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Canadian Association of University Teachers Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

October 10, 2012

John R. Morgan President, CEO & Director Infinito Gold Suite 600, 1100 1<sup>st</sup> Street S.E. Calgary, Alberta T2G 1B1

Lic. Ciro Casas Gerente General Industrias Infinito S.A., Oficentro La Sabana, Torre Numero 6. Piso 3. San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Sirs:

## RE: Threat to academic freedom at the University of Costa Rica

On behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers representing 68,000 academic staff at universities and colleges across Canada, we are writing to strongly urge you to cease your inappropriate attempts to interfere in academic activities at the University of Costa Rica.

Professors Jorge Lobo and Jaime Garcia Gonzales have developed a seminar at the School of Biology entitled "The case of Crucitas in the history of Costa Rica: Summary of events and lessons learned" which reviews the history of the closure of the open-pit gold mine in Las Crucitas, which was operated by your company, Infinito Gold and its subsidiary, Industrias Infinito S.A., and was found in 2010 to be illegal -- a decision which was upheld by the Costa Rican Supreme Court in 2011.

We are deeply troubled that your company has demanded that the University of Costa Rica remove Professor Lobo from teaching the course and that the content of the course be changed. We are also troubled that you have launched legal actions against Professor Lobo, Professor Nicolas Boeglin, and a University lawyer.

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This interference with academic activities is wholly inappropriate and significantly threatens academic freedom. We are appalled to see such acts of intimidation against academics carried out by a Canadian-based company and concerned about the message it sends internationally regarding Canadians' commitment to academic freedom, intellectual inquiry, free expression, and critical debate.

In closing, we urge you to immediately withdraw any current legal actions against the University of Costa Rica and their academics and to put an end to the aggressive threats and inappropriate interference undermining their freedom to teach.

Yours truly,

Wayne D. Peters President

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James L. Turk Executive Director

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cc. Henning Jensen Pennington, Rector, University of Costa Rica Gustavo Gutiérrez Espeleta, Director, Biology School, University of Costa Rica The Honourable John Baird, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Parliament of Canada Stephen Toope, President, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada