



Amnesty International CANADA

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Mr. Garry D'Andrea, COO
Grand and Toy
33 Green Belt Drive
Don Mills, Ontario,
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January 30, 2008

Dear Mr. D'Andrea:

I am writing on behalf of Amnesty International Canada. Amnesty International believes that all firms share a responsibility to promote respect for human rights within their operations and in the communities where they are active. The United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights calls on all sectors of society - including economic actors - to uphold human rights. Amnesty International Canada regularly engages in dialogue with Canadian incorporated companies regarding the range of actions that should be taken to live up to that responsibility.

As you may be aware, Amnesty International Canada holds a corporate account with Grand and Toy for the purchase of office equipment and paper supplies. As a customer, we would like to take the opportunity to share with you our concerns about Grand and Toy's sourcing of paper products that may be derived from logging carried in out in clear violation of the human rights of the people of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in northwest Ontario.

The people of Grassy Narrows are parties to the 1873 treaty known as Treaty 3. This treaty affirms that the Anishabe peoples of this region have the "right to pursue their avocations of hunting and fishing throughout the tract." Such treaty rights are entrenched in the Canadian Constitution and have been repeatedly upheld by Canadian courts. Furthermore, Canadian courts have clearly established that all decisions with the potential to impact on treaty rights or the inherent rights of Aboriginal peoples require, as a minimum, meaningful consultation and accommodation of Indigenous concerns and, if the threat to this rights and interests is particularly great, may require consent.

Despite this, the province of Ontario has licensed extensive clear cutting logging throughout much of the traditional territory of the people of Grassy Narrows against their clearly expressed wishes and without adequate protection for their right to use and benefit from the land through activities such as hunting, fishing and gathering of wild berries and medicines.

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It is our understanding, and therefore of concern, that trees logged from this area enter into the Canadian paper supply, some of which is sold by Grand and Toy (and by your parent company, OfficeMax in the United States).

In April 2007, Amnesty International conducted an international research mission to Grassy Narrows to study the impact of large-scale industrial activity in the territory on human rights. We have repeatedly brought to the province of Ontario our concern that the right of Grassy Narrows to give their informed consent to logging within their traditional territory has been ignored and that large-scale logging activities represent a significant threat to the way of life of a community that has already been pushed to the brink of destruction by government actions. We have accordingly supported the moratorium on industrial development called by the community in January 2007

Amnesty International has called upon Abitibi-Bowater (which has the logging license for the Whiskey Jack Forestry Management Unit at Grassy Narrows) and Weyerhaeuser Company (which sources half its wood supply from Grassy Narrows) to voluntarily suspend forestry and sourcing practices in the area until the Grassy Narrows First Nation gives its informed consent. We have called upon the province of Ontario to implement a moratorium on logging and other industrial development in the Grassy Narrows traditional territory until free, prior and informed consent is given, and furthermore, to bring all provincial laws, regulations and policies in line with international obligations with respect to the rights of indigenous peoples.

Our public briefing paper can be found at:

<http://www.amnesty.ca/amnestynews/upload/grassynarrows0907.pdf>

We are pleased to read on your website that through your partnership with Deloitte and Touche, Grand and Toy is committed to sustainability and to developing environmental and social policies that "nurture, support and inspire people". We are particularly interested in pillars five and six of your sustainability policy: 5) sustainable/ethical sourcing and 6) impacts on communities. We would very much like to receive a copy of this policy, about which you state on your website, "This integrated sustainability approach is a leading step in the industry and Grand & Toy is ready to lead the way towards an inclusive sustainability vision".

Amnesty International believes that Grand and Toy, as major paper buyer, is in a position to play an active role in encouraging the forest industry and the government of Ontario to respect the human rights of the people of Grassy Narrows. Specifically, we urge Grand and Toy to support Grassy Narrows' call for a moratorium on industrial development in the territory until the community grants its free, prior and informed consent to logging and the granting of further licenses. The company could demonstrate its support by determining if – or how much of – the wood fibre used in your paper products is sourced from Grassy Narrows and encourage your supplier to purchase wood fibre from alternative sources.

As a Grand and Toy customer, we hope that Grand and Toy will support the respect of human rights at Grassy Narrows. We would appreciate any information you can provide us about how your company upholds the human rights of indigenous peoples through your sourcing practices and how this is reflected in your company policies. We would be pleased to receive copies of any public statements you make regarding this matter.

We would welcome an opportunity to speak with you to address any questions or concerns that this letter may raise. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Alex Neve
Secretary General