



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Melissa Skelton
Bishop

The Hon François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of International Trade
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

2017.06.14

Dear Mr Champagne,

At our recent Diocesan Synod a presentation was made which delineated the many places around the world where Canadian mining companies are involved in exploration and extracting resources. A central concern was expressed that local communities and, in many cases, local indigenous communities are suffering the effects of this mining activity. These people have no place to make their case or have their concerns heard.

As a result the Synod passed the following resolution which calls upon the Government of Canada to create the position of a human rights ombudsperson for the international extractive sector. This office would necessarily have the power to investigate independently any complaints which are brought to the attention of the ombudsperson who would make public their findings and call upon the respective companies to comply.

Diocese of New Westminster – Synod – May 26-27, 2017--Resolution No. 9

MOVED/SECONDED The Revd Emilie Smith / The Revd Expedito Farinas

RESOLVED that this Synod, through the Bishop to the International Trade Minister Francois -Philippe Champagne, calls upon the Government of Canada to institute a human rights ombudsperson for the international extractive sector with the power to independently investigate complaints.

I look forward to receiving your assurance that the Government of Canada will do all in its power to create such a position and thereby safeguard the communities impacted by Canadian mining interests abroad.

Yours sincerely,

The Right Revd Melissa Skelton
Bishop



cc: The Hon. Gerry Ritz, PC MP
(Member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet for International Trade)

Ms Tracey Ramsey, MP
(NDP Critic for International Trade)

Ms Elizabeth May, MP