



"Divided Population" – Malartic, Québec. Photo courtesy Olivier Pontbriand.

Highlights of 2016

International campaigns – Calling for stronger accountability of Canadian mining overseas

Canada Needs a Human Rights Ombudsperson for the Extractive Sector

An independent, transparent, credible Ombudsperson office is long overdue to help the Canadian government fulfill its obligations to remedy human rights abuses and prevent future harm caused by Canadian extractive companies operating internationally.

MiningWatch has worked closely with the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA) to develop and promote model legislation for an extractive-sector ombudsperson.

Courting Justice in British Columbia for Violence at Tahoe Resources' Mine in Guatemala

We have continued to collaborate with the Coalition Against Unjust Mining in Guatemala (CAMIGUA) and partners in Guatemala to support communications and solidarity with the plaintiffs in a civil lawsuit against Tahoe Resources over the company's role in a violent

attack in April 2013 at its Escobal silver mine.

In a precedent-setting ruling, the B.C. Court of Appeal overturned a lower court decision that had denied Canadian jurisdiction for the suit, finding that "there is some measurable risk that the appellants will encounter difficulty in receiving a fair trial against a powerful international company whose mining interests in Guatemala align with the political interests of the Guatemalan state. This factor points away from Guatemala as the more appropriate forum."

A Poor Answer: Barrick Gold's Grievance Mechanism at North Mara Gold Mine, Tanzania

MiningWatch and UK-based Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID) have engaged in extensive exchanges with Barrick Gold subsidiary Acacia Mining about security and human rights concerns at its North Mara gold mine. We have criticized the continuing high level of security-related violence at the mine and the company's opaque and

ineffective grievance process.

We also conducted a third field assessment, interviewing 26 claimants and family members who reported rape, assault, or deaths at the hands of police or mine employees. Some have signed settlement

agreements with the company. Claimants reported a lack of fairness in the agreement process, problems in the way in which agreements have been implemented, inequitable remedy, and a hostile or indifferent attitude.

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

Our work on the issues at this mine helped to stimulate a Government of Tanzania inquiry in 2016, which received claims that 65 people have been killed and 270 people injured by police responsible for mine security. However, this may be only a fraction of the actual number of victims as, for instance, the report failed to address killings and injuries by private security hired by the mine.

Making Environmental Assessment Work for the Public and the Planet

MiningWatch has worked on environmental assessments (EAs) of dozens of mining projects, directly and in collaboration with other groups and affected communities. We have been very concerned by the limited effectiveness, the inefficiency, and the inequalities of EA in Canada — and the erosion and dismantling of those aspects of the process that did work in the public interest, and in the interest of sustain-

ability, since our Supreme Court victory in 2010.

This year, the Minister of Environment established an Expert Panel to review federal EA processes. We submitted a brief and provided advice as part of the Minister's Multi-Interest Advisory Committee (MIAC); we also worked with the Canadian Environmental Network's Environmental Planning and Assessment Caucus to coordinate civil society participation in the review process and in the MIAC.

The Mount Polley Mine Disaster Is Not Over

More than two years after 26 million cubic metres of sludge gushed from the Mount Polley mine's tailings pond, no state authority has brought any sanctions or penalties. In response to this failure, we filed a private prosecution under the federal *Fisheries Act* against the B.C. government and Imperial Metals' Mount Polley Mining Corporation.

Movement building and community support – Working in common cause

In Canada

Revitalizing Environmental Assessment in Ontario

We have been providing information and findings to the Auditor General of Ontario about the province's outdated *Environmental Assessment Act*. In December, the Auditor-General released a damning report highlighting that Ontario is the only Canadian jurisdiction in which environmental assessments are generally not required for private-sector projects, and that Ontario ranks first in Canada as having the biggest environmental liability in the mining sector. In collaboration with our partners, the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), CPAWS Wildlands League, and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), we released a road map urging Ontario to act and to help the government get it right.

Assessment Shows Flaws of Ajax Open Pit Mine

KHGM's proposed Ajax copper and gold mine on the edge of the City of Kamloops is fiercely opposed by a significant proportion of Kamloops residents. We coordinated a visit to the area in March by a Quebec delegation who met and presented a letter to Kamloops City Council about the impacts of the open pit mine in the town of Malarctic. We also produced an economic risk analysis, which concludes that the Ajax mine "does not make economic sense" and "represents an unconscionable risk to investors, governments and the public." We recommended that the mine should not be permitted and that an investigation be undertaken by the B.C. Securities Commission for inadequate disclosure of risks and costs.

