

## Proposal 12

**Title:** Concerning Corporate Accountability of Canadian Mining Companies Overseas

**Originating Body:** Church in Action Committee of Maritime Conference (Mining Connections Working Group)

Maritime Conference Action: transmit with concurrence

It is proposed that the 84<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference* (2009) urge the Government of Canada to establish clear legal norms in Canada to ensure that Canadian companies, ~~and~~ residents *and any mining company doing business in Canada* are held accountable when there is evidence of environmental and/or human rights violations associated with the activities of Canadian mining companies by:

1. Writing the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Industry, and the Minister of the Environment with these requests.
2. Encouraging members, congregations and presbyteries to write government officials (listed in item 1) in the same regard.
3. Participating in a post card mail-in campaign to the Prime Minister in support of the initiative underway by the Catholic organization, Development and Peace.

### **Background:**

The United Church of Canada has worked for many years with partners in several countries in the global south whose land and way of life have been threatened and/or destroyed by Canadian mining practices.

The Canadian extractive industry, including mining, oil and gas companies, has been implicated in well-documented cases of human rights violations and environmental disasters. Allegations of toxic dumping, the destruction of protected areas, forced displacement of indigenous peoples, collaboration with repressive regimes, and threats of and intimidation of local communities, have been associated with the activities of specific Canadian companies abroad.

When some Canadian corporations go abroad, there are no effective accountability mechanisms in Canada to ensure that they abide by international human rights law and environmental standards.

The current voluntary approach to corporate accountability has failed in practice, and relies on the willingness of companies to comply with human rights and environmental standards.

Our Catholic brothers and sisters through the Canadian organization Development and Peace have initiated an action campaign to hold Canadian mining companies accountable for their actions overseas.

Sean Handcock made a friendly amendment to the “It is proposed” statement adding the words “Annual Meeting of” after “the 84<sup>th</sup>” and to add “and any mining company doing business in Canada” after “Canadian companies, ~~and~~ residents”

**AMENDMENT CARRIED**

It is moved by Bob Johnson, seconded by Peter Smith that the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference approve Proposal #12 entitled “Concerning Corporate Accountability of Canadian Mining Overseas.”

**MOTION CARRIED**