



Annual Report 2018



Demonstration against Cornerstone Resources, Intag, Ecuador. Photo courtesy OMASNE.

Highlights of 2018

International campaigns – Holding government and industry accountable for mining abuses abroad

Canadian Embassy in Mexico Subject of Ground-breaking Complaint

MiningWatch supported the family of assassinated Mexican community leader Mariano Abarca in bringing a complaint to Canada's Public Sector Integrity Commissioner calling for an investigation into the actions of the Canadian Embassy in Mexico in support of Blackfire Exploration, in collaboration with Otros Mundos-Chiapas, the Human Rights Centre at the Autonomous University of Chiapas, and the Mexican Network of Mining Affected People (REMA). We believe the Embassy's actions and omissions heightened the danger Mariano faced leading up to his murder in late 2009. The Commissioner refused to investigate the complaint, so we are supporting the complainants in filing for a judicial review at the Federal Court of Canada.

Precedent-setting Case of Human Rights Abuses at Canadian Mine in Eritrea

When Vancouver-based Nevsun Resources appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, we intervened to support lower court rulings that the case – alleging that the company negligently allowed the use of forced labour at its Bisha gold-copper mine in Eritrea – should be heard in Canada. Represented by law firm Trudel Johnson Lesperance and independent lawyer Andrew Cleland, we argued that Canada must ensure that victims of international human rights abuses involving Canadian corporations have access to justice in Canada.

Canada's New Ombudsperson Needs Real Independence and Powers

MiningWatch and our partners have been campaigning for 13 years for an independent body to investigate abuses by Canadian mining companies operating internationally. The federal government announced the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) office in January 2018, and committed in writing to an independent office with the powers to compel documents and witnesses. But an Ombudsperson was not appointed, and the mining industry lobbied against these key commitments, raising concerns that the office will not have the independence and investigative powers needed to make it effective.

Guatemala's Highest Court Orders Escobal Mine to Remain Suspended

In September, the Guatemalan Constitutional Court ordered that Tahoe Resources' Escobal mine in south-eastern Guatemala remain suspended while the governments consults with the Xinka indigenous population. This follows a lower court decision halting work at the mine over discrimination and failure to consult with Xinka people. With the Coalition Against Unjust Mining in Guatemala (CAMIGUA), MiningWatch has been supporting local efforts against the mine expansion. In 2018, we documented and denounced company lobbying for US and Canadian government interference and called out its efforts to provoke conflict in local communities that are sustaining peaceful protest camps.

Oceans Face Ultimate Threat from Deep Sea Mining

Our international waters – the “common heritage of humankind” – are under a new, imminent, and most deadly threat from the emerging deep sea mining industry. In late July, the International Seabed Authority (ISA), a little-known UN agency, met in Kingston, Jamaica

to discuss how to open up the deep sea bed to mining. As part of the Deep Sea Mining Campaign, we led an effort to gain support from scientists, academics, and other non-governmental organizations in calling on the ISA to declare a moratorium on deep sea mining before irreparable damage is done to the health of the world’s oceans.

Regulatory effectiveness in Canada – The need for regulations that protect people and the environment

Laying the Foundation for Reform of B.C.’s Old Mining Laws

The earliest laws in the colony that became the Province of British Columbia, dating from the mid-1800s, related to mining entitlements and claims. Indeed, many of the earliest environmental laws, for water and land use, arose from the need to provide security of tenure and supply for mining operations. Shockingly, the core principles underlying these laws remain largely in place today. In partnership with the University of Victoria Environmental Law Centre, Fair Mining Collaborative, First Nation Women Advocating Responsible Mining, and Northern Confluence, MiningWatch embarked on a three-year project aimed at developing the conditions for comprehensive provincial mining law reform in British Columbia. During the first year, we collectively drafted mining law reform platforms that will be launched in 2019.

pressing for key amendments to be made before it becomes law.