Malartic Citizens Demand Compliance with Laws and Standards

The Canadian Malartic mine in Quebec is the largest open pit mine within city limits in Canada, and has racked up over 171 environmental infractions and over 3000 non-compliances since it opened in 2009. We have been providing support to residents affected by the mine's operations through workshops and meetings with the company and health authorities. We also helped a citizens' committee file a class action suit to compensate for past and ongoing pollution, and seek an injunction to restrict the mine's sound levels and mining volumes.

The Sisson Mine Should Not Be Approved

The proposed Sisson open-pit tungsten and molybdenum mine is in the heart of the upper Nashwaak River Valley in New Brunswick. First Nations have said "no" to the project, and important questions about the environmental effects remain unanswered.

MiningWatch was engaged by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick to comment on the socio-economic findings of the environmental assessment. We noted that this mine would generate more mining waste and greatly increase the overall social, environmental and economic risks for investors, the public, governments, and affected communities. In addition, its tailings dam does not use the best available practice and technology, as recommended by the Mount Polley inquiry, and therefore, should not be approved.

Algonquins of Barriere Lake Call for Moratorium on all Mining Activities within their Territory

In June 2016, a moratorium on mining activities within the ancestral territory of the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, in place since 2011, was lifted unilaterally by the Quebec Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources without any prior notice or consultation. Copper One immediately announced that it was preparing to start mining activities.

We have been providing technical, strategic, and communication support to Barriere Lake. We also helped organize a solidarity event to parallel the formal opening of the annual Quebec Mines Congress.

Internationally

Canada-Honduras Delegation for Justice, Land and Life

MiningWatch joined a tremendous number of organizations and individuals throughout the Americas and around the world in condemning the assassination of internationally renowned Honduran Indigenous activist Berta Cáceres and the attempted murder of Mexican activist Gustavo Castro with whom we have worked for many years. We coordinated a Canadian delegation to participate in the international 'Berta Cáceres Lives' gathering in Honduras mere weeks after Berta was killed. Since then, we have continued to coordinate solidarity actions and to pressure the federal government regarding Canada's problematic role in the investigation into Berta's murder, and Canadian mining interests in Honduras.

Support for Water Protectors in Ecuador

For over ten years, communities in the south-central highlands of Ecuador have been fighting to protect their water and the integrity of the wetland páramo ecosystem from proposed mining activities.

In collaboration with the Environmental Defenders Law Center (EDLC) and sixteen local partners, we obtained an expert opinion from mining engineer Jim Kuipers concerning the risks that proposed gold and silver mining poses to local water supplies and affected com-

munities in this area. The opinion provides authoritative support to long-standing community resistance to INV Metals' Loma Larga project and Junefield Resources' Río Blanco project.

OceanaGold Loses Long-Running Suit Against El Salvador

In 2009, Pacific Rim Mining brought an "investor-state dispute settlement" (ISDS) case against El Salvador. The company, now owned by OceanaGold, sued for US\$250 million for lost potential profits after not being granted permits for a gold mining project. After seven years and millions of dollars in legal fees, the panel found that the company had never met regulatory requirements to obtain those permits and owes the country US\$8 million in costs.

In collaboration with international allies in solidarity with the National Roundtable Against Metal Mining in El Salvador, we helped

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

Voices for Effective Policy Regulation and Governance in Africa

The Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa, runs parallel to the official Mining Indaba (Indaba is Zulu for "gathering"). It serves as a space for mining affected communities across southern Africa and beyond to debate and critique the socio-economic costs and consequences of mining on our citizens and environment, and to develop and articulate alternatives to the profit-driven mining regimes which currently proliferate across the continent. Participating in this year's event allowed us to build deeper linkages with community struggles and NGOs across southern Africa.

Calling for the Closure of a Company-Sponsored Foundation in El Salvador

MiningWatch collaborated with the National Roundtable Against Metal Mining in El Salvador and local organizations on a report that documents the activities of OceanaGold's El Dorado Foundation. The company is using the Foundation to try to lay the groundwork for its highly disputed gold project. *Mining, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Conflict: OceanaGold and the El Dorado Foundation in El Salvador* finds this to be deceitful, disrespectful, and dangerous, and calls for the closure of the Foundation.

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Members in 2016

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
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)

build public awareness and pressure around this case. Our campaign will now focus on pressuring the company to "pay up and pack up."

