

MINING “PHILANTHROPY” – ROBIN HOOD BACKWARDS: Rob From The Poor To Give To The Rich

As the list grows of environmental and development harms and human rights violations caused by Goldcorp’s (formerly Glamis Gold) open-pit, cyanide leaching mining operations in Honduras and Guatemala, the company and its CEO are donating some of their enormous profits to well-funded universities in Canada.

All benefits from this “development” model flow north; all harms and violations stay in exploited countries of the south.

BELOW:

– a letter from a UBC (university of British Columbia) graduate student concerned a \$5 million Goldcorp (Glamis Gold) donation to UBC’s EOS (earth and ocean science) department

– a Globe & Mail article: Ian Telfer (chairman of Goldcorp (Glamis Gold) to donate \$25 million to University of Ottawa. (Typically, the article makes no reference to the well-documented harms and violations being caused by Goldcorp’s current mining operations)

WHAT TO DO: see below. To get on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org. Please redistribute this info all around ... in particular to students, professors and alumni you know of from UBC and U of Ottawa.

May 06, 2007

To: University of British Columbia

stephen.toope@ubc.ca; psmith@eos.ubc.ca; vision@exchange.ubc.ca; presubc@interchange.ubc.ca

Dear President Toope, Prof. Smith, et al.,

As an ex-graduate student of UBC (MSc, 2002), under the supervision of Dr. Healey (a faculty member of EOS), I was irritated as I read with horror, the \$5 million donation by Goldcorp (formerly Glamis

gold) to the new Earth and Ocean Science Building.

I am unaware of any standards (environmental, human rights, etc.) that donors have to meet in order to pledge money to an institution, which claims to “hold an international reputation for excellence in advanced research and learning,” but I silently hope there is such a measure.

As a law student (at Osgoode Hall in Toronto) I learned about the work of Glamis Gold (now Goldcorp) in Guatemala and Honduras. Curiosity led me to Guatemala (including the mining site and the various communities) to see with my own eyes what was happening to the indigenous peoples and their lands. It was atrocious. Writing for my university newspaper, I commented that for the first time in my life, I was embarrassed to be a Canadian. In Guatemala, I learned of the deaths of innocent people by the gold mining giant Glamis on indigenous lands. I learned of the tension created within communities by the gold mining giant Glamis, still fragile after a 36-year civil war. I learned of the lies, the bribes, the illegality of their “tricks” to win the hearts of communities. People in Honduras are dying from the environmental disaster that Glamis Gold has left behind. The people of Guatemala will soon experience this same “legacy.”

As a law student interested in indigenous people and their rights, interestingly a product of having studied Pacific salmon migration on a reserve while at UBC, I am embarrassed that UBC (EOS) has accepted this donation from a gold mining giant that has continuously violated the rights of indigenous peoples, and together with the Guatemalan government, has violated international law. As a Canadian law student, I have also been proud to learn of the many progressive laws that Canada has developed in order to protect indigenous peoples and their rights (in Canada). But it is embarrassing and depressing to see that these “developments” only appear in print form, and in our libraries.

The vision under Trek2010 states, “The University of British Columbia, aspiring to be one of the world’s best universities, will prepare students to become exceptional global citizens, promote the values of a civil and sustainable society, and conduct outstanding research to serve the people of British Columbia, Canada, and the world” (UBC website). Unless EOS has separated itself from UBC, I

do not see how accepting a \$5 million donation from Goldcorp, a company that has killed, that has violated international and domestic laws, that has encroached indigenous lands, that has displaced thousands of innocent people, that has bribed authorities, that has deprived communities of water and other basic rights, can possibly promote the “values of civil and sustainable society.”

While I understand that donations are important for the new EOS building, I urge you to read the hundreds of documents, reports, etc. that have been written about Glamis Gold (Goldcorp) (or visit Guatemala), in order to better understand where this donation is actually coming from.

Sincerely,
Ladan Mehranvar
LadanMehranvar@osgoode.yorku.ca

Some quick reads:

http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/html-english/complaint_marlin.htm

[\[humanrights.org/Categories/Individualcompanies/G/GlamisGoldpartofGoldcorp\]\(http://www.business-humanrights.org/Categories/Individualcompanies/G/GlamisGoldpartofGoldcorp\)](http://www.business-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

