



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## Our impact this year

This year has been a year of contradictions. In the midst of US tariffs and tension with Canada's largest trading partner, the federal government and the governments of B.C., Ontario, Québec, and Nova Scotia all passed or tabled legislation aiming to deregulate the mining sector and incentivize more mining projects. Both in Canada and globally, we saw a worrying trend of dismantling environmental protections, limiting democratic participation, and trampling on Indigenous rights to consent in order to fast-track mining projects in the name of national security and economic growth.

Yet even faced with such threats, mining-affected communities across the world continued to organize. From protests on Parliament Hill to encampments in the remote peatlands of Northern Ontario, people mounted powerful responses to this extractivist vision for our collective future. In Québec, citizens of the five municipalities in La Petite Nation held a first-of-its-kind referendum on Lomiko Metals' *La Loutre* graphite project, voting overwhelmingly against it. In Ecuador, people poured into the streets in Cuenca to protest DPM Metals' *Loma Larga* project, succeeding in getting its environmental licence revoked.

MiningWatch strategically intervened and reported on these issues and more in 2025. Read about our efforts to hold the mining industry to account on our website at [MiningWatch.ca](https://MiningWatch.ca).

Cover photo: Mount Awu, a live volcano on Sangihe Island in Indonesia. Members of the grassroots organization Save Sangihe Island (SSI) are fighting to protect their island from gold mining. (Catherine Coumans)



Civil society organizations, academics, and members of the public meet with a delegation of women Xinka leaders from Guatemala.

## Spotlights

### Coalition Québec meilleure mine Conference 40+ organizations mount a response to Québec's mining agenda

Already one of Canada's largest mining jurisdictions, Québec continues to undergo a massive mining boom as the province places the mining of "critical minerals" top on its agenda.

MiningWatch is one of the founding members of the Coalition Québec meilleure mine (QMM) – a coalition representing some 300,000 people from across Québec organizing for nearly 20 years to challenge this mining boom and the government policies that promote it. Together with QMM, we helped organize the Coalition's Congress in November 2025. The theme was "Politique des minéraux critiques et stratégiques: Quelles voix/voies pour l'environnement et la population?" (*Critical and Strategic Mineral Policy: What are the voices and pathways forward for the environment and the people?*). The two-day event brought together 70 people representing 40 groups from across the province to learn, exchange ideas, and share experiences and organizing strategies.

The Congress was an opportunity to connect with partners, and review and reaffirm the Coalition's positions on new mining policies that are already heavily affecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local populations in Québec. At the end of the conference, we published the **Declaration of the Coalition Québec meilleure mine**, outlining the positions that will guide the Coalition's work in the coming years – in-



Conference poster illustration by Juliette Lafleur

cluding a rejection of the government’s militarization of the economy, making the fight against over-consumption of minerals a national priority, ensuring that mining should not be done to the detriment of human dignity, and the importance of having a national conversation around how resources for the energy transition are being diverted towards military purposes. We strategically launched the Declaration to coincide with the Québec Mines + Énergie conference, which brings together industry and government to advance the mining agenda, to ensure the demands of civil society were heard.

## IN THE NEWS

“Québec meilleure mine en congrès pour faire face à l’accélération des projets miniers” - CBC News



Xinka delegates speak at a joint press conference with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs.

## Supporting Xinka Self-Determination

In May 2025, a seven-year court-ordered consultation regarding Pan American Silver’s Escobal mine in Guatemala reached a historic decision. The Xinka Indigenous People **denied consent** for the Canadian silver mine to restart operations and called for its permanent closure. Alongside a coalition of Guatemalan partners and international allies, MiningWatch invited a delegation of Xinka women leaders to Canada to publicize the decision, meet with the public and Canadian decision makers, and share lessons from the consultation process – a first-of-its-kind for the region whereby affected

communities could examine in-depth the cultural, social, and environmental consequences of mining and ultimately decide whether to provide or withhold consent.