Strengthening Corporate Research for Community-Based Work

Mining-affected communities and civil society organizations often lack key information and analysis on transnational companies. This results in strategies that are based on a limited understanding of the key factors driving a particular company's decisions.

To help fill this gap, we are in the midst of a project to adapt a strategic corporate research tool to mining conflicts, in collaboration with the Latin American Observatory of Mining Conflicts (OCMAL), the Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts (OLCA) and Above Ground.

Women from Papua New Guinea Demand Justice at the UN Forum in Geneva

For years, security guards and police guarding the Porgera Joint Venture mine, under an MOU between Barrick and the Papua New Guinea state, have assaulted and sexually abused local residents. It was only after years of ongoing pressure by local organizations, MiningWatch, and academic human rights clinics working with us that Barrick finally acknowledged the sexual violence – but in response, implemented a very flawed remedy mechanism.

MiningWatch Canada joined other advocates at the 5th Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights to raise these concerns as part of a panel addressing lessons learned regarding company grievance mechanisms. Although their representative could not make it to the Forum, the voices of 119 rape survivors who had used Barrick's mechanism rang loud and clear in a video we helped them create and in their open letter and formal complaint to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights: "All in all, we stand united and speak for our rights so that Barrick MUST make equal compensation to us."

Connecting to new people and reaching a wider audience

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 over 12,700 Twitter followers and nearly 6,300 Facebook fans by year-end, and a total of almost 160,000 website pageviews for the year.

Staff in 2016

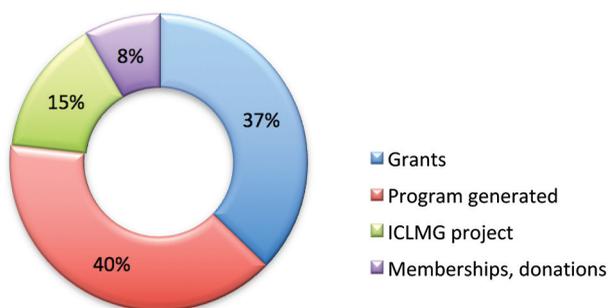
Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator
Jamie Kneen, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Ugo Lapointe, Canada Program Coordinator
Diana Martin, Administration & Resource Development Coordinator
Jen Moore, Latin America Program Coordinator

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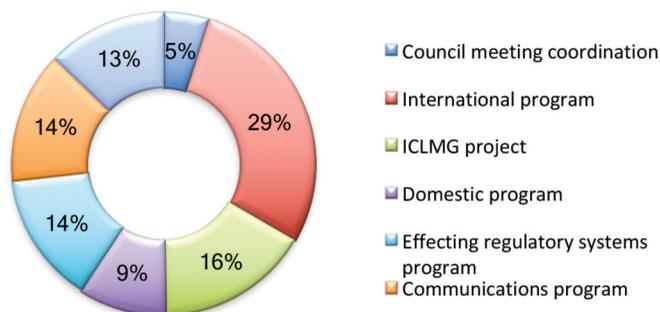
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 123,062	\$ 89,609
Short-term investments	140,173	138,924
Accounts receivable	35,954	25,062
Due from Canary Research Institute	114,752	83,563
Prepaid expenses	3,890	2,319
	\$ 417,831	\$ 339,477
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 18,220	\$ 14,559
Government remittances payable	20,018	5,567
Deferred revenue	86,561	93,518
	124,799	113,644
DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT		
	5,144	-
	129,943	113,644
NET ASSETS		
Reserve fund - internally restricted	\$ 182,000	\$ 152,000
Legal fund - internally restricted	25,000	25,000
Unrestricted net assets	80,888	48,833
	287,888	225,833
	\$ 417,831	\$ 339,477

Total Revenue \$764,273



Total Expense \$702,218



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

MiningWatch Canada is thankful for support from the following organizations:

Canadian Labour Congress
 Canadian Union of Public Employees
 Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake
 Clayoquot Action
 Ecojustice
 Inter Pares
 Mountain Equipment Co-op
 Northern Confluence
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union
 Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund of Tides Foundation
 Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

Public Service Alliance of Canada
 SAGE Fund
 Sigrid Rausing Trust
 Swift Foundation via Global Greengrants Fund
 The Fund for Global Human Rights
 Unifor Social Justice Fund
 United Church of Canada
 Wilderness Committee
 West Coast Environmental Law
 - Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund

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