

CONGRÈS DE LA COALITION QUÉBEC MEILLEURE MINE

# EVENT REPORT

Juliette Lafleur ©

MINÉRAUX CRITIQUES ET STRATÉGIQUES

## QUELLES VOIX/VOIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LA POPULATION

17 ET 18  
NOV 2025

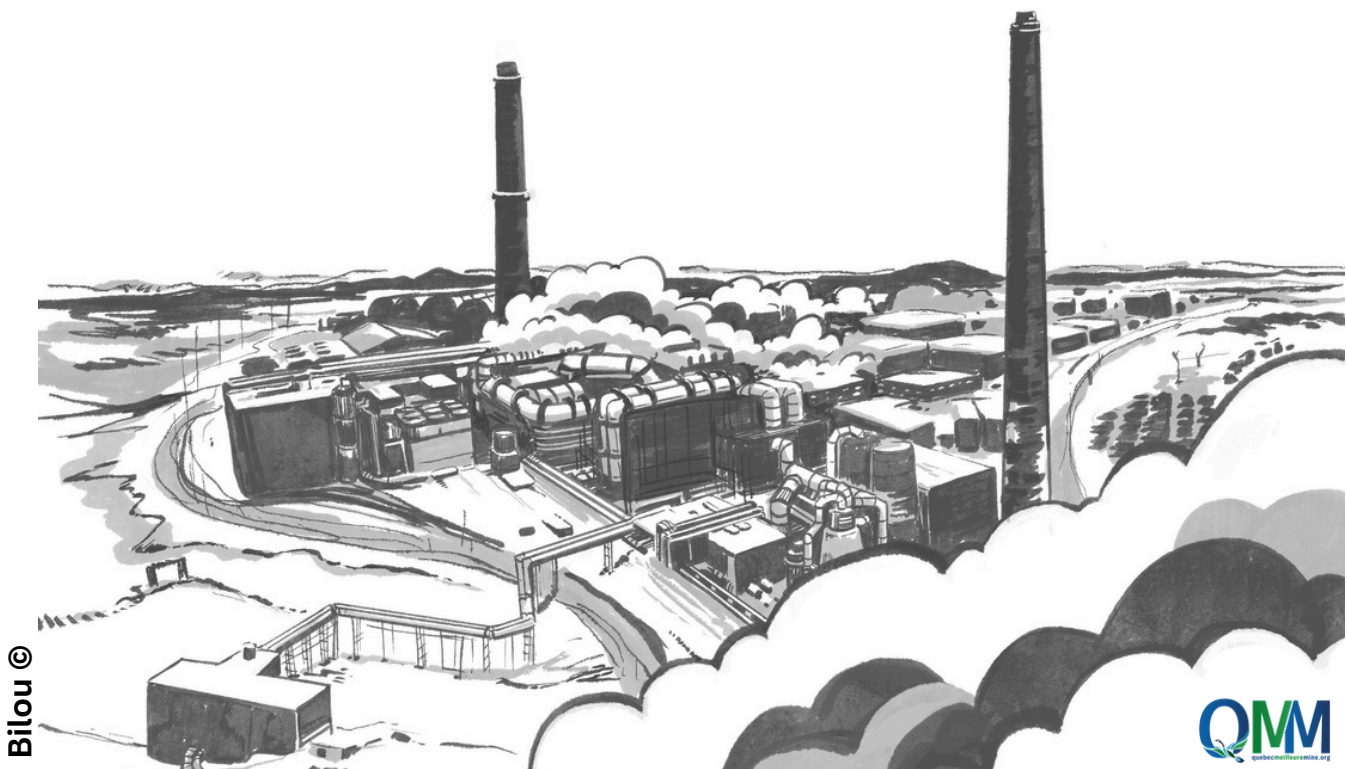




## THE ORGANISATION

Founded in 2008, the Coalition Québec meilleure mine now brings together some 40 organizations representing more than 250,000 individuals from all regions of Québec. The coalition brings together citizen organizations, environmental organizations, unions, academics, and medical associations. For 17 years, the QMM Coalition has been at the heart of debates surrounding the mining sector in Québec and has helped raise awareness among public decision-makers and a broad cross-section of Québec society on numerous mining issues. The QMM Coalition has made important contributions to redefining public policy in the mining sector, particularly the Mining Act, mining royalties, financial guarantees for restoration, environmental oversight, social acceptability, territories incompatible with mining activity, as well as Quebec's positions on uranium and asbestos mining, and more recently on critical and strategic minerals.

