January 7, 2009

## CANADIAN AUTO WORKERS, PENSION FUNDS & GOLDCORP Inc.

The CAW Canada is calling on OMERS (Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System) to withdraw its investments in Goldcorp Inc.

OMERS "is one of Canada's largest pension plans, providing pension services to more than 380,000 active and retired members and about 910 employers." (http://www.omers.com/home.htm)

Rights Action forwards this letter from the CAW (Canadian Auto Workers) union to OMERS.

For more information about the CAW Canada letter, contact: Bob Chernecki, Assistant to President of CAW Canada, 416-495-6556, Bob.chernecki@caw.ca, and Steve Watson, CAW National Representative, Steve.Watson@caw.ca.

For more information about Goldcorp's open-pit, cyanide heap leach mines in Guatemala and Honduras, about how you can come on educational delegations to learn first hand about the impacts, and about how you can get involved, contact: Grahame Russell, Rights Action co-director, info@rightsaction.org. (www.rightsaction.org)

Please re-distribute this information all around. To get on/off Rights Action's email list: http://www.rightsaction.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=3

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## CAW – Canadian Auto Workers

www.caw.ca, 205 Placer Court, Toronto, ON, M2H-3H9, Canada, 416-497-4110

December 11, 2008

Mr. Michael Nobrega

President & CEO OMERS

One University Av, Suite 800

Toronto, ON, M5J-2P1

Mr. John Sabo

Chair, Administration Corporation Board of Directors OMERS

One University Av, Suite 800

Toronto, ON, M5J-2P1

Dear Sirs:

## Re: OMERS Investment in Goldcorp Inc.

We are writing to express our dismay regarding OMERS' investment of members' pension monies in Goldcorp Inc. As at December 31, 2007, OMERS held some 7.1 million shares in Goldcorp Inc. at an asset value of \$238.2 M. We are particularly concerned with the operation of Goldcorp and its wholly owned subsidiary, Montana Exploradora, in the Guatemalan communities of San Miguel Ixtahuacan and Sipakapa.

Goldcorp is openly defying the expressed democratic will of the people who live in these communities by continuing to operated its mining facilities. A community consultation in Sipakapa resulted in a decisive vote to stop the mining, and the indigenous people of San Miguel Ixtahuacan have clearly indicated their deside to have a consultation in accordance with International Labour Organization Convention 169.

Open-pit metal mines create a number of problems: water shortage, contamination of rivers and underground reservoirs, respiratory ailments due to increased dust deforestation and contamination of crops and livestock. In the San Marcos area, Goldcorp is using approximately 250,000 litres of water an hour, which is about what one campesino family would use in 22 years for personal use and for their crops and animals.

CAW-Canada and its locals wrote to the President/CEO and Chair of the Board of Directors of Goldcorp, urging the company to respect the democratic will of the Guatemalan people by dismantling its operations. The response we received from Goldcorp was unsatisfactory.

This unjust model of economic development should not be rewarded with the investment of workers' pension funds. In support of the Indigenous people of Guatemala and on behalf of more than 3,500 CAW-Canada members of the OMERS pension plan, we urge OMERS and its Administration Corporation to withdraw its investment in Goldcorop Inc.

Thank-you for your attention to this letter.

Yours truly,

Bob Chernecki

Assistant to the President, CAW Canada, 416-495-6556 / Bob.chernecki@caw.ca

Cc: Board members of OMERS Administration Corporation / Board members of OMERS Sponsors Corporation / Ken Lewenza, National President, CAW Canada / Jim O'Neil,

Secretary-Treasurer, CAW Canada / Sym Gill, director Pensions and Benefits, CAW Canada / Cara MacDonald, CAW National Representative / Annie Lebaj, Director International Department, CAW Canada / Steve Watson, CAW National Representative / CAW National Service Representatives / Local Presidents and Unit Chairs of CAW-OMERS units

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## WHAT TO DO

TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for Indigenous and community-based organizations resisting the harms caused by large-scale "development" projects (mining, tourism, hydro-electric dams) and implementing their own community development projects (schools and scholarships, health clinics, solidarity economy productive projects, etc), human rights and environment projects, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

\* UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

\* CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-118

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: http://www.rightsaction.org/Templates/donations\_index.html

EDUCATIONAL DELEGATION-SEMINARS: Form your own group and come on an educational seminar trip to learn more about community and Indigenous development, human rights and environmental issues in Guatemala and Honduras.

JOIN Rights Action's listserv: http://www.rightsaction.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=3

JOIN Rights Action's quarterly newsletter list: info@rightsaction.org

CREATE YOUR OWN E-MAIL LIST and re-distribute this and other information

DAILY NEWS: Watch & listen to www.democracynow.org; Read www.upsidedownworld.org, www.dominionpaper.ca

BOOKS TO READ: Eduardo Galeano's "Open Veins of Latin America"; Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States"; Naomi Klein's "The Shock Doctrine"; Paolo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed";

www.rightsaction.org - Based in Guatemala, Rights Action (with tax-deductible legal status in Canada and USA) funds and works with community-based Indigenous, development, environment and human rights organizations in Guatemala and Honduras, and also in Oaxaca, Chiapas, El Salvador, Peru, Haiti and Nicaragua; and educates about and is involved in activism related to global development, environmental and Indigenous and human rights struggles.