



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

Consistoire du Québec

Québec Presbytery

March 13, 2018

**M&O the Beaconsfield Initiative of The United Church of Canada, is continuing to explore Canadian mining practices and human rights violation in the Philippines by educating our partners on how to access the newly appointed Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE).**

## **The Philippines (proposal)**

**Originating Body:** Quebec Presbytery

**Funding Implications:** Existing Funding and Special Appeal

**Staffing Implications:** Existing

**Source of Funding:** General Council Partners in Mission Budget and Special Appeal

**Synode Montreal & Ottawa Conference proposes**

**To direct the Executive of the General Council and General Secretary, General Council to:**

- 1. Offer training to the national staff of The United Church and the Beaconsfield Initiative on how to make applications to the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE);**
- 2. Create a pool of legal resources (lawyers, others trained in this area) to our partners in the Philippines bringing complaints forward to CORE;**
- 3. Create written resources on the process for submitting a claim to CORE that would be shared with United Church partners in the Philippines;**
- 4. Share information, resources and training with our partners in the Philippines on how to make applications to the Ombudsperson (CORE);**
- 5. Organize a training mission to the Philippines to inform and train our partners in the Philippines on the process of making a submission to CORE.**

**To take the following actions:**

**a) Encourage our church members to lobby the Canadian government to change the Mining Act in order to apply all our environmental, human rights and labour laws to the Canadian mining corporation operating outside of Canada;**

**b) Share the stories of the marginalized people in the Philippines people through church newsletters, sermons, social media, and websites;**

**c) Contact Kairos and other church partners to do the same.**



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

Consistoire du Québec

Québec Presbytery

## **Background:**

This proposal will help the United Church to continue to challenge Canadian mining practices and human rights violation in the Philippines, through sharing and creating resources that will enable our partners' access to the newly appointed Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise.

The Beaconsfield Initiative has had two exposure missions

2010 – To establish long-term covenants with partner organizations and congregations in the Cordillera Region in the Northern Philippines;

2015 – To evaluate the impact of Canadian mining practices and interests in the Southern Philippines.

These exposure missions identified widespread human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, some directly linked to the activities of Canadian mining companies.

The current situation continues to worsen. As documented by the Centre for Philippines Concerns (an umbrella group) some 16,000 people have been killed, the Moro people are being targeted as “terrorists” and there is a rise in clergy deaths related to their activism.

President Duterte’s government is continually disregarding human rights as evidenced by the ongoing war on drugs, the rejection of agrarian reform, the cancellation of peace talks to end the civil war, and the rejection of international aid tied to respecting human rights.

**The recent creation of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) creates a unique opportunity to advocate for human rights and justice in the Philippines. Core is mandated to investigate human rights abuses linked to Canadian mining companies and to solve disputes or conflicts between communities and Canadian companies. It has power to independently investigate complaints, report, recommend remedies and monitor implementation of actions.**