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**From:** nocodev@codev.org  
**Sent:** January 28, 2009 10:40 AM  
**To:** kepstein@codev.org  
**Subject:** Partners in Solidarity E-bulletin | January 2009

CODEVELOPMENT CANADA E-Bulletin

Jan-28-2009

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CODEVELOPMENT CANADA | BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

# partners

## IN SOLIDARITY

E-Bulletin: January 2009

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### Welcome!

Welcome to the January issue of our *Partners in Solidarity e-Bulletin*. If you are reading this it is because you are interested in CoDevelopment Canada (CoDev) and the work we do. CoDev has been working towards global justice for over 20 years. We thrive thanks to your interest and support. These e-bulletins come out eight times a year and aim to keep you up-to-date with the CoDev world. If you no longer wish to subscribe please go to our [website](#) and unsubscribe (bottom left of our homepage).

### Film Fest is Back!



The eighth annual World Community Film Festival runs **February 13-15 at Langara College in Vancouver**. The film festival features over 30 documentaries about social justice and environmental issues set around the globe.

Acts of Hope and Courage is the theme for the 2009 festival. This year, our films show the courageous and hopeful actions of individuals and communities around the planet who are working to build a better world. They

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## Café ético launches new website



Check out café ético's new website! We're online and ready for your orders at [www.etico.ca](http://www.etico.ca) You can find all our delicious fair trade, organic coffee, tea and chocolate, as well as tickets to CoDev's upcoming World Community Film Festival. Interested in setting up an account for group purchases? Contact Kirsten Daub at 604-708-8782, or email her at [etico@etico.ca](mailto:etico@etico.ca) for more information.

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## The inside scoop on our Cuban roast!

Café ético is pleased to announce that we will soon have our much-loved Cuban Dark Roast back in stock. Cuban coffee farmers were hit with numerous hurricanes in 2008, which almost completely wiped out their coffee harvest. The latest crop was successfully harvested, and we anticipate having Cuban coffee available by the end of March 2009. café ético has been pleased to offer our two other wonderful dark roasts (Guatemalan and Nicaraguan) but we know that many customers are anxious to get their hands on some Cuban coffee once more.

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## CAW moves to pull pension funds from controversial mining company Goldcorp. Will public sector unions follow?

*From Rights Action, January 7, 2009*

The CAW Canada is calling on OMERS (Ontario

plant trees, create art, demonstrate, fundraise, and organize to change the injustices they see.



The powerful and moving opening film Archeology of Memory: Villa Grimaldi shows how an exiled musician to help heal wounds inflicted by the dictatorship in Chile.



The Saturday night feature, Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai, tells the compelling story of one amazing African woman and the environmental movement that changed the course of a country.

There are also documentaries that examine homelessness, films about African and First Nations issues and about the environment. We at CoDev hope that these stories give you hope and courage to help you make a difference in your life and community. Above all, we hope that you enjoy the film festival!

Tickets on sale at People's

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."

[Click here](#) to download the full letter from the CAW.

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## **Bolivia's literacy breakthrough**

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Dec. 21 (UPI) -- Bolivian President Evo Morales says his country has won its war against illiteracy.

The three-year effort, which helped about 820,000 people learn to read and write, was sponsored Cuba and Venezuela, Mercopress reported Sunday.

Officials said Saturday that about 97 percent of the adult population in Bolivia can now read and write. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization says a country can be declared "illiteracy free" when more than 96 percent of adults have been taught to read and write.

In 2001, a government census found nearly 14 percent of Bolivians were illiterate and nearly 26 percent of people in rural areas could neither read nor write.

"Thanks to help from our brothers from Venezuela and Cuba, today we are eradicating illiteracy in our country," Morales said in a ceremony Saturday.