Since 2008, coalition members have participated in around 20 environmental assessments of mining projects in Quebec, including about 10 conducted by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) and about 10 conducted by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). Since 2014, QMM has been an active member of the Quebec Minister of Mines' Advisory Committee.



## FINANCIAL PARTNERS

This event would not have been possible without the generosity of our financial partners, first and foremost the Trottier Family Foundation. We would also like to thank Trudel Johnston & Lespérance, the David Suzuki Foundation, Dionne Schulze, and MiningWatch Canada.



## Support for participants

The costs related to transportation and accommodation for panelists, meals and room reservations, document printing, and the purchase of equipment and other contracts to ensure the coordination and logistics of the event were covered thanks to the support of our partners. Participation bursaries were awarded to 15 participants and 18 rooms were occupied at a solidarity rate to ensure the event was accessible to our members

### Key links:

- [!\[\]\(33006de4dd11f8c729ca8ca0fde0352f\_img.jpg\) Declaration](#)
- [!\[\]\(d5f9ffa97ddb414b7e96feb8ad710c8e\_img.jpg\) PPT Presentation](#)
- [!\[\]\(d900cae4f5a7d73d67b6a98ff3e7bb9a\_img.jpg\) Video Recordings](#)

# LOGISTICS



## Organizing Committee

The Congress Organizing Committee, led by MiningWatch Canada, was made up of the following members of the QMM Coalition Coordinating Committee: Frédérique Bordeleau, Bar School student; Émile Cloutier-Brassard, from Eau Secours; Denis Fillion, municipal councillor for Grenville-sur-la-Rouge; Marc Fafard, member of Sept-Îles sans uranium; Marc Nantel, from Revimat; Sophie Turri, partner of the Coalition Québec meilleure mine; Miriam Shaftoe and Rodrigue Turgeon, from MiningWatch Canada.



## Location

The workshops and conferences took place at Manoir du Lac Delage, located in the municipality of Lac-Delage, near Quebec City. Accommodations were provided at the Manoir itself. The organizing committee chose this site because of its central location in the province and its warm and friendly all-inclusive formula. With a capacity of approximately 100 people, the Outardes room, where the conferences and meetings were held, proved to be an ideal place to bring our members and partners together for two days.



## Logistical support

We would like to thank our partners who helped us with technical and logistics support. The Manoir du Lac Delage for the room rental, sound equipment, and meals; Marc Nantel for the video recording; Miriam Shaftoe, Denis Fillion, and Rodrigue Turgeon for the photographs.



## Artists

We would like to thank Juliette Lafleur for designing the poster and program, as well as Bilou, who created the illustrations of the Congress as our artist in residence.



## SUMMARY

On November 17 and 18, 2025, the Coalition Québec meilleure mine held its second conference on the theme “Critical and Strategic Minerals Policy: What Voices/Paths for the Environment and the Population.” The event brought together seventy members and partners from across the province to learn, exchange ideas, and share their experiences. This conference was also an opportunity to reaffirm our ambitious positions on new mining policies that are already heavily affecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local populations in Quebec and around the world. It also allowed us to jointly review our positions, strategies, and priorities in the face of the industry's rise in power and the complacency of our governments.

The first day was to begin with an opening speech by Wendat elder Pierre Martineau. Unfortunately, he was forced to cancel his attendance a few days before the conference for family reasons. Fortunately, our friend Roger Michel-Grégoire, an Innu from Uashat mak Mani-utenam and member of Sept-Îles sans uranium, agreed to sing and offer a memorable opening prayer.

