

## **Monthly update – September 2006**

### **Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability – Civil Society Focal Point**

In September, the second National Roundtable on Corporate Social Responsibility was held in Toronto. Most of the CNCA's September activities were directly or indirectly related to the Toronto roundtable. This two-page report provides a brief overview of these developments and offers useful information for those interested in getting involved in the roundtable process or related events.

#### **1. Toronto National Roundtable**

The Toronto roundtable focused on both positive and negative incentives and instruments for implementation of CSR standards. It provided an excellent opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to present their views to the Roundtable process. (A brief overview of this event is at: [http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/CNCA\\_Roundtables#updates](http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/CNCA_Roundtables#updates) )

##### **1.1. Summary Report of the second National Roundtable.**

The objective of this report is to provide a summary of the discussions that took place during the Open Sessions and Issue Focus Sessions. It includes a summary of the information provided during the oral presentations, of the policy-relevant debate during the Issue Focus Sessions and a list of actionable ideas put forward by participants within the breakout groups. Further analysis of these actionable ideas will be conducted to assess their quality in the next roundtable.

Civil society members of the Roundtable Advisory Group participated in the review of the Toronto draft summary. This report is scheduled to be posted on the Roundtable website by October 6. Written presentations submitted at the Toronto Roundtable are available on the Roundtable website: [http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/current\\_discussions/csr-roundtables-en.asp](http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/current_discussions/csr-roundtables-en.asp).

#### **2. Calgary National Roundtable**

It will be held at the Delta Bow Valley hotel from October 10 to 12. The themes to be explored in this third roundtable are the same as in Toronto but with a focus on the oil and gas sectors.

The Issue Focus Sessions will benefit from the expertise both of Southern voices and civil society experts from Canada and abroad. Among them, it is worth mentioning the participation of Ian Gary (Oxfam America); Patricia Feeney (RAID-UK); Audrey Macklin (University of Toronto); Vicky Tauli-Corpuz (Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, Philippines); Mahamat Abakar (ACORD-Africa); Ken Georgetti (CLC); Francisco Ramirez-Cuellar (Colombia) and Hilde Jervan (Norwegian).

The Open Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm and Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. While initial interest was slight, more than thirty people (civil society, industry and academia) are now registered to make oral presentations in Calgary.

### **3. New tools to get involved in the Mandatory not Voluntary Campaign.**

The CNCA has developed **two new tools** to allow interested organizations and individuals across Canada to get involved in this campaign.

A **Policy Statement** for organizations to endorse. If your organization wishes to endorse the CNCA statement of demands, please send the name of your organization and a contact person to Andrea Botto at [cnca@halifaxinitiative.org](mailto:cnca@halifaxinitiative.org).

A **Petition to Parliament** asking the Government to move away from its voluntary approach to corporate social responsibility and to regulate the behaviour of Canadian companies abroad. This is not an electronic campaign and its success depends on the collective effort from those concerned with these issues. Each petition should have a minimum of 25 signatures. Should you be interested in helping us, please contact Andrea Botto at [cnca@halifaxinitiative.org](mailto:cnca@halifaxinitiative.org).

Both tools can be downloaded from the CNCA website: [http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/CNCA\\_Endorsements](http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/CNCA_Endorsements).

### **4. Montreal National Roundtable**

The fourth National Roundtable will be held in Montreal from November 14 to 16. The themes to explore during the Issue Focus Sessions are Host Country Capacity and Assistance to Companies.

Montreal will provide the last opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to make an oral presentation to the Roundtable process. To do so, you need to register in advance through the Government website. **Deadline for registration** is October 31, 2006 at 12:00 p.m. advanced Eastern Time. Speakers will be contacted by the Government after the end of the registration period.

Oral submissions can address any of the five themes covered throughout the process. Participants are encouraged to focus their presentations on recommendations to improve the behaviour of the extractive sector industries abroad. More information is available at: [http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/Issues\\_CNCA](http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/Issues_CNCA).

#### **4.1. Parallel activities to the Montreal Roundtable**

Montreal-based organizations together with members of the CNCA are organizing several events (educational events, film festival, and public actions) in the run-up to the Montreal roundtable. Their next meeting is scheduled for **October 17** at *l'Entraide Missionnaire* (15 rue Castelnau Ouest) at 13:30 pm.

For more information on the different events currently being planned contact:

- Film festival: [Laetitia.tankwe@fondaction.com](mailto:Laetitia.tankwe@fondaction.com)
- Educational event – November 13<sup>th</sup>: [andrefortin@suco.org](mailto:andrefortin@suco.org) and/or
- Public Action – November 14<sup>th</sup>: [gaiquel@web.ca](mailto:gaiquel@web.ca)

In addition, *l'Institute d'etudes internationales de Montreal* (IEIM) is organizing a series of six roundtables on the exploration of natural resources and conflicts in the XXI century. *Ressources naturelles et conflits au XXI – Or, pétrole et diamants – Des richesses pour qui?* The second roundtable will look at corporate social responsibility. It

will be held on **November 13 at 19:00**. Location: 200 rue Sherbrooke Ouest, SH 2800. More information is available at <http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/ieim>. Or contact: Groupe de recherche sur les activités minières en Afrique (GRAMA) at (514) 987-3000 ext. 2462.

**5. Atlantic Canadian Tour: Indonesians resisting Canadian Mining Abuses.**

In the run-up to the Montreal roundtable, two Indonesians will tour the east coast of Canada and participate in several events to raise awareness about the problems associated with the presence of Canadian mining companies in their communities. For more information contact: Tracy at [tracy@jatam.org](mailto:tracy@jatam.org)