

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2018

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### **Canada has a direct link to human rights violations in the Philippines.**

*Canadian and international mining companies are expropriating indigenous lands for profit.*

MONTREAL, QC – An Igorot indigenous Philippine leader, The Reverend Rex RB Reyes, Jr., will receive an honorary doctorate from The United Theological College on May 9, 2018. The ceremony will be held at Beaconsfield United Church in Beaconsfield, QC. Reverend Reyes will be recognized for his courageous witness for human rights and democracy as reflected in both his role as co-chair of Ecu-Voice: The Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines and his leadership in the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a grassroots-based federation committed to the defense of indigenous peoples' human rights and democracy. As a former President of the Christian Conference of Asia and a current member of the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, he is a respected ecumenical leader in Asia and worldwide.

In his address to the assembly at the United Theological College's May 9<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony, the Reverend Reyes will be addressing the persecution of indigenous peoples, peace building, and his work on human rights. Reverend Reyes has witnessed indigenous communities fleeing for their lives and has also experienced first-hand the murder of indigenous leaders, politicians, labour leaders, and church workers. In addition to discussing his experiences, Rev. Reyes will also address Canada's direct link to human rights violations in the Philippines.