Marc Nantel then gave a presentation on the history of the Coalition Québec meilleure mine and the issues it has addressed since its founding.

Participants were invited to introduce themselves when the mineral at the center of their struggle was named (graphite, lithium, iron ore, gold, etc.).





The conference entitled “Portrait of Quebec's mining industry: minerals as a political tool” was presented by Rodrigue Turgeon, lawyer, co-director of MiningWatch Canada's national program, and co-spokesperson for the QMM Coalition. The presentation began with the acknowledgment that Quebec's mining regime is based on the dispossession of territories and the denial of Indigenous peoples' rights.

A portrait of Quebec's mining industry was presented, with a particular focus on minerals deemed “critical and strategic.” The current critical minerals list was discussed, and the many issues surrounding the mine projects that are currently being explored, exploited and

coveted across the province under this framework were highlighted.

The presentation concluded with a reminder of strategies for effective mobilization against the mining industry. Finally, we highlighted our many victories over the past year. The victory of the Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation against the Quebec government and the authorization of the class action lawsuit against the Quebec government and Glencore in Superior Court, the 95% referendum victory against Lomiko Metals' La Loutre graphite mine project in the Outaouais region, the rejection of the Horne 5 mining project by the BAPE, and the reform of the Mining Act are just a few examples of our successes.





After dinner, the first panel discussion, entitled “Accelerating mining projects: but why, and for whom? Geopolitics and questioning the need to open more and more mines,” featured a discussion between Pascal Husting of SteelWatch and Yves-Marie Abraham of HEC Montréal. The panel was moderated by Cynthia Morinville of the University of Quebec Trois-Rivières.

After a brief break, Marc Fafard, from Sept-Îles sans uranium (Sept-Îles without uranium) and member of the coordinating committee of the Coalition Québec meilleure mine, moderated the second panel entitled "What powers do we have? Success stories against mining companies." This discussion brought together Xan Choquet, an Innu activist and member of the Front de Résistance Autochtone Populaire (FRAP - Indigenous People's

Resistance Front), Denis Fillion, municipal councilor for Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Geneviève Paul, directrice générale du Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement et Julie Reid Forget, de Terres Publiques et ancienne vice-présidente du Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.



The second day, mainly dedicated to Coalition members, provided a special opportunity to discuss our positions on various issues, but also to take the time to share our tools, successes, and challenges. Participants began the day by dividing into three groups to take part in roundtable workshops on three different topics.

The first, entitled “Access to Information and Greenwashing,” was led by Louis Couillard of Greenpeace Canada and Annabelle Couture-Guillet of the Quebec Environmental Law Centre.

