In recent years, there have been significant changes to Canada’s international aid policies. These changes have not always been beneficial for the communities in the Global South, for whom this assistance is intended. However, Canada’s Official Development Assistance Accountability Act and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer principles on which we can base our Official Development Assistance (ODA). It is important to remind MPs of Canada’s commitments in terms of ODA and our responsibility to help build a more just, equitable and peaceful world that is based on solidarity.

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 change

Background information

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 should 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. In fact, independent Canadian studies show that Canada’s GHG emissions increased by 18% between 1990 and 2012, and that 73% of that increase is attributable to the development of the bitumen sands. 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, as their exploitation will result in a rise in temperature that will have devastating consequences for the economy, as well as for humanity and the environment. A transformation of how we produce and consume energy in Canada is urgently necessary. The federal and provincial governments currently provide approximately $4.5 billion a year in subsidies for the production and consumption of fossil fuels in Canada. These subsidies could be redirected to the development of renewable energies or financing of projects in the Global South.

Industrial agriculture and the dominant food production model play an important role in climate change. Current food systems are responsible for almost half of GHG emissions and absorb 70% of the global supply of fresh water. The industrial agricultural system, as well as food processing and food transportation systems, are subject to legitimate criticism. However, this industrialized system is rarely questioned in debates about climate change and food security. Agro-ecological practices can help farmers improve their yields and increase food security and income. Small-scale 2 and environmentally-responsible agriculture can also significantly reduce GHG emissions.
Pope Francis exposes the problems associated with unlimited economic growth and our current production and consumption 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 could be resolved simply through the use of technology without considering moral and ethical issues. 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 consumption.

Since the election of the new federal government in October 2015, there has been a clear change in direction regarding the fight against climate change. We are pleased to see that this issue now occupies an important place in the government’s priorities. Several positive initiatives have taken place, including the participation of a Canadian delegation at COP21. Development and Peace welcomes the fact that the Canadian delegation endorsed a global goal of limiting the rise of average temperatures to within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels. Canada also advocated for the inclusion of human rights language, including the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in the Paris Agreement, and not just in the preamble.

**Our recommendations**

To ensure that Canada takes on a leadership role both nationally and internationally on climate issues, Development and Peace urges the Canadian government to:

- Establish more specific and ambitious targets for the reduction of GHG emissions by 2025 and 2030, while maintaining the decisive leadership necessary to meet the national targets established for 2020.
- Have a national decarbonization plan in place by 2020 to ensure a just transition from Canada’s current fossil-fuel dependent economy towards one that is sustainable and based on energy efficiency and renewable energy, and that will ensure full decarbonization of the economy by 2050.
- Make a significant contribution to financing mechanisms aimed at providing communities in the Global South with the necessary resources to adapt to climate change according to the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities.”

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**Notes**

1. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a financing mechanism which was set up as part of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCC) to transfer funds from economically-advantaged countries to vulnerable countries in order to reduce the effects of climate change.
2. Small-scale agriculture, also called subsistence or peasant agriculture, refers to agriculture performed by farmers who raise livestock and cultivate grains, fruit, and vegetables on small plots of land, mainly to provide for the essential needs of their families.
4. Ibid. no 26
5. Ibid.
6. According to article 2, the Paris Agreement will be applied to respect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capacities in regard to different national contexts. This principle structures the collective effort to respond to climate change by distinguishing between countries based on their historical responsibilities and their capacities.
Questions for your MP

→ In a context where the urgency to act is no longer a topic of debate, what is your and your caucus’ plan for achieving the goals of the new universal agreement on climate change that was signed in Paris in December 2015?

→ Canada committed to contributing $2.65 billion for climate change funding for vulnerable communities by 2020. According to you and your caucus, do you consider this amount sufficient? How will these resources be distributed (between adaption and mitigation projects)? What form will they take (loans or grants)?

→ What should Canada’s new energy and economic model be? What role will energy efficiency and renewable energy play? How can we ensure a just transition towards a sustainable energy model?

→ Do you support carbon pricing? Are you in favour of ending government support for coal mining, as well as oil and gas production?

→ What role should small-scale farming play in the Canada’s agricultural model?