<http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/art.shtml?x=107757>

http://www.fian.org/live/index.php?option=com_urgentactions&Itemid=81&uaid=30

0

<http://www.50years.org/cms/updates/story/289>

http://www.rightsaction.org/Templates/special_reports.index.htm

<http://www.miningwatch.ca/index.php?/Goldcorp>

http://www.miningwatch.ca/index.php?/Glamis_Gold

<http://www.foe.org/camps/intl/institutions/glamiscasestudy.pdf>

http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/media_briefing/goldmininginguatemala.pdf

http://www.halifaxinitiative.org/index.php/PressResponses_World/ART426e545f0896a

896a

http://www.jantzisocialindex.com/index.asp?section=5&level_2=10

=MINING TYCOON TELFER DIGS DEEP WITH U OF O DONATION Globe & Mail

Report on Business, GORDON PITTS, May 8, 2007

Mining tycoon Ian Telfer is about to sprinkle some high-grade gold dust onto his old MBA alma mater at University of Ottawa, with a \$25-million donation that is the largest individual gift to a Canadian business school. U of O officials predict Mr. Telfer's donation, which will also bestow his name upon the business school, will propel this relatively low-profile faculty into the upper ranks of Canada's business academies and into the top 100 in the world.

"Our brand isn't as strong as it could be, but now this takes us to the next level," said Micheál Kelly, dean of the university's school of management and an expert in strategic alliances. The gift, which is the largest single donation to U of O, also reflects the considerable money made over the past decade in the booming Canadian resource sector, where Vancouver-based Mr. Telfer, the 61-year-old chairman of mining giant Goldcorp Inc., has been a major player and industry consolidator.

"It's something I couldn't even have considered five years ago," Mr. Telfer said in an interview yesterday. He joins the growing ranks of resource titans who are channelling some of that wealth into philanthropy.

His fellow gold kingpins include Peter Munk (with gifts to University of Toronto and Toronto General Hospital, among others), Rob McEwen (to medical research), and Seymour Schulich (to several universities), as well as diamonds magnate Stuart Blusson (to the University of British Columbia).

Dr. Kelly says the seeds of the donation were planted three to four years ago when Mr. Telfer, an MBA grad of 1976, reconnected with his old school, and began to have conversations with the dean.

Over the past two years, Mr. Telfer has run his own version of Donald Trump's TV show *The Apprentice*, by selecting a U of O MBA grad to become his personal apprentice at the Goldcorp head office. That experience helped reinforce the mining executive's positive opinion of the school, Dr. Kelly said.

About a year ago, Dr. Kelly and assistant dean Alain Doucet went to Mr. Telfer with the idea of naming the school through a major donation, and the project has gained momentum since then.

"I have a great affinity for the school," said the British-born, Toronto-raised Mr. Telfer. "It made a big difference in my life."

Mr. Telfer, who is also a chartered accountant with a bachelor of arts from University of Toronto, will be present for today's official announcement of the gift.

With his \$25-million donation, he passes the previous champion in business-school giving – retired credit-reference executive Marcel Desautels, who in a single donation in late 2005 gave \$22-million to what is now the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University. Mr. Schulich has given about \$27-million to York University's business school over a number of years.

Mr. Doucet said 80 per cent of the Telfer endowment will be used to support the four foundations of the school's future strategy – enriching the student experience, strengthening the faculty, program development and infrastructure. The school has about 3,300 students, and 200 full- and part-time faculty.

Beginning this September, the Telfer School of Management will be housed in the new Desmarais Building – a 12-storey structure that honours a prominent non-resource alumnus, commerce grad Paul Desmarais Sr., who recently gave \$15-million to the university.

Dr. Kelly argues that the school has been strong but underappreciated, but that should change.

"Our undergraduate and graduate programs are as good as any. We have just lacked the brand and visibility."

By the numbers

The high price for naming a business school May, 2007: \$25-million, Ian Telfer, University of Ottawa. November, 2005: \$22-million, Marcel Desautels, McGill University. June, 2003: \$20-million, William Sauder, University of British Columbia. 1997: Two gifts totalling \$18-million, Joseph Rotman, University of Toronto. May, 2002: \$16-million, Richard Haskayne, University of Calgary. December, 1995: \$15-million, Seymour Schulich, York University. Fall, 1995: \$11-million, Ivey family, University of Western Ontario. Spring, 2001: \$10-million, Eric Sprott, Carleton University

=RIGHTS ACTION

Rights Action is a tax-charitable organization (in Canada and the USA) that funds, supports and works with community-based development, environment and human rights organizations globally, with a particular focus in southern Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Haiti, and educates about global development, environmental and human rights issues.

[www.rightsaction.org]

* Consider coming to Guatemala and Honduras, July 22–28, 2007, on Rights Action's educational delegation that will visit mining affected communities, amongst other issues: info@rightsaction.org; *
Get on our e-mail and snail-mail lists: info@rightsaction.org;

SUPPORT INDIGENOUS, COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATIONS THAT
ARE RESISTING THE HARMS AND VIOLATIONS CAUSED BY THE GLOBAL
MINING

INDUSTRY: Make your tax-deductible donations to "Rights Action" and mail to: UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887;
CANADA: 509 St. Clair Ave W, box73527, Toronto ON, M6C-1C0.
CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: www.rightsaction.org.