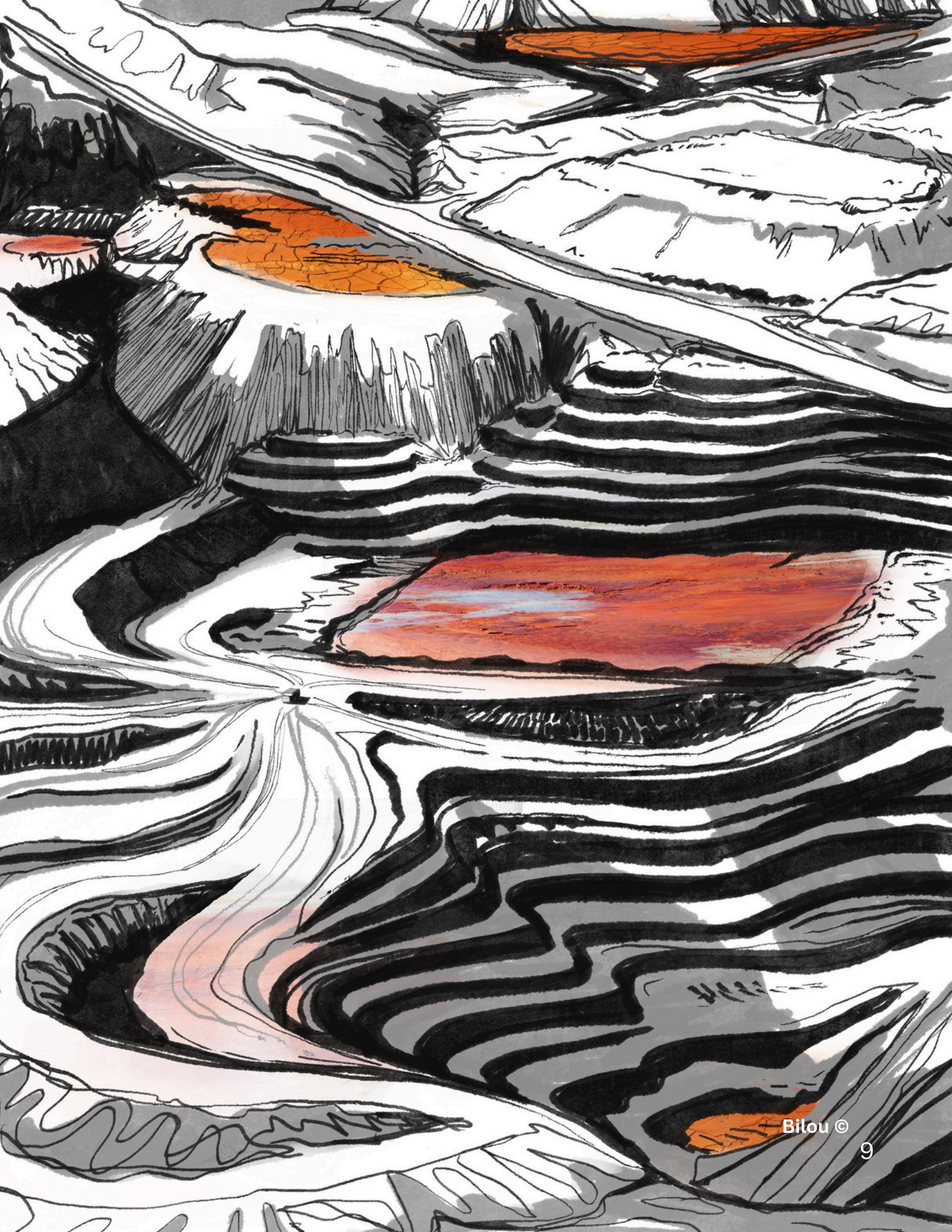
The second panel, on the topic of citizen sampling, was led by Émile Cloutier-Brassard from Eau Secours.

The third panel, on the theme of “political influence, from within and without: municipal, provincial, federal,” was moderated by Denis Fillion, councilor for the municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, and Martine Ouellet of Climat Québec and former Quebec Minister of Natural Resources.

The Congress concluded with the adoption of our Declaration, which affirms our current position regarding the new political reality of mining in our time. Throughout the conference, each lecture, workshop, panel, or working group included a question-and-answer period and discussion, allowing the audience to participate and exchange ideas openly.









# CONGRÈS DE LA COALITION QUÉBEC MEILLEURE MINE

## MINÉRAUX CRITIQUES ET STRATÉGIQUES : QUELLES VOIX/VOIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LA POPULATION

PROGRAMMATION PRÉSENTÉE PAR NOS PARTENAIRES FINANCIERS :

FONDATION FAMILIALE TROTTIER | TRUDEL JOHNSTON & L'ESPÉRANCE | FONDATION DAVID SUZUKI | DIONNE SCHULZE | MININGWATCH CANADA

