



Members of the coalition against the mining project in Haute-Matavanie, Saint-Michel-des-Saints, Québec. Photo: Ugo Lapointe.

Highlights of 2020

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

Supporting Indigenous Ifugao in the Philippines

In Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines, Indigenous Ifugao people have opposed OceanaGold's Didipio mine from the beginning. When the mine's operating licence was not renewed in mid-2019, the community peacefully blockaded to prevent OceanaGold from continuing to operate. After nine months, and amidst precautionary COVID-19 hygienic measures, the blockade was violently dispersed by police in April 2020 to allow fuel trucks to enter the mine site. We developed a solidarity statement with Philippine partners, signed by over 190 organizations from the Philippines and across the world, condemning the violent police action and calling on the President to cancel OceanaGold's permit renewal application outright, on the basis of the project's atrocious environmental and human rights record. The mine remains closed.

Denouncing irregularities in consultation in Guatemala

It has been more than two years since Guatemala's Constitutional Court upheld the suspension of Pan American Silver's Escobal mine and ordered the government to consult with the Xinka People. The process to date, however, has been marked with illegalities and discrimination against the Xinka. As part of our solidarity efforts, we coordinated a del-

egation of eleven Indigenous and Canadian representatives to Guatemala to visit the peaceful resistance camps, meet with the Xinka Parliament, and raise concerns with the Canadian embassy.

Following the delegation, we organized a well-attended virtual teach-in, and in the lead-up to the company's AGM, a letter-writing campaign with over 7,000 supporters questioning the company's purchase of a project that has violated the rights of the Xinka People and demanding that it respect their self-determination.

Protecting water sources from mining in Ecuador

Residents of southern Ecuador have long been concerned about INV Metals' Loma Larga project, so when the company updated its feasibility study, we did an analysis of it. The analysis was shared via press conferences and a virtual seminar held in May 2020, as well as through agroecological schools in the Cuenca region and by Yasunidos Cuenca. In response, local organizations began a push for a referendum to protect five major rivers in the municipality from industrial metal mining.

In August, 2020, INV Metals announced that it had submitted the project's Environmental Impact Study (EIS) – but did not make the EIS public. We have been supporting partners in Ecuador in trying to get

access to the EIS, developing a joint sign-on letter from international organizations, and an individual sign-on letter accompanied by a social media blitz which asked “INV Metals, what are you hiding?”

Demanding respect for Indigenous rights in Ecuador

The Shuar Arutam People (PSHA) have formally rejected Solaris Resources’ Warintza project in Southern Ecuador and have declared Warintza a protected area. Nevertheless, the company has continued to contravene the principles of free, prior, informed consent. Solaris reported undertaking a “prior consultation process” with just two of the Shuar communities, and in September, 2020, announced the signing of Impacts and Benefits Agreements with the same communities.

In collaboration with Amazon Watch, we led a letter campaign around the PDAC conference (Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada) in Toronto in March, 2020. The letter, signed by over 450 individuals and 40 organizations, condemned the company’s illegitimate consultation process on the Warintza project, and expressed support for the PSHA’s position to protect their territories from mining.

Supporting Chile’s “First Territory Free of Mining”

In April 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, the Environmental Evaluation Commission of Valparaíso, Chile, approved a drilling program by Vizcachitas Holding, a subsidiary of Canadian mining company Los Andes Copper, in the regional municipality of Putaendo – without citizen participation. In partnership with local organization Putaendo Resiste and other allies, we organized a webinar where residents outlined how the company is violating the self-determination of the people of Putaendo and provoking environmental

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

Reducing the social and environmental footprint of the green energy transition

In 2020, the Quebec government launched its new Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Materials 2020-2025, aimed at supporting exploration for “critical and strategic” minerals in Québec as well as production and recycling. We coordinated an open letter and joint response urging Quebec to prioritize plans that will reduce both greenhouse gases and the environmental footprint of natural resource use. We specifically called on the province to 1) not only invest in recycling and the circular economy of metals and minerals used in transportation, but also tackle the unsustainable growth in the number of vehicles on our roads; 2) strive to become a model for closing loopholes in existing laws, notably by ensuring that all newly proposed mines undergo an environmental assessment; and 3) reform the outdated Mining Act and expand the criteria for territories incompatible with mining activity in order to respect local citizens’ and Indigenous rights.

Modernizing mining laws in British Columbia

In 2020, the B.C. Mining Law Reform Network that we co-founded held a capacity-building workshop on mine water pollution and created a fact sheet outlining the need to modernize the Mineral Tenure Act, implement the ‘polluter-pay’ principle, and protect B.C. waters and communities. We also released a survey conducted during the provincial elections that showed strong public support to reform mining and create new protected areas. Following the election, we developed and promoted a video and online petition urging the government

Movement building and community support – Working in common cause

Increasing communities’ access to technical support

Finding appropriate, independent expert assistance is a critical need for many communities facing proposed new mines or living with operating or closed ones. We are continuing to work on creating the “Find An Independent Mining Expert” (FAIME) database – an online collection of global experts available to provide technical services to communities affected by mining and to organizations working on their

harm in an area that is already suffering a terrible drought. We followed up with a letter-writing campaign to demand that the Canadian embassy in Chile withdraw diplomatic support for Los Andes Copper and make a public statement rejecting the company’s conduct.