Protecting Waters and Fish Habitat Downstream from Mines

MiningWatch joined the advisory committee for the Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development (part of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada)’s review of the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations (MMER) and the Environmental Effects Monitoring program (EEM) under the *Fisheries Act*, administered by Environment Canada. We noted many shortcomings of the MMER/EEM regime, including important enforcement gaps, an arbitrarily limited number of regulated contaminants, relatively high thresholds of pollution allowed, and many mines not fully complying or reporting pollution data. We recommended that Environment Canada release all the data, mine by mine.

New Federal Environmental Laws Fall Short of Promises

In February 2018, the federal government tabled Bill C-69, which introduces a proposed new Impact Assessment Act (IAA). The bill follows more than 18 months of consultation and discussion of Canada’s environmental assessment processes, and is claimed to fulfil the government’s commitment to introduce new, fair processes to ensure decisions are based on science and Indigenous knowledge, and to win back public trust. The bill follows the existing widely discredited environmental assessment process far too closely. It does introduce important and potentially game-changing innovations, but without clear requirements to ensure that they are effectively implemented. The bill is currently before the Senate. We will keep monitoring its progress and

Working to Reduce Quebec’s Mineral and Energy Footprints

On the occasion of the first Annual Quebec Mining and Energy Congress, held in Quebec City in November 2018, we collaborated with a coalition of organizations to urge the newly elected Quebec Government to develop strategies and policies that would address the need to reduce the province’s energy and mineral footprints. Communities are facing increasing development pressure regarding metals needed for energy transition to minimise climate change (lithium, graphite, rare earths). We called for strong and effective recycling and circular economy programs for metals, mandatory environmental impact assessments of all new mines, and strengthened environmental monitoring and enforcement of mine operations.

Movement building and community support – Working in common cause

Quebec Citizens and Municipality Denounce \$96 Million Suit by Canada Carbon

Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, located between Montebello and Lachute at the confluence of the Calumet and Ottawa rivers, is being targeted by Vancouver-based Canada Carbon in a lawsuit that is worth nearly 20 times the municipality’s total budget. The company is seeking \$96 million from the municipality for blocking the development of its proposed graphite mine and marble quarry. The municipality contends the project will harm the environment and hurt the local agricultural, cottaging, and tourism economies.

In partnership with dozens of organizations in Quebec, we stood in solidarity with the municipality in its efforts to have the lawsuit thrown out as a “SLAPP” suit (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation), intended to restrict the freedom of expression of the elected council and citizens. We also organized and facilitated a corporate research workshop that helped to identify some strategic actions to address the community’s concerns regarding the social, environmental and financial risks of this project.

nement (BAPE). We also supported one of our partners, Regroupement Vigilance Mines de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue (REVIMAT), in getting a legal memo identifying how the Environment Minister can use powers under the new Environment Quality Act, passed in March 2018, to submit projects to an environmental assessment.

Challenging the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that Lets Companies Sue Countries

Governments, including many in Latin America, are being increasingly targeted with multi-million-dollar claims from corporations to undermine efforts of mining-affected communities, courts, governments and even international human rights bodies to protect people and the environment from the harms of mineral extraction.

In collaboration with a group of Guatemalan organizations and international allies, we helped organise a series of workshops to explore the implications of investor-state arbitration pertaining to threats and suits being brought against Guatemala by mining companies, and to explore strategies for organizing and solidarity building.

Proposed Lithium Mine in Quebec Threatens Water Supply

A proposed lithium mine less than 500 metres from an esker that supplies drinking water to six municipalities in the Abitibi region in Quebec, has worried their citizens and elected officials. The esker’s water is also bottled and sold as natural spring water by ESKA. Throughout 2018, we joined with local and provincial organizations to urge Quebec’s Environment Minister to subject the project to an independent review by the Bureau d’Audiences Publiques sur l’Environ-

Building Research Capacity on Canadian Mining Interests

As part of a multi-year collaboration with the Observatory on Mining Conflicts in Latin American (OCMAL), the Latin American Observatory on Environmental Conflicts (OLCA), and the Canadian NGO Above Ground to adapt and apply a methodology for strategic corporate research, we finalized a Spanish-language facilitator’s guide and completed the translation of the text into English. Over the course of the year, we applied this tool in participatory research and capacity-building workshops in Guatemala and Ecuador.