### JOUR 1

LUNDI 17 NOVEMBRE

#### 9H00 | OUVERTURE DU CONGRÈS

PIERRE MARTINEAU, AÎNÉ WENDAT

#### 10H30 | CONFÉRENCE 1

PORTRAIT DU QUÉBEC MINIER :  
LES MINÉRAUX COMME OUTIL POLITIQUE

**13H00 | PANEL 1 | ACCÉLÉRATION DES PROJETS MINIER :  
MAIS POURQUOI, ET POUR QUI? GÉOPOLITIQUE ET REMISE EN  
QUESTION DE LA NÉCESSITÉ D'OUVRIRE TOUJOURS PLUS DE MINES**

ANIMATRICE | CYNTHIA MORINVILLE (UQTR)

PANÉLISTES | YVES-MARIE ABRAHAM (HEC MONTRÉAL), PASCAL HUSTING (STEELWATCH)

#### 14H45 | PANEL 2 | QUELS POUVOIRS AVONS-NOUS?

HISTOIRES VICTORIEUSES FACE AUX MINIÈRES

ANIMATEUR | MARC FAFARD (SEPT-ÎLES SANS URANIUM)

PANÉLISTES | XAN CHOQUET (MILITANT ILNU, MEMBRE DU FRAP), DENIS FILLION (CONSEILLER MUNICIPAL,  
GRENVILLE-SUR-LA-ROUGE), GENEVIÈVE PAUL (CQDE), JULIE REID FORGET (TERRES PUBLIQUES, ANCIENNE VP DU BAPE)

#### 17H00 | LEVÉE DE LA PREMIÈRE JOURNÉE

### JOUR 2

MARDI 18 NOVEMBRE

#### 9H00 | OUVERTURE

#### 9H30 | ATELIER 1 | TABLES TOURNANTES

ÉCOBLANCHIMENT & ACCÈS À L'INFORMATION | ANNABELLE COUTURE-GUILLET (CQDE), LOUIS COUILLARD (GREENPEACE CANADA)  
GUIDE CITOYEN ET ÉCHANTILLONNAGE CITOYEN | GENEVIÈVE DUBREUIL (EAU SECOURS), ÉMILE CLOUTIER-BRASSARD (EAU SECOURS)  
INFLUENCE POLITIQUE, DE L'INTÉRIEUR ET DE L'EXTÉRIEUR (MUNICIPAL, PROVINCIAL, FÉDÉRAL)  
DENIS FILLION (CONSEILLER MUNICIPAL, GRENVILLE-SUR-LA-ROUGE) MARTINE OUELLET (CLIMAT QUÉBEC)

#### 11H15 | ATELIER 2 | LUTTES EN COURS ET À VENIR : STRATÉGIES MILITANTES

#### 14H00 | ATELIER 3 | RÉVISION DES POSITIONS DE LA COALITION QMM & ADOPTION DE LA DÉCLARATION

#### 17H00 | LEVÉE DU CONGRÈS | PIERRE MARTINEAU, AÎNÉ WENDAT



## PANELISTS



**Yves-Marie Abraham** is a professor at HEC Montréal, where he teaches and conducts research on sustainable degrowth. A member of the independent research collective Polémos, he is the author of the book *Guérir du mal de l'infini. Produire moins, partager plus, décider ensemble* (Écosociété, 2019). Starting in the fall of 2026, he will launch a training program on degrowth at HEC Montréal.

**Xan Choquet** is a Pekuakamiulnu member of FRAP (Front de résistance autochtone populaire). He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Indigenous Studies at UQAT in order to examine the links between nehlueun, the Ilnu language, ilnu-aitun, the Ilnu way of life, and the protection of Nutshimit and Nitassinan, the forest and territory of the Ilnuatsh. He is also an activist, and has been involved in anti-colonial, queer, and anti-capitalist struggles for several years.



With a bachelor's degree in geological engineering and a certificate in creative writing, **Émile Cloutier-Brassard** seeks to combine his interests in writing, his love of nature, and his curiosity about geopolitics, which often lead him to the issue of mining. This motivated his studies and his subsequent appointment as mining portfolio manager at Eau Secours, where he works to document the impacts of the mining industry on water and to support the communities and individuals affected by these large-scale extraction projects.

