



# Meeting your Member of Parliament

## Talking points for meeting with your Member of Parliament (MP)

- Canada must take urgent action. An effective human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) law in Canada would have a significant impact in protecting human rights around the world, help restore Canada's reputation as a leader in human rights and ensure that those who work to protect our planet and their communities stop being targeted for their efforts.
- Human rights and environmental defenders face significant threats, harassment, and criminalization for their efforts to protect their homes, their livelihoods, and ecosystems that are important to both culture and the future of our planet.
- Canadian companies, and companies that import into Canada, are implicated in human rights and environmental damage around the globe. In particular, Canada is home to 75% of the world's mining companies. Canada offers considerable support to Canadian companies overseas, including advice on foreign markets, partnership and contact facilitation, intelligence through the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service; diplomatic relations, trade promotion and consular support through Global Affairs Canada; and a variety of investment strategies and programs.
- Despite knowing of corporate abuse for decades, Canada has failed to establish rules that require companies to respect human rights and the environment when they operate abroad.
- Those who have been harmed by the international operations of Canadian companies, and companies importing into Canada, often find they have nowhere to go to seek justice — not in their own countries, not through international mechanisms and not in Canada. Inaction in Canada can mean impunity for serious adverse human rights and environmental harms.
- Development and Peace has worked with the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability for more than 15 years, calling on the federal government to develop legal mechanisms that will hold Canadian companies accountable for their actions abroad.
- Canada advances the *United National Guiding Principles for Responsible Enterprise* since 2011 and has endorsed supply chain due diligence such as the *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for responsible Business Conduct*. However, by merely 'supporting' and 'encouraging' its responsible business conduct strategies, Canada fails to ensure Canadian companies actually abide by these practices.

- The 2018 [Government of Canada announcement](#) of the creation of an independent ombudsperson was encouraging, as the announcement included that the ombudsperson would have the power to investigate human rights abuse linked to the overseas operations of Canadian companies. However, after significant delays, the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) opened to receive complaints on March 15, 2021, without with the promised powers.
- While claiming to be a leader in responsible business conduct, Canada is falling behind in corporate accountability. Many European countries and the European Commission are in the process of studying, implementing and advancing laws that require effective due diligence across the global operations and supply chains of companies registered in their countries.

### **3 key points about the proposed HREDD law to share with your MP**

Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD) legislation would:

1. Establish a duty to prevent human rights and environmental harms through global operations and supply chains.
2. Create an obligation to undertake due diligence, involving consultation with relevant stakeholders, and report annually.
3. Establish a commissioner's officer to ensure reporting and access to Canadian courts for communities that have experienced harm or when a company fails to conduct adequate due diligence. A limited defence is provided if a company can demonstrate they conducted effective due diligence.

Development and Peace supports the model legislation drafted by the [Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability](#), the [Corporate Respect for Human Rights and the Environment Abroad Act](#).

#### ***Additional resources:***

- [FAQ on Due Diligence Legislation](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)

#### **Ask your MP to...**

When you meet with your MP, you will have the opportunity to ask them to support the implementation of human rights and environmental due diligence legislation. Here are some suggestions for ways you can ask them to take action:

- Table your petition to the House of Commons.
- Raise a question in the House of Commons about Canada falling behind global leaders in responsible business conduct, and in human rights and corporate accountability.

- Pledge to support human rights and environmental due diligence legislation in one of the following ways:
  - » **Sign the printable pledge below** (page 5) and take a photo of your MP holding the signed pledge. Share this photo by emailing it to [comms@devp.org](mailto:comms@devp.org)
  - » **Film your MP pledging support** (script on page 4). Post this to social media, tagging [@Devpeace](https://www.instagram.com/devpeace) and [@cnca-rcrce](https://www.instagram.com/cnca-rcrce)
  - » **Use the sample social media pledges below** (page 4) to announce their support, tagging [@Devpeace](https://www.instagram.com/devpeace) et [@cnca-rcrce](https://www.instagram.com/cnca-rcrce)
- Encourage their fellow parliamentarians and their party to support due diligence legislation.



**Please go to [devp.org/reportback](https://devp.org/reportback) to share with us about your meeting**

# I PLEDGE!

## 1. Video pledge for social media

I hereby pledge that, as a Member of Parliament, I support the establishment of a law that requires companies to prevent human rights abuse and environmental harm overseas, and that includes real consequences for companies that fail to take adequate steps to prevent harm.

## 2. Written pledge for social media, with a photo of your meeting group:

### TWITTER



I support the creation of a law that requires companies to prevent human rights abuse & environmental harm overseas, & that includes real consequences for companies that fail to prevent harm.

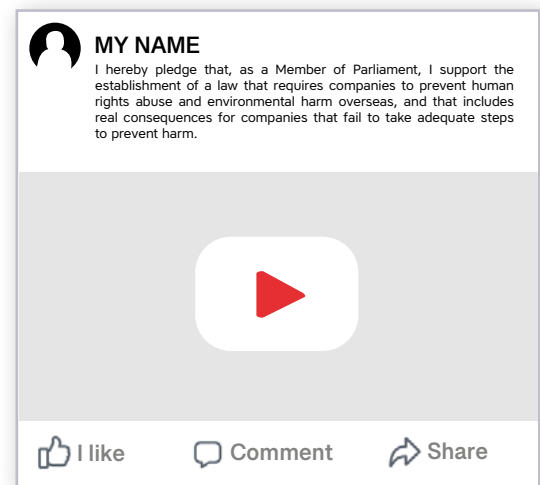
[@devpeace](#) [@cnca-rcrce](#)  
[#PeoplePlanetFirst](#)

### FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM



I pledge that, as a Member of Parliament, I will support the creation of a law that requires companies to prevent human rights abuse and environmental harm overseas, and that includes real consequences for companies that fail to prevent harm.

[@devpeace](#) [@cnca-rcrce](#)  
[#PeoplePlanetFirst](#)  
[#HREDD](#)  
[#cdnpoli](#)  
[#humanrights](#)  
[#accountability](#)



# I PLEDGE!



## **Pledge to end corporate human rights abuse and environmental damage abroad**

Building on a global momentum towards increased corporate human rights and environmental due diligence, Canadian civil society organizations have developed a model legislation that would:

- **Require companies to prevent adverse human rights impacts and environmental damage throughout their global operations and supply chains;**
- **Require companies do their due diligence, including by carefully assessing how they may be contributing to human rights abuse or environmental damage abroad and by providing access to remedy when harms occur;**
- **Result in meaningful consequences for companies that fail to carry out and report on adequate due diligence; and**
- **Establish a legal right for people who have been harmed to seek justice in Canadian courts.**

I hereby pledge that, as a Member of Parliament, I support the establishment of a law that requires companies to prevent human rights abuse and environmental harm overseas, and that includes real consequences for companies that fail to take adequate steps to prevent harm.

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**Signature**

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**Name**

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**Constituency**

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**Date**