Questions for Liberal Members of Parliament:

→ Canada made a commitment to contribute $2.65 billion by 2020 to assist vulnerable communities to fight climate change. Do you know which financing mechanisms will be chosen? For example, will these amounts be in the form of loans or grants, and how will the amounts be divided between mitigation and adaptation efforts?

→ The Liberal government committed to gradually ending fossil fuel subsidies. How will you make sure that this promise is kept?

→ The Liberal government also pledged to transition to a green economy by investing in green technologies and by creating green jobs. Concretely, what will you do to ensure that this transition happens quickly?

For further information

For more information on climate justice, please refer to Development and Peace’s education campaign Create a Climate of Change.

The report Feeling the Heat: How Climate Change is Driving Extreme Weather in the Global South and Recommendations for Action in Canada brings together scientific data on climate change with the personal experiences of communities and organizations supported by Development and Peace, and proposes recommendations on how Canada can play its part in addressing climate change, and reducing its impact on the poorest countries of the world.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), which brings together Catholic organizations and individuals around the world who are committed to the issue of climate change, has some helpful resources.
The Syrian crisis

Background information

Since 2011, Syria has been immersed in a brutal civil war that began in the wake of demonstrations and public protests, led mainly by a student movement in search of democracy, civil liberties and equality. Protesters ended up calling for the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad, whose family has been in power in Syria since 1971, but they were met with strong resistance. The government used military force to quell the protests and the situation rapidly degenerated into a civil war between the Syrian government and armed opposition groups. Among these groups, one calling itself the “Islamic State” took this moment of tension and division to establish itself in Syria and has brought more violence and persecution to the Syrian people. The war has resulted in tremendous suffering of civilians and is creating an overwhelming humanitarian crisis in the entire region.

What Syrian people have been facing since 2011 is catastrophic. Civilians are often the main target in this conflict, experiencing sexual violence, forced disappearances, displacement, indoctrination of children as soldiers, summary executions and deliberate bombings of civilian infrastructure. There are also critical shortages of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical supplies and other necessities. With the deteriorating economic situation and the worsening humanitarian crisis, displaced Syrians must depend more and more on international humanitarian aid to meet their needs, making our support and solidarity even more essential. These alarming numbers show the breadth of the crisis:

- 13.5 million Syrians need humanitarian assistance;
- 6.5 million Syrians are displaced within Syria;
- Over 4.8 million people have found refuge in neighboring countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt);
- According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than a million illegal migrants and refugees arrived in Europe in 2015, originating mainly from Syria, Africa and Southern Asia;
- Over 470,000 people have been killed and over one million injured;
- According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Syria’s development has regressed by almost four decades;
- Life expectancy is estimated to have shortened by almost 13 years and school attendance has dropped by more than 50 percent.

This crisis is having unprecedented social and economic impacts on countries in the region that are welcoming refugees. It is affecting their stability and exacerbating existing tensions in communities, since the large number of refugees is placing enormous pressure on basic social services and creating competition for scarce jobs and limited resources. These countries cannot bear the responsibility of hosting and protecting
refugees without the support and action of the international community. Development and Peace welcomes recent initiatives by the Government of Canada, including the resettlement of 25,000 Syrian refugees to the country and increasing the amount allocated to humanitarian aid and long-term development. However, given the tragic situation, which is deteriorating by the day, Development and Peace urges the government to do more to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and assist the most vulnerable, who are so severely affected.

Questions for your MP

→ Canada is responding to the crisis by providing aid for humanitarian, development, and security programs in Syria and throughout the region, as well as by welcoming 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada. Do you see other ways that Canada can contribute to ending the crisis, especially by addressing its root causes, for example, by participating in the peace negotiations led by the Vienna group?¹

→ The armed actors in Syria are not respecting international humanitarian law which requires the protection of civilians and access to humanitarian aid. What can Canada do to ensure that civilians, including civilians in regions under siege, have access to humanitarian aid? Would you agree to make a public statement to call for guaranteed access to humanitarian aid?

→ What role can Canada play in supporting the actions taken by the United Nations to lead inclusive peace negotiations? Do you think Canada should ensure that the voices of Syrian civil society, including the voices of women, are heard in the peace process?

→ What can Canada do to support reconciliation initiatives that support the development of an inclusive Syrian society based on respect for ethnic and religious plurality?

Notes

1. The Vienna group, which is officially called the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), is made up of three organisations (the Arab League, the United Nations, and the European Union) and 17 countries (China, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States). They meet periodically to discuss methods to end the Syrian conflict as soon as possible.

Our recommendations

Development and Peace believes that the impacts of this crisis clearly show the urgent need to find a politically negotiated solution to this conflict. We are asking the Canadian government to do everything in its power to:

→ Strengthen its work on the international diplomatic front to find a lasting peace through political rather than military means, and bring the voice of Syrian civil society to the negotiating table;

→ Ensure access to humanitarian aid so that it can reach those most vulnerable, and ensure that civilians in Syria are protected;

→ Promote both social cohesion and self-sufficiency among Syrian refugees and their host populations through the implementation of inclusive projects to ensure livelihoods.

For further information

To learn more about Development and Peace’s response to the crisis in Syria, visit the Syria page on our website and read our report Crisis in Syria: Giving Hope through Solidarity as well as our most recent info sheet Five years of conflict in Syria: Working for peace and dignity for Syrians. Our petition calls on the Canadian government to do everything in its power to protect civilians in Syria and to end this conflict through diplomatic means.
International aid

Background information
As one of the richest countries in the world, Canada has contributed to international aid efforts since the 1960s. Over the years, Canada has participated in a number of major summits and signed numerous international treaties aimed at eliminating poverty. In 1969, the Liberal Canadian Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson, led the work of a United Nations Commission which recommended that donor countries contribute 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to international aid. This benchmark is still recommended by the UN to donor countries. Canada, however, has never managed to reach this target. Instead, its contribution has declined substantially in recent years. In 2014, according to OECD figures, Canada allocated only 0.24% of its GNI to international aid. This means that Canada ranks 13th among the 23 donor countries, whereas it stood 6th in 1995.

During recent years, Canada’s approach to international aid has changed (especially since 2010), putting Canada’s commercial, political and military interests above those of people affected by poverty and injustice. This approach took a major turn in 2013 with the adoption of the concept of "economic diplomacy," which was presented in the government’s Federal Global Markets Action Plan. Under this new "diplomacy," the interests of Canada’s private sector are considered a priority in terms of both development and international relations.

However, the experience and lessons from decades of research on approaches to international development show that this approach is not an effective way to eliminate poverty and may greatly undermine efforts to reduce poverty and undermine local community initiatives and local governance bodies. In fact, these guidelines do not meet the requirements of Canada’s own Official Development Assistance Accountability Act, which states that ODA should contribute to poverty reduction, take into account the perspectives of poor people, and be compatible with international human rights standards.

Development and Peace welcomes with optimism a number of the promises made by the Liberal Party during the 2015 election campaign, including an openness to dialogue and collaboration with Canadian stakeholders and international assistance organizations to develop a new policy and financial framework that will guide Canada’s decisions on development aid. In addition, Development and Peace appreciates the government’s adherence to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its support to their principle of universality.

Notes
1. Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of all goods and services produced within a country during a given year. It is also a measure of the income generated by production within a country. Gross National Product (GNP), which is now referred to as Gross National Income (GNI), is made up of GDP plus the net income earned from investments abroad, minus similar payments made to non-residents who contribute to the domestic economy. This definition comes from the Parliament of Canada webpage Official Development Assistance Spending (page consulted on February 18 2016).
Our recommendations

Development and Peace asks the Government of Canada to:

- Show leadership on the world stage by adopting a concrete strategy and a precise agenda to reach a level of official development assistance that represents 0.7% of Canada’s GNI.
- Refocus Canada's official development assistance on helping the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people, and on supporting fragile states.

Questions for your MP

- Are you and your caucus ready to commit to increasing the share of Canada's gross national income allocated to official development assistance? And if so, what is the percentage targeted and how do you plan on achieving this?
- How do you and your caucus intend to integrate the needs and perspectives of communities of the Global South in projects supported by official development assistance?
- Do you and your caucus intend on acting to ensure that official development assistance no longer prioritizes Canada’s economic interests? If so, how will you achieve this?

For further information

For more information on the issue of international aid, Development and Peace invites you to visit the website of your provincial international cooperation council. These councils and local member organizations represent more than 400 organizations throughout Canada that work to promote social justice and sustainable democratic development around the world. Development and Peace invites you to learn more about activities organized by the council in your province or region related to the four issues presented in this guide.