**Annabelle Couture-Guillet** is an articling intern at the Quebec Environmental Law Center. Before studying law, she studied and worked in environmental science and geography. She believes in the law as a tool for accountability and support for citizen movements to protect the environment. She has been a research assistant at the Superior Court, a teaching assistant at McGill's School of Environment, and has long been involved in youth support and dropout prevention programs. She is also a proud primary caregiver.





**Marc Fafard** is an activist, campaigner, and father of a large family of five children, including three boys and two Innu grandchildren from Maliotenam. Co-founder and active member of Sept-Îles Sans Uranium since 2009, he has been working as a pro bono consultant with communities impacted by harmful mining projects. He is a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Coalition Québec meilleure mine, a member of the Executive Committee of the Western Mining Action Network, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Organisme de bassin versant de Duplessis, and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regroupement des Organismes de bassins versants du Québec.

**Denis Fillion** has been a municipal councilor in the municipality of Grenville-sur-la-Rouge since 2017. A 1987 graduate of École Polytechnique, he participated in citizen mobilization against a graphite mining project and became involved in issues related to the CPTAQ and the powers and roles of municipalities in a mining context.



**Pascal Husting** grew up in a steel and mining town in Luxembourg, where he returned to live ten years ago. He is a partner in the international NGO SteelWatch, which is committed to decarbonizing steel production. He worked for Greenpeace for 25 years, notably as program director for Greenpeace International. Today, he divides his time between decarbonizing steel, the duty of care of multinationals based in Luxembourg, and athletics coaching.

**Louis Couillard** is a passionate campaign organizer and experienced communications strategist. Involved in the environmental movement for several years now—notably through the climate strike movement—he is currently continuing his commitment to the planet at Greenpeace Canada as climate and energy campaigner.





**Cynthia Morinville** is a professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières and holds the Canada Research Chair in Political Economy of Energy Transition. Her work focuses on the impacts of critical mineral extraction on frontline communities and on territorial transitions related to energy transition.

**Marc Nantel** has a background in biology. He has taught at the secondary level. He was president of the regional teachers' union and first vice-president of the Quebec Federation of Labor. He fights for the rights of the people. He co-founded REVIMAT and sits on the QMM executive committee.



**Martine Ouellet**, a mechanical engineer with an MBA, has worked for nearly 20 years at Hydro-Québec, mainly as a manager for large industrial companies. She was also involved for ten years as vice president and president of Eau Secours. A member of Parliament (2010-2018), Minister of Natural Resources, and leader of the Bloc Québécois, she is now the leader and co-founder of Climat Québec.

**Geneviève Paul** has been Executive Director of the Quebec Environmental Law Center since 2018, after serving as Director of the Globalization Office of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). She has conducted numerous investigations, particularly in Latin America, in support of communities affected by megaprojects related to extractive industries.







**Julie Reid Forget** presides over Terres publiques, which specializes in land use conciliation. It is often large-scale projects or conservation efforts that trigger the need and urgency for conciliation. Ms. Reid Forget has training in engineering, economics, and biodiversity. She began her career assisting developers with the environmental assessment process and later became vice president of the BAPE. Faced with municipalities that were ill-equipped, she founded Terres publiques to mobilize municipal leadership. She is a columnist for the regional newspaper GRAFFICI and an administrator for the Gaspésie Regional Environment Council.

**Rodrigue Turgeon** is co-spokesperson for the Coalition Québec meilleure mine and co-director of MiningWatch Canada's national program. He is a lawyer with a master's degree in law and life sciences and a diploma in common law and transnational law. Previously, he worked for the Commission of Inquiry on Relations between Indigenous Peoples and Certain Public Services and the Quebec Environmental Law Center. As an author, he has published Nanikana with Éditions de l'Esprit libre and contributed to several collective works.

