



Canadian Ecumenical
Justice Initiatives /
Initiatives œcuméniques
canadiennes pour
la justice

Members

The Anglican Church of Canada
Canadian Catholic Organization for
Development and Peace
Canadian Religious Conference
Christian Reformed Church in
North America (Canada Corporation)
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Canada
Mennonite Central Committee
Canada
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Primate's World Relief and
Development Fund
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
The United Church of Canada

Membres

Assemblée annuelle canadienne
de la Société religieuse des Amis
Comité Central Mennonite Canada
Conférence religieuse canadienne
Développement et Paix
L'Église anglicane du Canada
Église Évangélique Luthérienne
au Canada
L'Église presbytérienne au Canada
L'Église réformée chrétienne en
Amérique du Nord
(Société canadienne)
L'Église Unie du Canada
Le fonds du Primat pour le secours
et le développement mondial

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December 23, 2016

Rafael Correa Delgado
President of the Constitutional Republic of Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador

Dear President Correa,

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a coalition of churches and religious organizations with a history of monitoring the human rights situation in Ecuador, particularly in the areas of resource extraction and Indigenous rights. Acción Ecológica is a long-time partner of KAIROS and we appreciate and have benefited from its internationally acclaimed expertise on issues related to ecological debt, resource extraction and fossil fuels.

KAIROS is deeply concerned with your Ministry of the Interior's decision to initiate a process that would withdraw the legal status of Acción Ecológica. Like many others, KAIROS celebrated the enshrinement of the rights of nature and peoples' well-being in Ecuador's constitution, as well as the fact this was largely as a result of a collaborative process that included groups like Acción Ecológica. For your government to threaten to withdraw its legal status seems a contradiction and a betrayal of the Constitution, which is known around the world for including the rights of nature and *buen vivir*.

Through its partnership with Acción Ecológica, KAIROS has come to admire the courage, intelligence and commitment of its members in protecting the country's social and ecological wealth against the economic interests of national and transnational corporations that are intent on exploiting nature in environmentally unsustainable ways.

KAIROS staff travel regularly to Ecuador and meet with Acción Ecológica members. Their work informs our efforts in Canada on issues such as ecological debt and resource extraction. On October 18, KAIROS staff participated in Acción Ecológica's anniversary which celebrated 30 years of experience defending human and environmental rights.

Acción Ecológica members have traveled to Canada and met with Canadian churches, civil society groups, and Government of Canada representatives. From them we have learned about the impact of oil and mineral extraction on the environment and peoples of Latin America, particularly Indigenous women, as well as the role of Canadian companies in Ecuador. Acción Ecológica has consistently urged both Ecuador and Canada to support effective legislation to address longstanding concerns about the impact of mining on people and the environment. This is the kind of partnership we have learned to value with Acción Ecológica.

Your government's credibility and reputation as one of the most progressive within Latin America is at stake as a result of this action against one of Ecuador's most respected civil society organizations. KAIROS joins with churches and civil society groups in Canada and around the world in calling on you to intervene in this issue and to ensure that Acción Ecológica's legal capacity is preserved so that they are able to continue the critical work of protecting people and the planet.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Henry

Executive Director
KAIROS

cc Walter Garcia, Ministro de Ambiente
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