

Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology
L273 - 223 rue Main Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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June 26, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Re: Urgent Concern Regarding the Elimination of the Canadian Office for Responsible Enterprise (CORE)

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We are writing to express our deep concern over your recent decision to eliminate the CORE, an office that was created after over a decade of faith-based and wider civil society advocacy. This decision now leaves communities and workers who allege serious human rights abuse and environmental damage by Canadian companies at significant risk of further harm.

When advocating for this office, faith groups and civil society organizations called for an ombudsperson that would have the authority to hear complaints and hold Canadian corporations accountable for human rights and environmental violations. However, the CORE was designed without the mechanisms to make it effective. Claiming that it is being closed because it was ineffective only underscores the federal government's failure to create a strong office in the first place. In recent years, repeated calls for the federal government to implement stronger accountability mechanisms for the CORE were ignored.

Earlier this year, multiple cabinet ministers pointed to the CORE as an example of Canada's approach to meeting its international human rights obligations. The government now claims it can be replaced by new forced labour legislation introduced under U.S. tariff pressure. This is misleading. The CORE had a much different and broader mandate to investigate a range

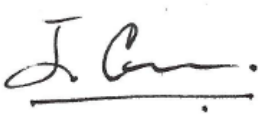
of abuses, including environmental harm, land dispossession, and human rights violations tied to Canadian mining operations abroad. These mechanisms are not interchangeable.

Dismantling the CORE, instead of improving it, undermines Canada's commitments to human dignity, international human rights, and environmental protections. We know that often those most impacted by these violations are Indigenous communities, calling into question Canada's responsibility to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples and the principles of UNDRIP.

ORCIE calls for the immediate reinstatement of a strengthened, fully empowered CORE capable of delivering the accountability and justice this moment demands.

We stand in solidarity with communities that have experienced human and labour rights and environmental violations by Canadian companies abroad. They deserve a real path to accountability and justice.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Gunn', with a horizontal line underneath.

Joe Gunn, ORCIE Co-Chair