

## MODEL LETTER TO MPs

Dear (Member of Parliament),

I am writing to ask you to ensure that people harmed by the overseas operations of Canadian mining, oil and gas companies be able to access justice in Canada. We need an extractive-sector Ombudsperson and access to Canadian courts.

Canada is home to more than half of the world's mining companies, with active projects in more than 100 countries. Canadian mining, oil and gas companies are often viewed as a representative of Canada abroad, but human rights abuses, environmental damage, displacement and violations of basic labour rights are increasingly associated with these projects.

There is no international system that currently governs resource extraction to protect human rights or the environment. In many countries where extractive companies operate, protections do not exist or are not enforced, multilateral institutions are often weak or inaccessible, and there are barriers to seeking justice in Canada.

The Canadian government must act now to ensure that Canadian oil, mining and gas companies live up to international human rights, labour and environmental standards. As my MP, I would like you to work in Parliament to:

1. **Create an independent extractive-sector Ombudsperson in Canada**, with the power to investigate complaints and make recommendations, including suspending or ending Canadian government support to companies that do not respect international standards. Unlike the CSR Counsellor's Office, the Ombudsperson needs to be mandated to make its findings public and perform these functions regardless of a company's willingness to participate; and
2. **Facilitate access to Canadian courts** for people who have been seriously harmed by the international operations of Canadian companies. Canadian courts are appropriate venues in which to hear claims against companies registered in Canada. However, to date, plaintiffs have faced difficulties accessing Canadian courts.

I am calling on you, as my MP, to actively support these measures and to call on all Parliamentarians to support such initiatives. I would like you to speak with Minister of International Trade, Chrystia Freeland, to ask her to champion the CNCA's model ombudsperson legislation.

I look forward to hearing your views and how you and Minister Freeland will take action on this issue at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Name

Address (with postal code)

Phone number

Email