Pressing Equinox Gold to respect community and commitments at mine in Mexico

In September, 2020, the Ejido of Carrizalillo shut down Equinox Gold’s Los Filos mine in Guerrero, México, after two months of failed attempts at dialogue to address racist and discriminatory treatment, as well as breaches of their social cooperation agreement. Instead of genuine efforts to achieve talks over a new agreement with the community, the company has resorted to provocation and threats, and is even suing the Ejido in Mexican court. We coordinated a sign-on letter urging the B.C. Investment Management Corporation (BCI) to engage Equinox in dialogue for a new social cooperation agreement and to abstain from any further acts of criminalization, discrimination, and abuse.

Launching legal action against Barrick Gold in the UK

In 2011, the North Mara gold mine in Tanzania became widely known for brutal acts of excess use of force by mine security against members of the local Kuria population. In 2015, Barrick settled a lawsuit on behalf of victims of violence by mine security out of court. MiningWatch Canada spent six years documenting over a hundred cases of violent acts by mine security, including cases of women who have endured rape at the hands of mine security. This work contributed to a new lawsuit that was filed in February 2020 by seven of the initial claimants, alleging abuse by mine security forces, including local police.

to uphold its commitment to implement the polluter-pay principle. We also promoted new maps showing mine water pollution threats across B.C. as well as the filing of a legal notice on worsening pollution in Kamloops’ Peterson Creek, a call for a comprehensive environmental impact assessment of Teck’s Castle coal mine expansion Project, and plans to clean up the abandoned Tulsequah Chief mine.

Raising social, environmental, and financial risks for mine in Quebec

In early 2020, the Quebec Office of Public Hearings on the Environment (BAPE) held consultations on Nouveau Monde Graphite’s Matawinie graphite mining project, located in Saint-Michel-des-Saints, 150 km north of Montréal. In preparation for these hearings, we commissioned two expert reports that identify a dozen significant gaps and risks in the proponent’s current assessments. In addition, we submitted a joint brief with Quebec Meilleure Mine and an investor alert that highlighted the lack of social licence, threats to a touristic and ecologically sensitive area, and gaps in the feasibility study.

While the company has signed a pre-development agreement with the Atikamekw Council of Manawan, it has not yet signed an Impact-Benefit Agreement for the mine itself. We have publicly supported the Atikamekw Nation in its call to the Quebec government to meet its constitutional obligation to consult meaningfully and in good faith, as well as its international obligation to secure consent from affected Indigenous Peoples before authorizing mining on their ancestral territories.

behalf. In 2020, Indigenous advisors joined the Steering Committee and helped collaboratively develop the vision and values behind the database, as well as a collaborative co-management agreement, among others. The initial version of the database should be launched in 2021.

Protecting lakes from mine waste in Quebec

Champion Iron’s proposal for expansion of the Bloom Lake mine

includes the destruction of seven lakes – which could be avoided by backfilling the open pits, as done in many other mines – and which would also reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of the tailings dams. In July, we coordinated a public response urging the Quebec government to demand the company backfill excess tailings in the pits. We also released a joint letter requesting that the BAPE review the project. In preparation for the BAPE hearings, we supported our partners to

commission a technical analysis and a legal opinion, which clearly demonstrates that the Quebec government has all the legal powers to prohibit the destruction of natural environments and require alternative solutions. This concerted effort increased awareness about regulatory gaps to protect lakes and rivers from mine waste, and led the company to finally submit backfilling scenarios. The Quebec government will determine whether to backfill the pits and save the lakes in 2021.

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

Exposing the COVID-19/mining nexus

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact across the world on all aspects of life, but far from exercising caution, the mining sector is taking advantage of the current crisis to make gains in a variety of ways. In June 2020, we released a joint report with a consortium of international allies, “Voices from the Ground: How the Global Mining Industry is Profiting from the COVID-19 Pandemic” on these issues. To coincide with the report’s release, we led an international sign-on that received over 300 signatures from organizations around the world condemning companies’ and governments’ behaviour during the pandemic. We have also been supporting local mobilization efforts and urgent actions for communities and mineworkers affected by the pandemic in Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Peru.

Predicting the impacts of nodule mining in the deep sea

In partnership with the Deep Sea Mining Campaign, we published the report “Predicting the Impacts of Mining Deep Sea Polymetallic Nodules in the Pacific Ocean”, which analyses more than 250 scientific and other articles to explore what is known – and what remains unknown – about the risks of nodule mining to Pacific Ocean habitats, species, ecosystems and the people who rely on them.

