

**VIA EMAIL:** [info@dragonboatbc.ca](mailto:info@dragonboatbc.ca)

June 13, 2012

Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society  
PO Box 88145 – 418 Main Street, Chinatown RPO  
Vancouver, B.C., V6A 2T4

Dear Organizers of the 2012 Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival,

We are writing to express the serious concerns of the United Steelworkers, Canadian Auto Workers, and the BC Federation of Labour regarding Rio Tinto Alcan's role as the title sponsor of the upcoming Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival. The Dragon Boat Festival is an opportunity for families across the Lower Mainland to be wowed by the sportsmanship and teamwork of world-class Dragon Boat teams. Unfortunately, the festival is being tainted by the reprehensible labour practices of Rio Tinto in Canada and throughout the world.

On January 1, 2012, Rio Tinto illegally locked out 780 workers in Alma, Quebec. Workers in Alma were literally thrown out in the freezing cold for resisting Rio Tinto's attempt to replace retiring unionized workers with precariously-employed subcontractors earning half the wages, no pension and no benefits. Some of the workers who were exposed to beryllium that night were forcibly removed from their jobs before they could undergo decontamination procedures.

Closer to home in Kitimat, Rio Tinto is attempting the same draconian measures that are designed to hurt CAW Local 2301 members and their families, while maximizing the profits of an already extremely profitable company.

These workers in Alma are fighting not only for their own wages and benefits, but also to maintain the good jobs that have built community and raised families. Through their actions, Rio Tinto are seeking not only to eliminate jobs, but also to reduce an entire community's standard of living.

We believe that Rio Tinto's actions in no way exemplify the spirit of the Dragon Boat Festival, and will take steps to make the public aware of their harmful actions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact us if you'd like to discuss further. You may also wish to visit [www.offthepodium.org](http://www.offthepodium.org) and [www.justiceforriotintoworkers.ca](http://www.justiceforriotintoworkers.ca) for more information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Hunt".

Stephen Hunt, Director  
United Steelworkers District 3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Spratt".

Susan Spratt, Area Director  
Canadian Auto Workers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Sinclair".

Jim Sinclair, President  
B.C. Federation of Labour

cc: Leo Gerard  
Ken Neumann