

Dear [your MP here],

When the federal budget became public on March 22, 2017, I was very disappointed to see nothing budgeted towards a Human Rights Ombudsperson for Canada's international extractive sector. Not only was this commitment made by the Liberal Party of Canada during the 2015 election campaign, but ignoring this issue allows for continued suffering at Canadian extractive projects around the world.

Letters from around the world have been sent to Prime Minister Trudeau about this matter, and Prime Minister Trudeau's response is clear: corporate accountability matters fall under the purview of the Minister of International Trade, François-Philippe Champagne. **Please contact Minister Champagne this month to let him know that your constituents urge the Government of Canada to create a Human Rights Ombudsperson for the extractive industry and to make this a priority.**

Canada is home to more than half of the world's mining and mineral exploration companies as well as many medium and large-sized oil & gas companies. Many of these companies operate in the developing world. A 2009 report, commissioned by the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, found that of 171 high profile conflicts involving mining companies over the previous decade, Canadian companies were involved in four times as many incidents as their closest peers in Australia and the UK. A 2016 report of the Justice and Corporate Accountability Project at Osgoode Hall Law School documented 100 incidents of violence associated with Canadian extractive companies operating in Latin America between 2000 and 2015. This included 44 deaths, 30 of which the researchers described as "targeted". This is unacceptable, and has been able to go unchecked for far too long.

Existing mechanisms such as the CSR Counsellor's Office and the OECD National Contact Point have proven themselves toothless and ineffective. I strongly encourage you to use the draft model legislation prepared by the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability ([www.cnca-rcrce.ca](http://www.cnca-rcrce.ca)) as a blueprint for the creation of a Human Rights Ombudsperson for the extractive industry. The model bill would create an office that investigates human rights allegations and recommends remedial action, is independent of political and corporate influence, and is accountable to Canadians through public reporting.

Please let me know when you have informed Minister Champagne plans about this urgent matter and what his plans are in this area. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[name, city and postal code]