For further information on this story you can also check out these links:

[Acencia Boliviana de Información](#)

[Morales declares Bolivia "free of illiteracy"](#)

[Evo Morales: Illiteracy nearly wiped out](#)

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## **Sugar Workers Strike Makes small gains**

Coop Books on Commercial, Ten Thousand Villages on Denman or Broadway, the CoDev office on Hastings, or online at [www.etico.ca](http://www.etico.ca)

For the full festival schedule, film descriptions, and ticket information see: [www.codev.org/filmfest](http://www.codev.org/filmfest)

As a member of CoDev you are invited to join us for our 2008 AGM taking place on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00pm. For further details on location please visit the CoDev [website](#) or contact the CoDev office at 604 708-1495.

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## **Supporting Solidarity: Leaving a Legacy**

Did you know that over 7 percent of Canadians support their causes by making a charitable contribution in their will? Making a bequest in your will can be a way of giving that suits your own personal, financial, and tax situation and supports the non-profit of your choice. Many Canadians find that they can plan for a modest contribution through their estate and still provide for their relatives and friends.

CoDev directs bequests towards our endowment fund, in which the principal sum is set aside and the interest is used for our work building partnerships for global justice. Our endowment fund is currently managed by the Vancity Community Foundation. Through the generous support of our donors, the capital of the fund has grown to over \$25,000.

You can also support CoDev through other

In July when CoDev Executive Director, Barbara Wood, was in Colombia with the Canadian public sector union leader's tour, they met with Colombian sugar cane workers in the process of forming a union. The sugar workers faced some major obstacles in their goal to unionise, not the least of which is the violence which trade unionists face on a daily basis. In addition, sugar workers have been forced to join labour cooperatives in order to obtain work. A government strategy to break the union movement and get around labour code protections, the labour cooperatives have meant a decrease in workers' pay in the sugar industry.

In September, the sugar workers went out on strike for better wages, benefits and recognition of their newly formed union. For nearly two months they stayed off the job, facing harassment and intimidation and severe financial hardship. CoDev was able to coordinate solidarity for the sugar workers during their strike, sending funds from Canadian unions to support the workers and their families. The strike ended in mid-November with the workers having made some small gains including a pay increase and some benefits. Recognition of the union remains a demand of the workers.

Vancouver journalist, Dawn Paley was in Colombia in December and wrote the following piece which was published in the *Vancouver Sun*. [Click here](#) to view.

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## **Colombian Army kills indigenous leader**

planned giving methods, including giving through RRSPs, RRIFs, or life insurance.

For more information on how to support CoDev through a planned gift, contact Heather Millar, Fund Development Coordinator: [hmillar@codev.org](mailto:hmillar@codev.org) or 604.708.1495 x111.

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## **Resources**

[www.usleap.org](http://www.usleap.org)

The U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project (USLEAP) is an independent non-profit organization that supports workers who are fighting for a better life for their families and to overcome poverty in Latin America. USLEAP is one of the oldest anti-sweatshop groups in the U.S., having been founded in 1987 as the U.S./Guatemala Labor Education Project. USLEAP has since expanded its work to other countries in Latin America.



Aida Quilcué with Canadian public sector union leaders in Colombia in July (from left to right Denis Lemelin CUPW, John Gordon PSAC, Paul Moist CUPE, Aida Quilcué and her daughter).

In yet another attack on the indigenous people of Colombia, Edwin Lagarda, the husband of indigenous elder, Aida Quilcué was killed in an army ambush on December 16 in Cauca, Colombia. Quilcué, the chief elder of the indigenous people of Cauca, has frequently been the target of death threats and believes the attack was aimed at her.

The Canadian public sector union leaders' tour to Colombia in July had the honour of meeting with Aida Quilcué along with other indigenous leaders. We were impressed by her commitment and her clarity of vision. Upon hearing of Lagarda's death, we sent letters to both Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. [Click here](#) to download letters.

[Click here](#) to download the statement The Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca, CRIC released in December refuting the government version of events surrounding Lagarda's assassination.

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