



## Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

October 29, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Diocese of Peterborough,

Most of the world's mining companies (75%) are headquartered here in Canada. While mining is an important part of our world's economy, mining practices in the Global South often lead to environmental destruction and violence against local communities and Indigenous peoples. Pope Francis drew attention to these harmful practices and impacts in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si*. For many years, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has called on our government to address these abuses committed by Canadian companies in other parts of the world.

In 2020, the Canadian bishops, together with many of our brother bishops around the world, signed a letter calling on the European Union to pass legislation that would "introduce mandatory environmental and human rights due diligence, that is, to identify, assess, stop, prevent and mitigate the risks and violations to the environment and all human rights throughout the supply chains of businesses and to substantially improve the possibilities of affected people to claim for compensation in national civil courts."

In 2021, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada (DPCC) is collecting petition signatures to urge Canadian politicians to adopt such legislation here in Canada. The petition is an action tied to DPCC's fall campaign, *People and Planet First*, which emphasizes that even as we talk about climate change, we must not forget the poor. With so many of the world's extractive industries headquartered in Canada, we are in a privileged position to influence these companies as we listen to what Pope Francis refers to as "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." I support this campaign by Development and Peace – Caritas Canada and its call for due diligence legislation. You can learn more about the *People and Planet First* campaign at [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org).

If you have further questions, please contact your local DPCC parish representative, or Donna Modeste at [peterboroughdp@gmail.com](mailto:peterboroughdp@gmail.com).

Yours in Christ,

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Bishop of Peterborough

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