



25 Years of Building Mining Justice

SPEAKER BIOS in order of appearance

Monique Manatch is a Knowledge Keeper working closely with Algonquin Elder Albert Dumont. She is also Executive Director and one of the founders of the organization Indigenous Culture and Media Innovations, with two decades of experience producing media and multimedia arts with Indigenous creators. Monique is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Anthropology at Carleton University, focusing on the use and creation of digital arts in Indigenous communities. Over the past 20 years Monique has produced several video documentaries about Indigenous issues. Monique also facilitated the production of videos and community radio programming with women and youth from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg, Barriere Lake, Moose Factory and the Indigenous community in Ottawa.

Jamie Kneen is the Canada Program Co-Lead and Outreach Coordinator for MiningWatch Canada, working on mining policy advocacy and individual mining projects in western and northern Canada, leading policy reform and providing strategic and technical support to communities affected by mineral exploration and mining projects. He also leads the organization's strategic research and communications, as well as research and advocacy in Africa (and previously, Latin America), as well as on mine waste management, mining and Indigenous rights, uranium mining, and environmental assessment policy and practice in Canada. With a degree in Biology (ecology concentration) from McGill University, Jamie has been involved with environmental and resource management issues, including mining and Indigenous land rights, for many years.

Ugo Lapointe offers independent consulting services on material footprint reduction and responsible sourcing of minerals. Ugo holds two degrees in mineral technology and geological engineering, and nearly 25 years of experience with industry, communities, governments, civil society, Indigenous organizations, financial institutions, and media. Ugo recently joined The Firelight Group, a majority-owned Indigenous consulting firm, where he works on policy analyses, project assessment, and the negotiation and implementation of Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs) for Indigenous communities and organizations. Before joining Firelight, Ugo

led non-governmental initiatives and organizations to improve mining practices and policies nationally and internationally, including MiningWatch Canada's national program.

Catherine Coumans has coordinated research and the Asia-Pacific program at MiningWatch Canada for 25 years. Departing from a rights-based perspective, Catherine has worked in solidarity with communities and Indigenous peoples affected by Canadian mining companies in more than ten Asia-Pacific countries and in Tanzania. The Canadian government appointed Catherine as an advisor in National Roundtables on the Canadian Extractive Industry in Developing Countries in 2006-07. She has provided expert testimony on mining in congressional inquiries in the Philippines, before the Constitutional Court in Indonesian, and for Canadian Parliamentary and Senate committees, as well as in an Amici Brief for the Supreme Court of the United States. MiningWatch is a founding organization of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability where Catherine provides strategic leadership on the steering committee. Following fieldwork on mining in Marinduque, Philippines, she holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and has published on mining in more than 15 peer reviewed publications since 2008, including in the Canadian Journal of Development Studies; UBC Law Review; Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment; Current Anthropology; and The Extractive Industries and Society.

Jaybee Garganera is the national coordinator of Alyansa Tigil Mina, a coalition of community organizations and groups collectively challenging destructive large-scale mining in the Philippines. He is engaged in social movements and coalitions focused on environmental justice and human rights, such as the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, Publish What You Pay-Philippines, In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement, and the Campaign for a Legally Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations. He is also active in steering committees of the Asia-Pacific Gathering on Human Rights and Extractives, and the Global Thematic Social Forum on Mining.

Sayok':la (It Snows Again) Kindness-Williams is of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin / Turtle Clan. She resides in Baraboo, Wisconsin, on the traditional lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Sayok':la is the Coordinator of WMAN's Indigenous Caucus. Her work promotes Indigenous Peoples leadership within WMAN through the support of the WMAN Indigenous Caucus, fundraising, and collaboration with the WMAN Network Coordinator and the WMAN Steering Committee. As a lifelong activist, Sayok':la's career in environmental justice began in 1999, when she was hired by the Indigenous Environmental Network and their partner, Project Underground, to lead the Indigenous Mining Campaign Project. Her past work also includes working for the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin as a Grant Development Specialist. Sayok':la is a member of the IEN Board of Directors and is active in the local fight in Wisconsin/Michigan to

save Menominee Nation sacred sites and the Menominee River from the proposed Back 40 Sulfide Mine.