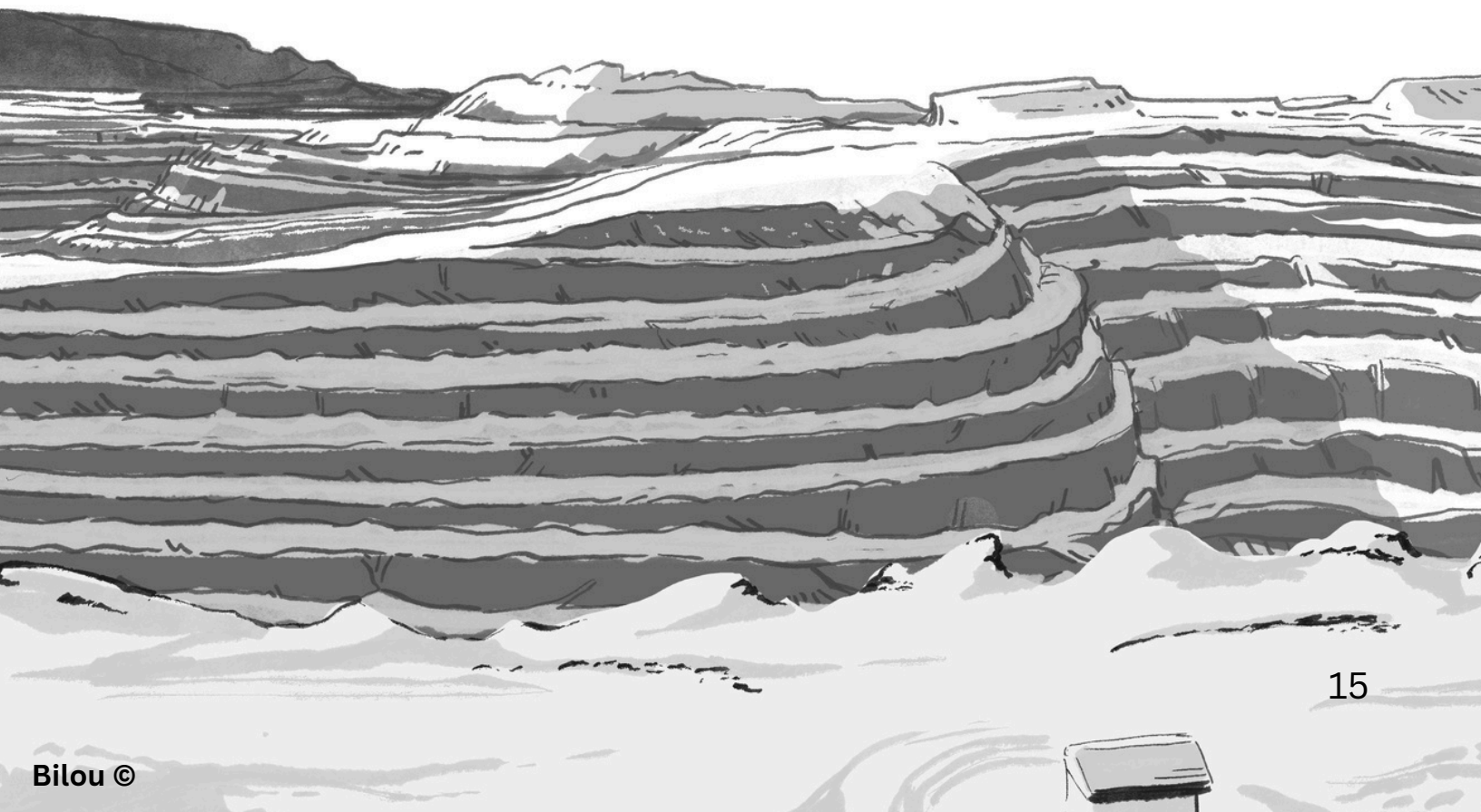


# PARTICIPATION

70 participants

40 member organizations et partners represented :