The review concludes that mining deep sea polymetallic nodules in the Pacific will have severe and long-lasting impacts on the seabed and the species it supports. The potential impacts on fisheries, communities and health are largely unknown and thus pose huge risks. The review also finds that Pacific Islanders’ relationship to the ocean is not well integrated into discussions about nodule mining, that social and cultural impacts are yet to be meaningfully explored, and that the social and economic benefits are questionable.

Developing a People’s Tailings Standard to end mine waste disasters

As the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Principles

for Responsible Investment prepared to unveil the first Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management, we worked with Earthworks and over 142 scientists, community groups and non-governmental organizations to develop *Safety First Guidelines for Responsible Tailings Management*, a set of sixteen guidelines for the safer storage of mine waste. The guidelines aim to protect communities, workers, and the environment from the risks posed by thousands of mine waste storage facilities, which are failing more frequently and with more severe outcomes. We also co-hosted a webinar to publicly present the guidelines and measure how the province of B.C. stacks up.

In addition, we coordinated a public response to the Global Industry Standard arguing that it does not go far enough to adequately protect workers, communities, and ecosystems from future mine waste failure. Together with Earthworks, we released a “Scorecard” highlighting the fact that in addition to its technical shortcomings, the Industry Standard is voluntary and mostly management-based, not performance-based, with no implementation or enforcement mechanisms, and no consequences or penalties if companies fail to meet it.

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

Our social media followers, website visitors, and e-mail lists have all been very active. Numbers, as well as great interactions, retweets, and ‘shares’ kept growing with almost 16,600 Twitter followers (and over a million tweet “impressions”) with nearly 8,500 Facebook fans and a total of almost 140,000 website pageviews by year-end.

Board of Directors in 2020

Co-chairs: Jean Symes, Ottawa, Ontario
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 Directors: Tracy Glynn, Fredericton, New Brunswick
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Staff in 2020

Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator
 Jamie Kneen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
 Ugo Lapointe, Canada Program Coordinator
 Diana Martin, Administration & Resource Development
 Coordinator
 Kirsten Francescone, Latin America Program Coordinator

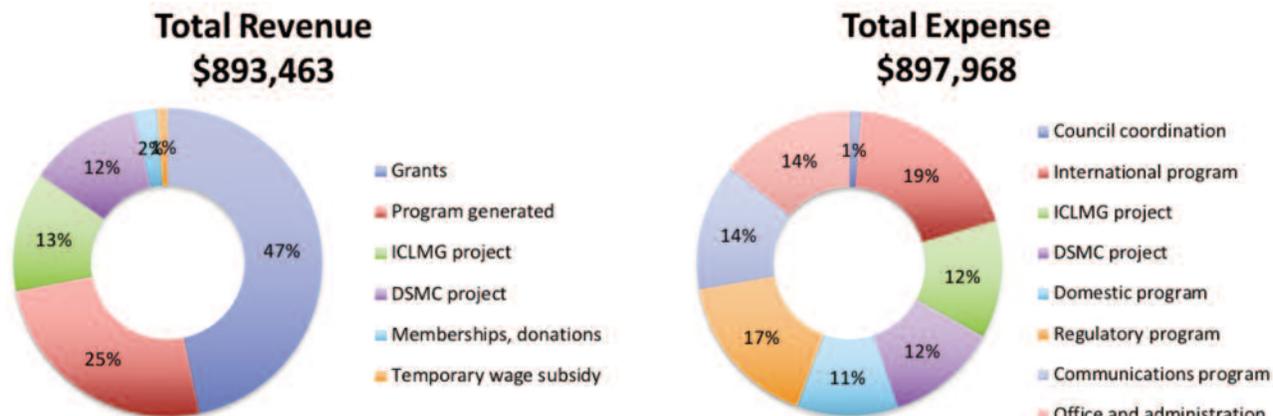
Members in 2020

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

MININGWATCH CANADA / MINES ALERTE CANADA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|------------|------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 664,899 | \$ 188,842 |
| Short-term investments | 118,062 | 116,922 |
| Accounts receivable | 63,189 | 75,786 |
| Due from Canary Research Institute | 79,393 | 84,822 |
| Government remittances receivable | - | 11,729 |
| Prepaid expenses | 2,198 | 5,633 |
| | 927,741 | 483,734 |
| CAPITAL ASSETS | | |
| | 1,345 | - |
| | \$ 929,086 | \$ 483,734 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 165,473 | \$ 44,053 |
| Government remittances payable | 10,882 | - |
| Deferred revenue | 440,781 | 121,646 |
| | 617,136 | 165,699 |
| DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT | | |
| | - | 1,580 |
| | 617,136 | 167,279 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Reserve fund - internally restricted | 202,000 | 197,000 |
| Legal fund - internally restricted | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Unrestricted net assets | 84,950 | 94,455 |
| | 311,950 | 316,455 |
| | \$ 929,086 | \$ 483,734 |



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

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 The McLean Foundation

National Union of Public and General Employees
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union
 Pacific Asia Resource Center
 Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund of Tides Foundation
 Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
 Steelworkers Humanity Fund Inc.
 Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund of Tides Foundation
 Unifor Social Justice Fund
 United Church of Canada
 Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project

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