Loretta Williams is one of the founding members of First Nations Women Advocating for Responsible Mining and former board member of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance. She is from the Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government, which is situated in the Interior of British Columbia. The Xeni Gwet'in is one of 6 Tsilhqot'in communities. They are the River People. Loretta's community is being threatened by proposed mining and mining exploration. The Tsilhqot'in have been through two Canadian Environmental Assessments for a proposed open pit gold and copper mine project within the heart of their caretaker area. The projects were rejected twice by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Loretta is very proud of her community's efforts in asserting jurisdiction of their territory over the years. It is because of this they find themselves where they are today: the first Aboriginal community in Canada to have Declared Title to a portion of their territory.

Joan Kuyek is a mining analyst, community organizer and adult educator living in Ottawa who has worked in and for communities affected by mining most of her life. She was the founding National Coordinator of MiningWatch Canada from 1999-2009. She is the author of *Unearthing Justice: How to Protect your Community from the Mining Industry* (fall 2019) and *Community Organizing: A Holistic Approach* (2011) and a number of other books and publications.

Donna Ashamock is an Eeyou/Inninee (Cree) community organizer for over twenty-five years, contributing to the development of Indigenous governance with a self-defined Indigenous community—MoCreebec—in Moosonee and Moose Factory in northeastern Ontario. Donna is a member of the Cree Nation and affiliated with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. Grounded in Cree-centred processes and worldview, she collaborated with fellow MoCreebec citizens to organize innovative community initiatives to support their collective governance and economic self-reliance such as the Cree Village Ecolodge, Community Education and Empowerment Project, and the MoCreebec Constitution. She is an auntie, stepmom, grandmother, and an advocate for family, community and land protection. She continues to collaborate with Indigenous organizations, communities and networks on various autochthony initiatives.

Josefina Tunki was the first woman President of the Government Council of the Shuar Arutam People (2019-2023) in the Cordillera del Condor, in the Ecuadorian Amazon. She is currently the Vice-chair of the ICCA Consortium for Latin America, an international association dedicated to promoting the appropriate recognition of and support to ICCAs (territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities) in the regional, national and global arena. Since

an early age, she's been leading internal processes for the protection of their territory against multiple extractive threats, including mega hydroelectric dams and large-scale mining projects.

Damaris Sanchez Samudio is the Coordinator of the National Network in the Defense of Water in Panama and a founding member of Panamá Vale Más Sin Minería (Panama is Worth More Without Mining) – a coalition bringing together 40 organizations and communities in the defence of natural resources from the threats posed by industrial mining activities in Panama. Damaris was one of hundreds of thousands of Panamanians who took to the streets in 2023 in historic protests, denouncing a contract between Canada's First Quantum Minerals and the Panamanian government to continue extracting copper in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. The powerful grassroots movement succeeded in shutting down the mine, and pressured the government to issue a national moratorium on new mining permits. Damaris is one of several activists now facing unjust lawsuits for her powerful activism protecting water in Panama.

Oscar Mauricio Estupiñan Ramirez is the President of the Bucaramanga Aqueduct Workers Union (SINTRAEMSDDES) and co-founder of the committee for the defence of water and the Santurbán páramo (Comité Santurbán). He has more than 22 years of experience in trade union and social movement organizing, with 15 years of experience defending water and the land around Santurbán – work for which he has faced death threats by paramilitary groups. He represents the Comité Santurbán at a national level, supporting processes against mining companies that will affect the population and the environment. He is a defender of water, life, and territory.

Viviana Herrera is the Latin America Program Coordinator for MiningWatch Canada, and works with communities, organizations, and networks struggling with mining issues throughout Latin America. Viviana's work has focused on the intersection of human rights, gender and the extractive sector in Latin America. She has a master's degree in International Studies from the University of Montreal, and spent three years in Bolivia working on the socio-environmental impacts of large-scale mega-dam projects on Indigenous and campesino communities and ecosystems in the Amazon.

Steve Mathias is Lead Negotiator for the Long Point First Nation Council. Previously, he served for many years as Chief of his community. His actions are aimed at ensuring self-determination and full recognition of the rights of his people on the unceded Kakinwawigak Nidakinan territory. For several years now, he has been working towards a just socio-economic reconciliation with the Quebec government and the mining industry, in particular.

Rodrigue Turgeon is MiningWatch Canada's national program co-lead for Eastern Canada. Lawyer, Rodrigue holds a master's degree in law and life sciences and a diploma in common law and transnational law. He is co-spokesperson for the Coalition Québec meilleure mine. Previously, he worked for the Commission d'enquête sur les relations entre les Autochtones et certains services publics and the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement. Author, he has just published his first book Nanikana, after participating in a number of collective publications. He was born and raised on the Anicinape Aki unceded territory, which he still inhabits in Val-d'Or.