

Rights Action – September 13, 2012

**THE INSIDIOUS, UNDEMOCRATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
MINING COMPANIES AND CANADIAN POLITICIANS AND
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:
Goldcorp pays for trip to Guatemala for Canadian
Parliamentarians who meet with Guatemalan law makers to
discuss mining law reforms in Guatemala**

On August 30, we re-circulated a Mining Watch media release, that Goldcorp Inc. was organizing a free-be junket, for Canadian parliamentarians, to visit the "Marlin" mine in Guatemala: <http://rightsaction.org/action-content/goldcorp-organizing-free-be-junket-canadian-elected-parliamentarians-visit-marlin>

BELOW: A new Mining Watch statement: **“Canadian Parliamentarians meet with Guatemalan Legislators on Goldcorp’s Ticket”**

PLEASE WRITE & KEEP ON WRITING – THESE ARE “OUR” PROBLEMS

Please send copies of this information, and your own letters, to your own Member of Parliament, other government officials, and to your own media.

“This trip reinforces what [Guatemalans] have seen for decades: a cozy relationship between big business and legislators that undermines their rights, this time with a Canadian face.” (Jen Moore, Mining Watch)

North American resource extraction companies operate around the world with the full support of North American governments. Please send copies to pension funds across North America – like the Canada Pension Plan – that are invested in and profiting from most North American resource extraction companies around the world, with no real concern for environmental, health or human rights concerns.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE GOLDCORP FUNDED TRIP, August 29-31:

Conservative MPs Dave Van Kesteren and Dean Allison (both members of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee)

Liberal MP Massimo Pacetti

Independent MP Bruce Hyer

Senator Mac Harb

www.miningwatch.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 11, 2012

**CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET WITH GUATEMALAN
LEGISLATORS ON GOLDCORP’S TICKET**

(Ottawa) Records filed Monday confirm that four Canadian Members of Parliament and one Senator flew on Goldcorp’s tab to visit company operations in Guatemala and meet with legislators in charge of mines at the end of August.

Don Boudria, a lobbyist hired by Goldcorp VP Brent Bergeron, reported to the Lobby Registry of Canada that Conservative MPs Dave Van Kesteren and Dean Allison, both members of the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee, along with Liberal MP Massimo Pacetti, Independent MP Bruce Hyer and Senator Mac Harb participated in the three-day junket that took place from August 29th to 31st.

Two weeks ago, an email leaked to MiningWatch Canada flagged that the trip was taking place. The tip off became news in Guatemala even before Goldcorp's jet, in which the delegation traveled, touched down in the capital city. Guatemalan press confirmed that the delegation would meet with the Legislative Commission on Mines and Energy.

President of the Legislative Commission, Edgar Cristiani, told the press they would discuss "different positions on mining, the experience of their country with mining, royalty payments, as well as the issue of conflicts." Confronted with publicized comments from Goldcorp's Brent Bergeron about his interest in seeing Guatemala's mining law modernized with the help of the Canadian government, Cristiani denied that the Parliamentarians sought changes to favour Canadian interests.

Goldcorp's Guatemalan Executive Director, Mario Marroquín Rivera, insisted to the press that the group had "no hidden agenda". In a communiqué, Goldcorp's Guatemalan subsidiary described it as "a good will visit" and "part of a routine agenda of supervision of Canadian investments that Parliamentarians carry out in different parts of the world."

"In the case of the Marlin mine, given that it belongs to Goldcorp, this is a very important reference point for the parent company and for Canada," Mario Marroquín Rivera further explained in the press release.

Nonetheless, the timing of the trip and meetings with Guatemalan ministers coincides with uncertainty over the country's mining code. In July, Guatemalan indigenous organizations presented arguments in a constitutional challenge to the current mining law for failure to consult with them over legislative changes that affect their rights. That same month, President Otto Pérez Molina hit the mining news in Canada when he proposed mining code reforms, which originally included ramping up state participation in mining projects to a potential 40%. Shares of Tahoe Resources, in which Goldcorp holds a large stake, fell 24% the same week.

The Western People's Council (CPO by its initials in Spanish) whose legislative commission filed the constitutional challenge against the current mining law held a press conference on August 30th to express disappointment at the government not having informed them of the delegation's visit. The closed door meeting between the Parliamentarians and Guatemalan legislators led CPO representative Josué Navarro to remark, "It leaves a lot to be desired when authorities fail to hold these sorts of meetings in the public realm. We have a pending constitutional challenge against the mining law; so this affects us."

"Since when do Parliamentarians provide routine oversight at Canadian mine sites abroad?" asks Jen Moore, Latin America Program Coordinator for MiningWatch Canada. "I doubt that the average Guatemalan took the company's statements seriously. This trip reinforces what they've seen for decades: a cozy relationship between big business and legislators that undermines their rights, this time with a Canadian face."

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RECENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- GOLDCORP ON TRIAL: People's Health Tribunal Finds Health Harms and Other Violations at Goldcorp Mines Throughout Mesoamerica:
<http://rightsaction.org/action-content/goldcorp-trial-first-ever-peoples-health-tribunal-shows-commonalities-throughout>
- Mining, repression and the rhetoric of democracy and the rule of law in Guatemala:
<http://rabble.ca/news/2012/08/mining-repression-and-rhetoric-democracy-and-rule-law-guatemala>

Forthcoming Film "Gold Fever"

(Watch trailers: <http://www.gprojectfilm.org/video>)

"Gold Fever" is about gold mining and global impunity in Guatemala. In the film, Noam Chomsky asks: Is it proper "to benefit from over half a century of repression, violence, destruction, and elimination of democracy"? Goldcorp Inc. continues to mine relentlessly in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, despite 8 years of documented health and environmental harms and other human rights violations. Investors across North America - from public pension funds to private equity capital - profit from their investments, with no apparent concern for how the profits are made.

GET INFORMED / GET INVOLVED

- SPEAKERS: Contact us to plan educational presentations in your community
- JOIN A DELEGATION: Form your own group or join one of our delegation seminars to Guatemala and Honduras to learn first hand about community development, human rights and environmental struggles
- DAILY NEWS: www.democracynow.org / <http://therealnews.com> / www.upsidedownworld.org / www.dominionpaper.ca / www.rabble.ca /

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS:

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