

Monthly Update – October 2006

Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability – Civil Society Focal Point

1. Calgary Roundtable

The third roundtable was held in Calgary from October 10 to 12, 2006. As in previous events, it included two Open Sessions and an Issue Focus Session. The former provided an opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to voice their views and concerns and the latter enabled a second in-depth discussion, with invited participants, members of the Steering Committee and Advisory Group, on Incentives to support the implementation of CSR standards and Dispute Resolution and Monitoring Mechanisms.

Although the Calgary roundtable covered the same themes as the Toronto event, the Calgary meeting offered an opportunity to examine these issues from the perspective of the oil and gas sectors. Most Canadian oil and gas companies are based in Alberta. A two-page overview of the event is available at the CNCA website. For more information see: http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/CNCA_Roundtables.

1.1. Summary Report of Calgary Roundtable

The summary report of the Calgary roundtable is being prepared by Stratos Inc. with input from the intergovernmental Steering Committee and members of the Civil Society and Industry Advisory Group. The first draft was circulated to the Steering Committee and Advisory Group for comments. A final version of this report will be posted on the government website in advance of the Montreal roundtable.

In addition, the reports of the Vancouver and the Toronto roundtables, including oral presentations submitted to the Government, are available on the Government website. For more information see: http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/current_discussions/csr-roundtables-en.asp.

2. Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability

Members of the network held several meetings during October. The purpose of these meetings was to report back from and assess the Calgary roundtable and to prepare for the Montreal roundtable. CNCA members brainstormed and collectively identified a good number of actionable ideas on *Host Country Capacity* and *Assistance to Companies* to be submitted to the Steering Committee ahead of the fourth and final roundtable. The proposed actionable ideas submitted by the different members of the Advisory Group and Steering Committee will be discussed with invited guests during the Issue Focus Session in Montreal. The idea behind this methodology is to enable a more focused discussion in Montreal.

In addition, Montreal based members of the CNCA and the coordinator of the CCIC Asia Pacific Group actively participated in the preparation of a wide range of parallel activities to be carried out in advance of the Montreal roundtable.

3. Montreal Roundtable

The fourth and final roundtable will be held in Montreal from November 14 to 16. A large number of individuals and organizations have registered to speak at the Montreal Open Sessions and will be contacted during the first week of November to confirm their

participation. Deadline to submit written presentation to the Roundtable process is **November 17, 2006.**

The closed session discussion in Montreal will benefit from the participation of the following invited experts: Thomas Akabzaa (University of Ghana, works with Third World Network); Gerry Barr (President, CEO of Canadian Council for International Cooperation); Eduardo Chaparro Avila (ECLAC – Chile); Jose de Echave (Director of Mining & Community Program, CooperAccion); Jean-Louis Roy (President, Rights & Democracy); Jacques Boengkih (Director of New Caledonia Indigenous People' initiative); Salil Tripahi (Policy Advisor International Alert). Paul Conibear (Director Tenke Mining); Arving Ganesan (Human Rights Watch); Jean Claude Katende (ASADHO); Karin Lissakers (Revenue Watch Institute); Isabelle Pain (Superintendent of Aboriginal Affairs – Inco); Michael Rae (Council for Responsible Jewellery Practice's), Peter Sinclair (Barrick Gold); Anne Slivitzky (PERCAN); Meg Taylor (Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman –MIGA); and Canadian Ambassador to Peru, Genevieve des Rivieres.

4. Parallel Activities to the Montreal Roundtable

The Coalition on Mines, a Montreal-based coalition of more than 25 members, and members of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability are actively involved in the preparation of several interesting public education events in the run up to the Montreal roundtable.

A film festival, which began during the last week of October, received an excellent response from the public. The film program is posted on the CNCA website. For further information contact: Laetitia at laetitia.tankwe at fondaction.com.

The one day public symposium called “*Extractive Industries? Destructive industries?*”—*The Social and Environmental Impacts of Canadian Companies Operating Abroad* will be held on November 13th at the Universite du Quebec a Montreal. The conference is open to the public and there will be simultaneous translation in English and French. This event provides an opportunity for the public to hear from international experts on the impacts of Canadian mining companies' operations in developing countries. For more information contact: Martin at (514) 387-2541 ext. 238.

Coinciding with the roundtable Open Public Session, members of the Coalition on Mines, together with the AQOCI are organizing a public action day that will include street theatre in several locations throughout Montreal and will end at the Holiday Inn where the public session will be held. For further information, please contact: Gerardo at gaiquel@web.ca.