Communications & advocacy – Getting the word out, reinforcing credibility, ensuring relevance

Victims of Tanzanian Gold Mine Violence Find No Justice in New Compensation Scheme

MiningWatch has conducted human rights field investigations at the North Mara gold mine in Tanzania for the past five years and has reported on vicious attacks on hundreds of local men and women by private mine security and police guarding the mine. The violence has not ended, and there still have been no criminal investigations, but last year, with public pressure mounting locally and internationally, the mine set up a new grievance mechanism for villagers who have been harmed and for family members of those who have been killed. Our review found the mechanism is very much controlled by the mine, and the extraordinarily large power imbalance between largely illiterate and impoverished villagers and the mine's legal and investigative team greatly disadvantages the victims in the process.

Women Resist Extractivism and Call for Equitable Remedy

From April 27-30, MiningWatch partners from Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, and South Africa joined other women from Canada and the Global South at the International Gathering of Women Resisting Extractivism in Montreal. In collaboration with our Tanzanian partners we also prepared a video that was presented at the conference. In it, women living in villages around Barrick Gold's North Mara mine speak out publicly for the first time about the sexual violence they have suffered at the hands of police and private mine security.

Members in 2018

1. Alternatives North
2. Bathurst Sustainable Development
3. Bedford Mining Alert
4. Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)
5. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
6. Centre for Longterm Environmental Action Newfoundland/ Labrador (CLEAN)
7. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
8. Development and Peace
9. Friends of the Earth Canada
10. Friends of the Stikine Society
11. Innu Nation
12. Inter Pares
13. Kairos - Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
14. Mixedwood Forest Society
15. Nature Canada
16. Northwatch
17. OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) Social Justice Fund
18. Polaris Institute
19. Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)
20. Quebec Native Women
21. Rivers Without Borders
22. Sierra Club of Canada
23. Steelworkers Humanity Fund
24. Unifor Social Justice Fund
25. United Church of Canada
26. Watershed Sentinel Educational Society
27. Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)

Staff in 2018

Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator
 Jamie Kneen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
 Ugo Lapointe, Canada Program Coordinator
 Diana Martin, Administration & Resource Development Coordinator
 Jen Moore, Latin America Program Coordinator (until August 2018)
 Kirsten Francescone, Latin America Program Coordinator (since September 2018)

People Unite for Healthier Lands, Waters, and Future Generations

In September, MiningWatch joined nearly 200 delegates from Canada and the United States at the biennial Western Mining Action Network Conference to share knowledge about the increasing impacts of industrial mining and to seek solutions to more effectively protect the environment and affected communities. The conference was hosted by the Stk'emlúpsenc te Secwépemc Nation. Under the theme "Uniting for Healthier Lands, Waters & Future Generations," lectures, discussions and workshops led by technical and legal experts, as well as by Indigenous and civil society organizations, provided the latest information on mining technologies, impacts, regulations, and policies, while special sessions were held to train community-based organizers and develop strategies to reform mining laws and practices.

Sharing Information, Spreading Awareness, and Connecting People...

Our Facebook fans, Twitter followers, website visitors, and e-mail lists were very active. Numbers, as well as good interactions, retweets, and 'shares' kept rising with almost 15,000 Twitter followers (and some 680,000 tweet "impressions") with nearly 7,400 Facebook fans by year-end, and a total of over 115,000 website pageviews for the year.



We were very sad to let Jen Moore go after almost eight years of astonishingly energetic, creative, committed, and effective work in research and publishing, and in building coalitions and strong collegial working relationships with mining-affected communities, activists, researchers, and advocates alike. We are truly fortunate that she can continue to collaborate with us from her new home in Mexico.



