



Mining Justice: Addressing Human Rights and Environmental Abuses

Questions for Candidates

- **What will you do to make sure that human rights are protected when Canadian companies operate at home and abroad?**
- **When people are harmed by the international operations of Canadian companies, will you and your party make it easier for them to get access to justice through Canadian courts?**
- **The Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise does not have the power to compel documents and testimony. Without these powers, the Ombudsperson cannot uphold human rights. What steps will you take to fix this?**
- **Many Canadian pipeline or other extractive projects are proposed for Indigenous lands without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples who are affected. How do you respond to these projects?**

Why Ask These Questions?

The United Church of Canada believes that people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. We expect public and private institutions to be held accountable for the social and environmental consequences of their activities.

Background Information

Half of the world's mining and exploration companies are based in Canada. These companies work in more than 100 countries around the world. Every day, rural communities in Canada and around the world—especially Indigenous communities—are affected by what these companies do. These communities live with the negative social and environmental effects of mining and exploration activities.

- Too often, Canadian mining companies take part in, or ignore, human rights and environmental abuses at home and abroad. In many countries, resource extraction results in displacement of people from their lands. When communities resist, mining companies sometimes use unlawful force against them.
- Government policies tend to support mining companies rather than the people affected by mining. Community leaders who oppose government policy have been killed, jailed, and intimidated.
- The actions of mining companies have led to the loss of small farms and the loss of Indigenous peoples' rights to traditional land.
- People who are harmed by the activities of Canadian oil, gas, and mining companies in other countries should have recourse to justice (including the right to sue) here in Canada.

- The Canadian government has appointed an Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE). However, The United Church of Canada is disappointed that this is not an independent office. The ombudsperson should have real power to investigate abuses and order redress for the harm caused by mining.

Learn More

cnca-rcrce.ca

miningwatch.ca

www.kairoscanada.org/tag/mining-justice

www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/mining-and-resource-extraction

www.unitedforminingjustice.com

*They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the
Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 11:9