GRAN TIERRA ENERGY, INC. Form PRE 14A April 17, 2008

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the x Registrant Filed by a Party other o than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- x Preliminary Proxy Statement
- o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- o Definitive Proxy Statement
- o Definitive Additional Materials
- o Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

GRAN TIERRA ENERGY INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box)

- x No fee required.
- " Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
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- " Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- " Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
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8. Filing Party:

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PRELIMINARY COPY

Gran Tierra Energy Inc. 300, 611-10th Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2R 0B2 Canada (403) 265-3221

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To Be Held On June 16, 2008

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **GRAN TIERRA ENERGY INC.**, a Nevada corporation. The meeting will be held on **Monday**, **June 16**, **2008** at 10:00 a.m. local time at 300, 611-10th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2R 0B2 Canada for the following purposes:

- **1.** To elect our five nominees as directors to serve for the ensuing year and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- 2. To ratify amendments to our Bylaws, as required by the Toronto Stock Exchange, which amendments enable us to comply with the listing requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange.
- **3.** To ratify the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Deloitte & Touche LLP as independent auditors of Gran Tierra Energy Inc. for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2008.
- **4.** To conduct any other business properly brought before the meeting.

These items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice.

The record date for the Annual Meeting is April 24, 2008. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on that date may vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

/s/ Martin Eden Martin Eden Chief Financial Officer and Secretary

CALGARY, ALBERTA April [--], 2008

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting in person. Whether or not you expect to attend the meeting, please complete, date, sign and return the enclosed proxy, or vote over the Internet as instructed in these materials, as promptly as possible in order to ensure your representation at the meeting. A return envelope (which is postage prepaid if mailed in the United States) is enclosed for your convenience. Even if you have voted by proxy, you may still vote in person if you attend the meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares

are held of record by a broker, bank or other nominee and you wish to vote at the meeting, you must obtain a proxy issued in your name from that record holder.

Gran Tierra Energy Inc. 300, 611-10th Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2R 0B2 Canada (403) 265-3221

PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

June 16, 2008

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING

Why am I receiving these materials?

We have sent you this proxy statement and the enclosed proxy card because the Board of Directors (the "*Board*") of Gran Tierra Energy Inc. ("*Gran Tierra*") is soliciting your proxy to vote at the 2008 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. You are invited to attend the annual meeting to vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. However, you do not need to attend the meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card, or follow the instructions below to submit your proxy over the Internet.

We intend to mail this proxy statement and accompanying proxy card on or about May 2, 2008 to all stockholders of record entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

Who can vote at the annual meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on April 24, 2008 will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. On this record date, there were [------] shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote, and one share of Special Voting Stock. On the record date, the share of Special Voting Stock was entitled to [------] votes, which equals the number of shares of common stock issuable upon exchange of exchangeable shares (the "*Exchangeable Shares*") of Gran Tierra Goldstrike Inc. that were issued in connection with the transaction between the former shareholders of Gran Tierra Energy Inc., a privately-held Alberta corporation, which we refer to as "Gran Tierra Canada," and Goldstrike, Inc.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If on April 24, 2008 your shares were registered directly in your name with Gran Tierra's transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card or vote by proxy over the Internet as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If on April 24, 2008 your shares were held, not in your name, but rather in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer, or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in "street name" and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered to be the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the annual meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent regarding how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the annual meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy from your broker or other agent.

Stockholders Holding Exchangeable Shares

Holders of Exchangeable Shares are entitled to instruct Olympia Trust Company (the "*Trustee*") as to how to vote their Exchangeable Shares. The Trustee holds the one outstanding share of our Special Voting Stock, which is entitled to as many votes as there are outstanding Exchangeable Shares on the record date, and may only vote the share of Special Voting Stock as directed by the holders of Exchangeable Shares. Holders of Exchangeable Shares who do not hold their Exchangeable Shares in their own name are not entitled to instruct the Trustee as to how to exercise voting rights at the annual meeting. Only holders of Exchangeable Shares whose names appear on the records of Gran Tierra as the registered holders of Exchangeable Shares are entitled to instruct the Trustee as to how to exercise voting rights in respect of their Exchangeable Shares at the annual meeting. Holders of Exchangeable Shares may also obtain a proxy from the Trustee to vote their Exchangeable Shares at the annual meeting. Holders of Exchangeable Shares should follow the instructions sent to them by the Trustee in order to exercise their voting rights.

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What am I voting on?

There are three matters scheduled for a vote:

- Election of our five nominees as directors;
- Ratification of amendments to our Bylaws, which amendments enable us to comply with listing requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

•Ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2008.

