AN OMBUDSMAN FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING

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

In 2009, the Office of the Extractive Sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Counsellor was established to resolve conflicts between affected communities and Canadian extractive sector companies outside of Canada.

Due to a weak mandate, the CSR Counsellor has been inadequate in resolving conflicts and has not provided effective remedy to communities.

Canada needs an effective and independent extractive sector ombudsman.
I am concerned by the actions of Canadian mining companies operating overseas and support the creation of a legislated, extractive sector ombudsman mechanism in Canada that would have the capacity to:

1. Receive and investigate complaints, and assess compliance with corporate accountability standards that are based on international labour, environmental and human rights norms;
2. Make public its findings;
3. Recommend remedial actions; and
4. Recommend sanctions by the Government of Canada, such as withholding financial and political support to any company that does not comply with standards.

Please take action to ensure that an ombudsman mechanism is instituted in Canada and call on your caucus to support this initiative. Thank you.

First Name                               Last Name                                           Signature
Address
City or town                                       Province                                     Postal Code
E-mail

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