

# **HudBay Minerals Environmental and Human Rights Track Record in Guatemala and Canada**

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## **HudBay and Human Rights Abuses in Guatemala**

In 2008, HudBay merged with Skye Resources, whose primary asset was the Fenix Project in eastern Guatemala. The project has a long and violent past dating back to the country's horrific civil war in the 1970s and 80s. Active resistance to the project, including well publicized forced evictions of local Indigenous communities, did not dissuade HudBay from investing in and attempting to push the project forward.

In 2009, Adolfo Ich Chamán, a respected indigenous Mayan Q'eqchi' community leader and an outspoken critic of the Fenix project, was hacked and shot to death by security personnel employed by HudBay. The same day, German Chub was brutally shot in an unprovoked attack also by company security personnel. As a result, German was left a paraplegic and lost the use of his right lung.

These attacks along with the gang rape of 11 women during Skye Resources tenure in the area are the subject of a civil court case currently making its way through Canadian courts.

HudBay denies responsibility for these occurrences largely on the basis that their Guatemalan subsidiary was managing the site. HudBay sold their interest in the project to a Russian company in 2011, shortly after the lawsuits were filed.

## **Contamination and Conflicts with First Nations, Métis and Environmental Organizations in Manitoba, Canada**

Up to the year 2010, HudBay operated a smelting facility in Flin Flon, Manitoba. The smelter was Canada's largest point source of toxic emissions such as lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury, and of acid-rain causing sulphur dioxide. A 2007 news report noted that a local nursery school had to keep children inside to avoid pollution from the smelter and that soils in the community had extensive and significant contamination. Fish in the lakes surrounding Flin Flon are reported to have elevated levels of mercury, although the company denies any link to toxic releases from the smelter. The Globe and Mail reported that the smelter shut down in 2010 in part due to HudBay's unwillingness to invest in greater environmental controls for the aging facility. Minerals mined in Manitoba are now exported for refining.

HudBay and its predecessors also owned and operated the small Spruce Point Mine, which is inside Grass River Provincial Park. The mine operated for 6 years and ceased production in

1988. The Wilderness Committee of Manitoba conducted a field investigation of the site and discovered a variety of wastes left behind including areas of un-reclaimed tailings and a pond contaminated with extremely high levels of cadmium, aluminium and copper. HudBay sold the unremediated mine site to a junior mining company in 2011.

Despite considerable opposition to mining in provincial parks, HudBay is pursuing a new mine also within Grass River Provincial Park - the Reed Lake Mine. The operation has outraged environmental organizations and First Nations communities alike.

The Mathias Colomb First Nation is opposed to HudBay's Lalor Lake project. The First Nation issued two stop work orders and an eviction notice to the company due to its lack of respect for their rights and failure to obtain their consent for the project.

In May 2014 the Manitoba Metis Federation issued a statement indicating grave concern over activities at HudBay's closed Ruttan Lake operation. The Federation indicated a legacy of poor planning and incomplete site remediation that is creating serious threats to the health of downstream lakes and streams.

## **Sources and Links for Further Information**

HudBay in Guatemala

<http://www.chocversushudbay.com/>

Flin Flon Smelter

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/inrp-npri/default.asp?lang=En&n=B85A1846-1>

<http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=559ab24d-f0b4-43ce-afa1-02a0b3510c7e>

[http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/new\\_data\\_show\\_high\\_mercury\\_in\\_flin\\_flon-area\\_lakes.html](http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/new_data_show_high_mercury_in_flin_flon-area_lakes.html)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/hudbay-to-close-flin-flon-smelter-in-2010/article4194139/>

Manitoba Wilderness Committee Site Visit to Spruce Point Mine

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXel7or6hd4>

Manitoba Wilderness Committee and First Nations Opposition to the Reed Lake Project:

[https://wildernesscommittee.org/video/2013\\_04\\_04\\_news\\_conference\\_first\\_nations\\_environmentalists\\_oppose\\_hudbays\\_reed\\_lake\\_mine](https://wildernesscommittee.org/video/2013_04_04_news_conference_first_nations_environmentalists_oppose_hudbays_reed_lake_mine)

First Nations Opposition to Lalor Lake Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONPKdp11y7g>

<http://intercontinentalcry.org/mathias-colomb-cree-nation-executes-moratorium-and-delivers-eviction-order-to-hudbay-minerals-and-the-province-of-manitoba/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/hudbay-granted-injunction-to-keep-first-nation-from-mine-1.1301501>

Manitoba Metis Federation on Ruttan Lake Mine

[http://www.mmf.mb.ca/news\\_details.php?news\\_id=135](http://www.mmf.mb.ca/news_details.php?news_id=135)