How do I vote?

You may either vote "For" all the nominees to the Board or you may "Withhold" your vote for any nominee you specify. For each of the other matters to be voted on, you may vote "For" or "Against" or abstain from voting. The procedures for voting are as follows:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the annual meeting, vote by proxy using the enclosed proxy card or vote by proxy on the Internet. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. You may still attend the meeting and vote in person even if you have already voted by proxy.

- \emptyset To vote in person, come to the annual meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.
- Ø To vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on June 15, 2008, we will vote your shares as you direct.
- Ø To vote on the Internet, go to http://www.proxyvote.com to complete an electronic proxy card. You will be asked to provide the company number and control number from the enclosed proxy card. Your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on June 15, 2008 to be counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker or Bank

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank, or other agent, you should have received a proxy card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from that organization rather than from Gran Tierra. Simply complete and mail the proxy card to ensure that your vote is counted. Alternatively, you may vote over the Internet as instructed by your broker or bank. To vote in person at the annual meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank, or other agent. Follow the instructions from your broker or bank included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker or bank to request a proxy form.

Beneficial Owner: Exchangeable Shares

If you are a holder of Exchangeable Shares, you should have received voting instructions with these proxy materials from the Trustee, which is the holder of the share of Special Voting Stock. Follow the instructions from the Trustee, or contact the Trustee for further information. Instruments of proxy must be received by Olympia Trust Company, 2300, 125 - 9th Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2G OP6, by 4:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time on June 11, 2008, or not

less than 48 hours before the time for the holding of any adjournment of the annual meeting.

We provide Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares on-line, with procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your proxy vote instructions. However, please be aware that you must bear any costs associated with your Internet access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers.

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you own as of April 24, 2008, and one vote for each Exchangeable Share held as of April 24, 2008, all of which are represented by the one share of Special Voting Stock of Gran Tierra. Holders of Exchangeable Shares should follow the instructions sent to them by the Trustee in order to exercise their voting rights.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If you return a signed and dated proxy card without marking any voting selections, your shares will be voted "For" the election of all five nominees for director, "For" the ratification of the amendments to the Bylaws, and "For" the ratification of the selection of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the independent auditors for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxyholder (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to these mailed proxy materials, our directors and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone, or by other means of communication. Directors and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners.

What does it mean if I receive more than one proxy card?

If you receive more than one proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please complete, sign and return **each** proxy card to ensure that all of your shares are voted.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of three ways:

- Ø You may submit another properly completed later-dated proxy card, or vote again over the internet;
- Ø You may send a timely written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Gran Tierra at 300, 611-10th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2R 0B2, attention: Secretary; or
- \emptyset You may attend the annual meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy.

If your shares are held by your broker or bank as a nominee or agent, you should follow the instructions provided by your broker or bank.

If you are a holder of Exchangeable Shares, you should follow the instructions provided by the Trustee.

When are stockholder proposals due for next year's annual meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by January 2, 2009, to Martin Eden at 300, 611-10th Avenue, S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2R 0B2; *provided, however*, that if our 2009 annual meeting of stockholders is held before May 17, 2009 or after July 16, 2009, then the deadline is a reasonable amount of time prior to the date we begin to print and mail our proxy statement for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders. If you wish to submit a proposal that is not to be included in next year's proxy materials or nominate a director, you must do so between March 18, 2009 and April 17, 2009, unless our 2009 annual meeting of stockholders is not held between May 17, 2009 and July 16, 2009, in which case notice must be received between 60 and 90 days prior to the meeting or no later than the date which is ten days after notice of the meeting is first published by Gran Tierra. You are also advised to review our Bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

How are votes counted?

Votes will be counted by the inspector of election appointed for the meeting, who will separately count "For" and "Withhold" and, with respect to proposals other than the election of directors, "Against" votes, abstentions and broker non-votes. Broker non-votes and abstentions have no effect and will not be counted towards the vote total for any proposal.

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What are "broker non-votes"?

Broker non-votes occur when a beneficial owner of shares held in "street name" does not give instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares as to how to vote on matters deemed "non-routine." Generally, if shares are held in street name, the beneficial owner of the shares is entitled to give voting instructions to the broker or nominee holding the shares. If the beneficial owner does not provide voting instructions, the broker or nominee can still vote the shares with respect to matters that are considered to be "routine," but not with respect to "non-routine" matters. Under the rules and interpretations of the New York Stock Exchange ("*NYSE*"), "non-routine" matters are generally those involving a contest or a matter that may substantially affect the rights or privileges of shareholders, such as mergers or shareholder proposals.