Centr'ERE · Chaire de recherche sur la transition écologique de l'UQAM · Climat Québec · Coalition QLAIM · Coalition Eau Secours · Coalition Matawinie nos lacs sans mines · Comité citoyen de protection de l'esker · Conseil central de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue-Nord-du-Québec (CCATNQ-CSN) · Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe de Lac Simon · Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE) · Eau Secours · Environmental Defense · Find An Independent Mining Expert (FAIME) · Fondation David Suzuki · Fondation familiale Trottier · Front de résistance autochtone populaire (FRAP) · Greenpeace Canada · HEC Montréal · Institut de recherche et d'information socio-économique (IRIS) · L'Annexe-A / Écart · Nation Innue, Lot 255 · Marie Josée Desrosiers Notaire Inc. · Mères au front – Val-d'Or · Mères au front Rouyn-Noranda et ses allié.e.s · MiningWatch Canada · Municipalité de Grenville-sur-la-Rouge · Nature Québec · Notre Boîte · Réseau Demain le Québec · Regroupement vigilance mines de l'Abitibi et du Témiscamingue (Revimat) · Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVQ) · Regroupement de protection des lacs de la Petite-Nation (RPLPN) · Regroupement québécois des groupes écologistes (RQGE) · Sept-Îles sans uranium (SISUR) · SteelWatch · Terres publiques · Université Concordia · Université d'Ottawa · Université Laval



# COMMUNICATIONS

## Social Media

- [Facebook](#) event, [Bluesky](#)
- [Media Advisory](#), sent November 16 2025

## Media Round-up

- November 16 2025, [Radio-Canada Abitibi-Témiscamingue](#). Québec meilleure mine en congrès pour faire face à l'accélération des projets miniers, Martin Guindon
- November 17 2025, [Radio-Canada, Tout un matin](#). Radio interview with Patrick Masbourian
- November 17 2025, [CBC Montréal, Let's go](#). Radio interview with Sabrina Marandola
- November 18 2025, [Radio-Canada Abitibi-Témiscamingue](#), Des matin en or. Radio interview with David Chabot
- November 18 2025, [Radio-Canada Côte-Nord. Côte à côte](#), Radio interview with Catherine Paquette
- December 2 2025, [Le Nord-Côtier, article web et papier](#). Métaux Torngat : tous les voyants rouges allumés, selon Québec Meilleure Mine, article by Émélie Bernier

## Anti-harassment Policy

- [Site QMM](#)



**The Coalition Québec meilleure mine, which has been defending the environment, the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities against the impacts of mining on Québec's territories since 2008, recognizes that:**

- Québec's mining regime is based on the dispossession of Indigenous peoples and the denial of their ancestral rights;
- The provincial and federal governments are placing the mining and military industries at the heart of their economic vision;
- The transition, digitization, electrification, and militarization of the economy are based on the consumption of minerals;
- The low implementation of circular economics in Québec is failing to reduce the extraction of new mineral deposits in a context of growing demand for minerals;
- The population of Québec is demanding greater protection of the environment and their health;
- The population of Québec wishes to increase and redistribute mining royalties without sacrificing the resources of future generations.



## **The Québec meilleure mine Coalition therefore declares that:**

- Mining laws must respect the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, and ensure the effective protection of the environment and public health;
- The government's agenda of militarizing the economy must be rejected;
- A national conversation about the diversion of materials needed for the energy transition for military purposes must take place;
- Fresh water, clean air, and biodiversity are critical and of national interest;
- The fight against mineral overconsumption must become a national priority;
- Mining must focus on meeting the real needs of humanity;
- The import and export of necessary minerals cannot be done at the expense of human dignity;
- Mining activities must not exacerbate the climate crisis and the collapse of biodiversity;
- The diversification of regional economies must be prioritized over the primary exploitation of resources;
- The local transformation and processing of necessary minerals must be encouraged;
- The precedence of mining activities over other uses of the territory and the self-regulation of the mining industry must be abolished;
- Indigenous peoples and local populations must obtain justice.

**Accordingly, we will continue our actions until our governments regulate the mining sector in this manner.**

# THANK YOU

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[miningwatch.ca](http://miningwatch.ca)