



# MiningWatch Canada

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## Mines Alerte

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### **Response from MiningWatch Canada to three National Post articles by Peter Foster, and an erroneous correction printed during August 2007**

#### **NGO-X Fraud Beats Bre-X**

*Financial Post, August 1, 2007.*

1. MiningWatch Canada has not committed “...*fraud*...” Peter Foster provides no evidence to support his claim that MiningWatch Canada has committed fraud.
2. MiningWatch Canada is not an “...*anti development*...” NGO. MiningWatch is dedicated to changing public policy and mining practices to ensure the health of individuals, communities and ecosystems in Canada and around the world.
3. MiningWatch Canada (MWC) has not been a “...*fierce opponent of Corriente’s Mirador mine*.” Furthermore, MWC has not committed “...‘*economic, cultural and social genocide*’...” Prior to July 5<sup>th</sup> 2007, when MWC posted responses to letters to MWC from individuals in Ecuador:
  - MWC’s entire involvement with Corriente’s Mirador project amounted to posting three (3) texts related to the Mirador mine on the MWC website.
  - All three were posted within a 6-week period in 2006.
  - Two of these were posted only **after** a Presidential order was issued to immediately suspend all mining activity in the area.
  - None of these three texts were generated by MiningWatch Canada but rather came from groups in Latin America.
4. MiningWatch Canada maintains that our three (3) web postings related to the Mirador mine are truthful and accurate.
5. MiningWatch Canada does not “...‘*live on [Indigenous] poverty*.’” We are supported by a number of foundations and individual donors who support our work to help

Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations affected by mining determine their own strategies for development.

6. Joan Kuyek indicated that mining companies do not pay very much in taxes and used figures from 1997, making it very clear that 1997 was the last year that such figures were released by the federal government. This was subsequently misconstrued by Peter Foster to give the impression that Ms. Kuyek's research was out of date.
7. The "...*Ecuadorian leaders...*" that Peter Foster refers to do not represent "...*tens of thousands of poor natives...*" Rubén Naichap, the person who signed the first letter, was "expelled from the Kusutka organization, of which he was previously a member, as well as from the Shuar federations FIPSE and FICSH for his non-compliance with the resolutions and decisions of our organizations, as well as for his confrontational, divisive and individualistic conduct, which has caused problems within the communities."<sup>1</sup> José Aviles, who signed the second letter, has been accused by state-recognized Indigenous organizations of "sending out communiqués in the international arena, to confuse public institutions, governments, and international cooperation organizations about what is happening in the Ecuadorian Amazonia."<sup>2</sup>
8. MiningWatch Canada is not "...*dedicated to holding Canadian mining operations overseas to seemingly impossible standards.*" MiningWatch Canada works in numerous multi-stakeholder fora, along with industry, to establish better practices and standards.

These include:

- Mine Environment Neutral Drainage Program
- National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative
- Mining Sector Sustainability Tables
- National Roundtables on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Extractive Industries in Developing Countries
- Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance
- Metal Mining Effluent Regulations review

### **How CIDA Supports Poverty**

*Financial Post, August 2, 2007.*

9. MiningWatch Canada does not "...*promote local agitation...*" MWC responds to requests for research and information from people in affected communities.
10. MiningWatch Canada does not "...*condone obstructionism or violence...*"

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<sup>1</sup> Ayuy, C. and Tankamash, M (2006. September 1). Certification. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from [http://www.miningwatch.ca/updir/FIPSE\\_FISCH.pdf](http://www.miningwatch.ca/updir/FIPSE_FISCH.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> CONFENIAE (2007. July 3). Las Nacionalidades Indígenas continúan las luchas contra las compañías mineras y petroleras que han invadido nuestros territorios. Retrieved August 22, 2007 from: [http://www.confeniae.org/es/comunicados/070703\\_mafia\\_mineras.html](http://www.confeniae.org/es/comunicados/070703_mafia_mineras.html)

11. MiningWatch Canada does not “...*reject project supporters out of hand.*” MiningWatch Canada provides research and information to community members who ask for it whether or not they are considering accepting a mining project.
12. MiningWatch Canada is not an “...*anti-development NGO...*” MiningWatch is dedicated to changing public policy and mining practices to ensure the health of individuals, communities and ecosystems in Canada and around the world.
13. MiningWatch Canada did not run a “...*campaign of misinformation*” with respect to TVI Pacific.

**FP Correction**

*Financial Post, Page A2, August 3, 2007.*

14. MiningWatch Canada has not “...*led a campaign against Corriente’s Mirador mine in Ecuador.*” Prior to July 5<sup>th</sup> 2007, when MWC posted responses to letters to MWC from individuals in Ecuador, MWC’s entire involvement with Corriente’s Mirador project was limited (as explained in point #3 above).

**Montebello Alert!**

*Financial Post, August 16, 2007.*

15. MiningWatch Canada is not a “...*blatantly biased NGO...*”
16. MiningWatch Canada does not practice “...*misinformation and high-handed tactics...*”
17. The “Letter from Ecuador” published below the article constitutes libel and defamation of MiningWatch Canada.

**Additional factual errors**

Although not related to how MiningWatch Canada was erroneously portrayed in the Foster articles, we take this opportunity to note two other factual errors contained in the texts:

- a. The Roundtables received 156 oral presentations and 104 written presentations: Peter Foster reversed these figures when endeavouring to quote from the report on the Roundtables.
- b. Felipe Calderon, not Vicente Fox, met with Bush and Harper at Montebello.

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For more information, visit:

[http://www.miningwatch.ca/index.php?/corriente/ecuador\\_analysis](http://www.miningwatch.ca/index.php?/corriente/ecuador_analysis)