How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?

- Ø For the election of our five nominees as directors, the five nominees receiving the most "For" votes (from the holders of votes of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors) will be elected. Only votes "For" or "Withheld" will affect the outcome.
- Ø To be approved, Proposal 2, the ratification of amendments to the Bylaws, must receive more "For" votes than "Against" votes. Broker non-votes and abstentions will have no effect.
- Ø To be approved, Proposal 3, the ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Board of Deloitte & Touche LLP as our independent auditors for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2008, must receive more "For" votes than "Against" votes. Broker non-votes and abstentions will have no effect.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if stockholders holding at least a majority of the outstanding shares are present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy. On April 24, 2008, the record date, there were [------] common shares (including [------] shares of common stock issuable upon exchange of the Exchangeable Shares and therefore entitled to vote through the one share of Special Voting Stock) outstanding and entitled to vote. Thus, the holders of [------] shares of common stock (including the Exchangeable Shares) must be present in person or represented by proxy at the meeting or by proxy to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy (or one is submitted on your behalf by your broker, bank or other nominee) or if you vote in person at the meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, the Chairman of the meeting or the holders of a majority of shares present at the meeting in person or represented by proxy must adjourn the meeting to another date.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the annual meeting?

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the annual meeting. Final voting results will be published in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the second quarter ending June 30, 2008.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Proposal 1 is to elect our five nominees as directors. Gran Tierra's Board consists of five directors. There are five nominees for director this year. Each director to be elected will hold office until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor is elected, or, if sooner, until the director's death, resignation or

removal. Each of the nominees listed below is currently a director of Gran Tierra. Dana Coffield, Jeffrey Scott, Walter Dawson, and Verne Johnson were founding shareholders of Gran Tierra Canada. Nicholas Kirton was recommended to the Board by Verne Johnson. It is Gran Tierra's policy to invite nominees for director to attend the annual meeting.

Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of the holders of shares present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the election of directors. The five nominees receiving the highest number of affirmative votes will be elected. Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the five nominees named below. If any nominee becomes unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, your shares will be voted for the election of a substitute nominee proposed by Gran Tierra. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected. Our management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve.

NOMINEES

The following is a brief biography of each director and each nominee for director as of April 24, 2008:

Executive Officers and Directors

Name	Age	Position
Dana Coffield	50	President and Chief Executive Officer; Director
Jeffrey Scott	45	Chairman of the Board of Directors
Walter Dawson	68	Director
Verne Johnson	64	Director
Nicholas G. Kirton	63	Director

Dana Coffield, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director.

Before joining Gran Tierra as President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director in May 2005, Mr. Coffield led the Middle East Business Unit for EnCana Corporation, North America's largest independent oil and gas company, from 2003 through 2005. His responsibilities included business development, exploration operations, commercial evaluations, government and partner relations, planning and budgeting, environment/health/safety, security and management of several overseas operating offices. From 1998 through 2003, he was New Ventures Manager for EnCana's predecessor — AEC International — where he expanded activities into five new countries on three continents. Mr. Coffield was previously with ARCO International for ten years, where he participated in exploration and production operations in North Africa, SE Asia and Alaska. He began his career as a mud-logger in the Texas Gulf Coast and later as a Research Assistant with the Earth Sciences and Resources Institute where he conducted geoscience research in North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Mr. Coffield has participated in the discovery of over 130,000,000 barrels of oil equivalent reserves. Mr. Coffield graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Masters of Science degree and a doctorate (PhD) in Geology, based on research conducted in the Oman Mountains in Arabia and Gulf of Suez in Egypt, respectively. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. Mr. Coffield is a member of the AAPG and the CSPG, and is a Fellow of the Explorers Club.

Jeffrey Scott, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Scott has served as Chairman of our Board since January 2005. Since 2001, Mr. Scott has served as President of Postell Energy Co. Ltd., a privately held oil and gas producing company. He has extensive oil and gas management experience, beginning as a production manager of Postell Energy Co. Ltd in 1985 advancing to President in 2001. Mr. Scott is also currently a Director of Saxon Energy Services, Inc., Suroco Energy, Inc., VGS Seismic Canada Inc., and Essential Energy Services Trust, all of which are publicly traded companies. Mr. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Calgary, and a Masters of Business Administration from California Coast University.

Walter Dawson, Director.

