

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SETTLEMENT OF BARRICK GOLD LAWSUIT AGAINST THE AUTHORS AND THE PUBLISHER OF *NOIR CANADA*

Barrick Gold Corporation (“**Barrick**”), Alain Deneault, Delphine Abadie and William Sacher (collectively the “**Authors**”) and Les Éditions Écosociété Inc. (“**Écosociété**”) announce that they have settled out of Court the action in defamation instituted by Barrick in April 2008 before the Superior Court of Québec in relation to *Noir Canada: pillage, corruption et criminalité en Afrique* (“**Noir Canada**”) written by the Authors and published by Écosociété (the “**Action**”).

In order to settle the litigation with Barrick, Écosociété puts an end to the publishing and reprinting *Noir Canada* and made a significant payment to Barrick.

A portion of *Noir Canada* makes statements regarding Barrick’s alleged involvement in Tanzania in 1996. The Authors acknowledge that they have no evidence of involvement of Barrick in Tanzania in 1996 and that Barrick and other parties contest the allegations surrounding the events at the Bulyanhulu concession in 1996.

With respect to the content of *Noir Canada* relating to the Congo, Barrick acknowledges that the thesis of the Authors and of several other parties is that the presence of minerals, including gold, in the Congo was one of the principal reasons at the origin of conflicts in such country and that the presence of multinational resource companies in a region at war such as the Great Lakes region of Africa may have unexpected and serious consequences.

The Authors acknowledge that while these issues were extensively studied by a group of experts of the United Nations, in 2001-2002, the resulting report did not identify any involvement of Barrick. The Authors acknowledge that Barrick has presented documents and testimony indicating that it had only very limited presence in the Congo in the summer of 1996 carrying out exploration work on a small part of a 82,000 km² mining concession and indicating that Barrick had no involvement in the conflicts in the Congo. The Authors acknowledge that they have no evidence to the contrary.

Barrick, the Authors and Écosociété agree that the Action instituted by Barrick and the writing and publishing of *Noir Canada* by the Authors and Écosociété were undertaken in good faith, and in the belief that they were legitimate.

The Authors reiterate what they indicated in the introduction of *Noir Canada*, namely that “this work is not a summary condemnation of the companies” referred to in the book and that they had not given themselves the mandate to ultimately ensure the veracity of the allegations that the book developed from public documents. The Authors maintain that *Noir Canada* was written to provoke a public debate about controversies surrounding the presence of Canadian interests in Africa and to call for the creation of a public inquiry about this Canadian presence in Africa. They still maintain this position and continue to inquire about the role of private corporations active as commercial partners with African political representatives engaged in armed conflicts.

Écosociété considers that *Noir Canada* is relevant and of public interest, that the thesis developed constitutes an essential contribution to critical thinking and deserved to be published. Écosociété intends to pursue its mission as an independent publisher that publishes essays of public interest which aim to stimulate public debates.