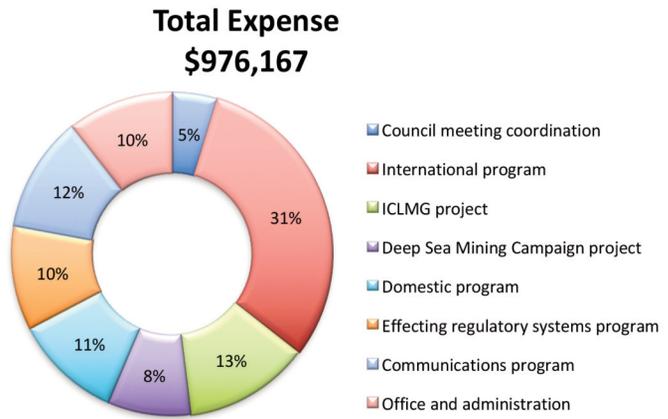
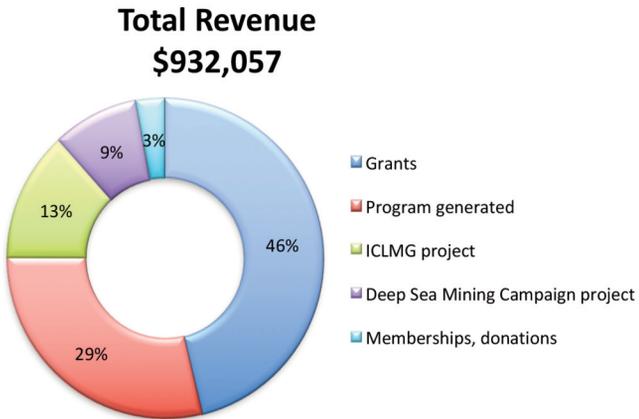
This year we were also excited to welcome Kirsten Francescone as Latin America Program Coordinator, taking over Jen's role with fantastic energy, great research skills, and a strong understanding of the context in which we work.

Board of Directors in 2018

Co-chairs: Earl Commanda, Ottawa, Ontario
 Jean Symes, Ottawa, Ontario
 Treasurer: Ian Thomson, Ottawa, Ontario
 Secretary: Esperanza Moreno, Gatineau, Québec
 Directors: Donna Ashamock, Moose Factory, Ontario
 Tracy Glynn, Fredericton, New Brunswick
 Isabelle Ménard, Montréal, Québec
 Ramona Nicholas, Fredericton, New Brunswick
 Elysia Petrone Reitberger, Thunder Bay, Ontario
 Verna Power, Lake Babine, British Columbia
 Bev Sellars, Williams Lake, British Columbia
 Hilu Tagoona, Baker Lake, Nunavut

MININGWATCH CANADA / MINES ALERTE CANADA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 163,572	\$ 120,956
Short-term investments	31,016	111,603
Accounts receivable	62,838	64,908
Due from Canary Research Institute	73,740	123,740
Government remittances receivable	10,065	10,675
Prepaid expenses	5,380	3,078
	\$ 346,611	\$ 434,960
INVESTMENTS	113,567	-
	\$ 460,178	\$ 434,960
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 42,259	\$ 34,417
Deferred revenue	104,147	41,473
	146,406	75,890
DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT	2,768	3,956
	149,174	79,846
NET ASSETS		
Reserve fund - internally restricted	192,000	187,000
Legal fund - internally restricted	25,000	25,000
Unrestricted net assets	94,004	143,114
	311,004	355,114
	\$ 460,178	\$ 434,960



(Please note that the audited financial statements are available on request.)

MiningWatch Canada is thankful for support from the following organizations:

Canadian Union of Public Employees
 Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine
 Echo Foundation
 Ecojustice
 Environment North
 Environmental Defenders Fund of RSF Social Finance
 Fidelity Gift Fund
 Ford Foundation
 Inter Pares
 Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
 Public Service Alliance of Canada

Swift Foundation via Global Greengrants Fund
 Tides Canada
 Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund of Tides Foundation
 Unifor Social Justice Fund
 United Church of Canada
 Vancouver Foundation
 West Coast Environmental Law - Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund
 Western Mining Action Network - Indigenous Environmental Network
 Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project

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