Mr. Dawson has served as a director since January 2005. Mr. Dawson is the founder of Saxon Energy Services Inc., an international oilfield services company that has been a publicly traded company since 2001, and currently serves as Chairman of the board of directors of Saxon. Before his time at Saxon, Mr. Dawson served for 19 years as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director and founded what became known as Computalog Gearhart Ltd., which is now an operating division of Precision Drilling Corp. Computalog's primary businesses are oil and gas logging, perforating, directional drilling and fishing tools. Mr. Dawson instituted a technology center at Computalog, located in Fort Worth, Texas, a developer of electronics designed to develop wellbore logging tools. In 1993 Mr. Dawson founded what became known as Enserco Energy Services Company Inc., formerly Bonus Resource Services Corp. Enserco entered

the well servicing businesses through the acquisition of 26 independent Canadian service rig operators. Mr. Dawson is currently a director of VGS Seismic Canada Inc., Suroco Energy Inc. and Action Energy Inc. (formerly High Plains Energy Inc.), all of which are publicly traded companies.

Verne Johnson, Director.

Mr. Johnson has served as a director since April 2005. Starting with Imperial Oil Limited in 1966, he has spent his entire career in the petroleum industry, primarily in western Canada, contributing to the growth of oil and gas companies of various sizes. He worked with Imperial Oil Limited until 1981 (including two years with Exxon Corporation in New York from 1977 to 1979). From 1981 to 2000, Mr. Johnson served in senior capacities with companies such as Paragon Petroleum Ltd., ELAN Energy Inc., Ziff Energy Group and Enerplus Resources Group. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of ELAN Energy Inc., President of Paragon Petroleum and Senior Vice President of Enerplus Resources Group until February 2002. Mr. Johnson retired in February 2002. Mr. Johnson is a director of Fort Chicago Energy Partners LP, Harvest Energy Trust, and Suroco Energy Inc., all publicly traded companies. Mr. Johnson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 1966. He is currently president of his private family company, KristErin Resources Ltd.

Nicholas G. Kirton

Mr. Kirton has served as a director since March 27, 2008. Mr. Kirton is a Chartered Accountant and former KPMG partner who retired after a thirty-eight year career at KPMG. He currently sits on the boards of directors of Canexus Income Fund, Innicor Subsurface Technologies Inc., Result Energy Inc., and MacLeod Resources Limited (private corporation). In addition, he is a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Calgary and is a member of the Education and Qualifications Committee of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Mr. Kirton received a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics and Physics) in 1966 from Bishop's University, his Chartered Accountant designation in Quebec in 1969 and was named a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (FCA) in Alberta in 1996, and in 2006 received the designation of ICD.D from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Our above-listed officers and directors have neither been convicted in any criminal proceeding during the past five years nor been parties to any judicial or administrative proceeding during the past five years that resulted in a judgment, decree or final order enjoining them from future violations of, or prohibiting activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or a finding of any violation of federal or state securities law or commodities law. Similarly, no bankruptcy petitions have been filed by or against any business or property of any of our directors or officers, nor has any bankruptcy petition been filed against a partnership or business association in which these persons were general partners or executive officers.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF EACH NAMED NOMINEE.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

INDEPENDENCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gran Tierra follows the NASDAQ Stock Market ("*NASDAQ*") listing standards even though its common stock is not listed on NASDAQ and, with the listing of our common stock on the American Stock Exchange ("*AMEX*") on April 8, 2008, we follow the AMEX listing standards. As required under the NASDAQ and AMEX listing standards, a majority of the members of a listed company's board of directors must qualify as "independent," as affirmatively determined by the board of directors. The Board consults with Gran Tierra's counsel to ensure that the Board's determinations are consistent with relevant securities and other laws and regulations regarding the definition of "independent," including those set forth in the NASDAQ and AMEX listing standards, as in effect from time to time.

Consistent with these considerations, after review of all relevant transactions or relationships between each director, or any of his or her family members, and Gran Tierra, its senior management and its independent auditors, the Board has affirmatively determined that the following four of our five directors are independent directors within the meaning of Rule 4350(d)(2)(A)(i) and (ii) of the NASDAQ listing standards and Rule 803(a)(2) of the AMEX listing standards: Messrs. Scott, Johnson, Kirton and Dawson. In addition, Ms. Smith was an independent director while serving as a director of Gran Tierra. In making this determination, the Board found that none of these directors or nominees for director had a material or other disqualifying relationship with Gran Tierra. Dana Coffield, Gran Tierra's President and Chief Executive Officer is not an independent director by virtue of his employment with Gran Tierra.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD DIRECTORS

The Board met 23 times during 2007. Each Board member attended 75% or more of the aggregate of the meetings of the Board and of the committees on which he or she served, held during the period for which he or she was a director or committee member.

INFORMATION REGARDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board has four standing committees: an