- Canadian Council for International Cooperation: ccci.ca
- Atlantic Council for International Cooperation: acic-caci.org
- Quebec Association of International Cooperation Organizations: agoci.qc.ca
- Ontario Council for International Cooperation: oic.on.ca
- Manitoba Council for International Cooperation: mcic.ca
- Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation: earthbeat.sk.ca
- Alberta Council for Global Cooperation: aggc.ca
- British Columbia Council for International Cooperation: bccic.ca
- Northern Council for Global Cooperation: ncgc.ca
- A brief update on Canadian Official Development Assistance prepared by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) was released in January 2016: Time for Canadian Aid to Really Bounce Back.
Mining justice

Background information

The Canadian extractive industry has a presence throughout the world, in particular in the Global South. A large number of extractive companies are based in Canada. In fact, in 2014, the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and TSX Venture Exchange included 57% of the world’s publicly-listed mining companies, whose activities impact citizens in over 100 countries. 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.

Many communities in the Global South have reported that their rights are not respected and that their health and livelihoods are threatened by Canadian mining operations. 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.

Certain Canadian companies from the extractive sector are the focus of increasing and credible accusations of human rights violations. In March 2015, a coalition of Latin American Catholic organizations (CELAM, SELACC, CLAR, CNBB and REPAM) received a hearing at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to bring attention to this situation. 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.

Currently, very few cases of human right abuses by Canadian companies in the extractive industry are presented before judicial bodies in Canada. This is due, in part, to the fact that Canadian courts have generally declined to hear cases brought forward by foreign plaintiffs, arguing that other jurisdictions are more appropriate venues to hear and judge such claims (the legal principle of forum non conveniens). In addition, plaintiffs also face significant financial and logistical hurdles when considering Canadian courts. The existing 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 with the damage and violations of companies.

Globally, there is widespread recognition that there is an urgent need to improve access to remedy for the victims of corporate abuse. The United Nations prioritized this area as one of the fundamental pillars of its ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’
Questions for your MP

Do you believe that victims of human rights abuses associated with the international operations of Canadian extractive companies should be able to access justice in Canada?

What do you intend to do to ensure that individuals and communities affected by Canadian mining companies activities have access to justice?

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?

Do you believe that people who have been seriously harmed by the international operations of Canadian companies should be able to access justice through civil lawsuits in Canada?

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.

- The adoption of federal legislation allowing non-Canadians who are affected by the overseas operations of Canadian extractive companies to bring civil lawsuits before Canadian courts. The statute should clarify that Canadian courts are an appropriate forum to hear claims against extractive companies that are registered in Canada.

For further information

Visit the website of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA), with whom we worked closely in 2013 on our A Voice for Justice Campaign: cnca-rcrce.ca.

The CNCA also produced a Parliamentary Report Card on the commitments made by federal political parties on corporate accountability mechanisms, and the MP voting record of Bill C-584, the international extractive sector Ombudsperson bill.

Please also refer to the Development and Peace campaign A Voice for Justice, which calls on the Government of Canada to establish an independent ombudsperson for the Canadian extractive sector.

framework on business and human rights. In the past, Development and Peace has supported Bill C-300, which was introduced in the House of Commons by Liberal MP John McKay in 2010 and Bill C-584, which was introduced by NDP MP Ève Péclet in 2014. These Bills were respectively on responsible mining and on the corporate social responsibility of the Canadian extractive industry in developing countries. We continue to assert that the Canadian government must ensure that Canadian extractive companies respect human rights, including workers’ rights, free, prior and informed consent of communities and environmental legislation. It is therefore 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.
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 2016 Calendar, you can see the times when your MP will be available in your riding to meet with constituents. These times are ideal for requesting a meeting with your MP. Development and Peace hopes that you have a fruitful meeting with your MP, and congratulates you for your commitment to social justice. Lastly, we ask you to fill out our MP Report form after your meeting to let us know how it went. We want to hear from you!

If you have any questions, please contact us by email or by phone at 1 888 234-8533.

Credits

This guide was written by the research and advocacy team at Development and Peace.

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Ce guide est également disponible en français.