In May, Marta Muñoz and Marisol Guerra **travelled to British Columbia** to strengthen alliances between Indigenous peoples in Guatemala and Canada, holding a joint press conference with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs. They spoke about both the urgent need and the risks associated with exerting self-determination in the face of mining, reflecting on the obstacles they faced during the consultation including the co-optation of the country's justice system, harassment, threats, and attacks against Xinka leaders and community members. In September, we supported Marta and Marisol in returning to **Eastern Canada** to meet with Members of Parliament and other government officials, to demand the Canadian government halt its diplomatic support for Pan American Silver and respect the decision of the Xinka People. We organized a **press conference** on Parliament Hill and held a public event at the University of Ottawa, bringing much-needed media attention and growing the base of Canadians ready to take action in solidarity with the Xinka in the coming months and years.

Pan American Silver has so far refused to publicly acknowledge or adequately disclose the results of the consultation. In November, we worked with allies in B.C. to deliver a **petition with 6000+ signatures** gathered throughout the speaking tour to the company's headquarters in Vancouver, urging Pan American Silver to respect the results of the consultation and take the necessary steps to safely and permanently close its Escobal mine.



Marta and Marisol. (Andrew Macleod)

**IN THE NEWS**

“Guatemalan Indigenous People Bring Their Mine Battle to BC” - The Tyee



Left: Darumatehu Sembanua ceremony on Sangihe Island; Right: a mural by local artist Alfred Pontolondo shows Sangihe Island carried by a protector that is half human and half dog, as dogs represent ancestral spirits. (Catherine Coumans)

## Mining on small islands: Confronting a Canadian company's efforts to mine the island of Sangihe in Indonesia

In November 2025, Asia-Pacific Coordinator Catherine Coumans travelled to Indonesia to meet with partners working to protect the small island of Sangihe from the Canadian gold mining company, Baru Gold.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to tens of thousands of small islands, many of which are volcanic in nature and rich in metals and minerals. But mining on small islands has serious environmental and social consequences, as it depletes and contaminates fresh water and produces large amounts of waste rock, putting significant strain on island communities where land and water for inhabitants and agriculture is already scarce. With an area of only 597 km<sup>2</sup>, the island of Sangihe in the province of North Sulawesi is classified as a small island under Indonesian law. It is therefore protected by the country's ban on mining on small islands.

Despite this ban, Vancouver-based Baru Gold Corp has acquired mining concessions covering more than half the island, threatening ecologically important mangroves and forests that are home to critically endangered bird species. During the visit, members of the Save Sangihe Island (SSI) grassroots movement shared updates about their ongoing struggle to stop all mining on Sangihe, launching legal challenges to the company's licence and work permits given the mining ban and a lack of consultation on environmental impacts. Recognizing the human cost of these struggles, SSI is bringing together women, men, elders, youth, local leaders, and faith-based groups to participate in traditional ceremony to strengthen the local movement and invoke the support of spirits and ancestors to protect the island from harm. An in-depth MiningWatch report on these efforts will be published in early 2026.

## Rare Earths and Iron Ore in Sept-Îles

Communities living on the Nitassinan, in the Côte-Nord region of Québec are seeing a surge in proposed “critical minerals” projects. The area is already an established region for mining iron ore, and has long faced environmental and social pressures from existing iron ore mines. Local communities have become increasingly concerned about the controversial *Strange Lake* project, a rare earths project proposed by Torngat Metals. The Canadian government announced a major investment of \$175 million in the project before any environmental evaluation and despite the mine’s links to the Trump administration. In addition, a major share of the production from the mine will go to a German company with a factory based in the United States that **produces components** for F-35 fighter jets.

Local communities are worried about radioactive contamination and other health and environmental impacts on residents and the territory. In response to an invitation from the Groupe Citoyens de Sept-Îles (Sept-Îles Citizens’ Group), MiningWatch Canada and the Coalition Québec meilleure mine held a **public information** session in October 2025 in the Innu community of Uashat mak Mani-utenam on health and social licence issues associated with mining iron ore and rare earth elements.

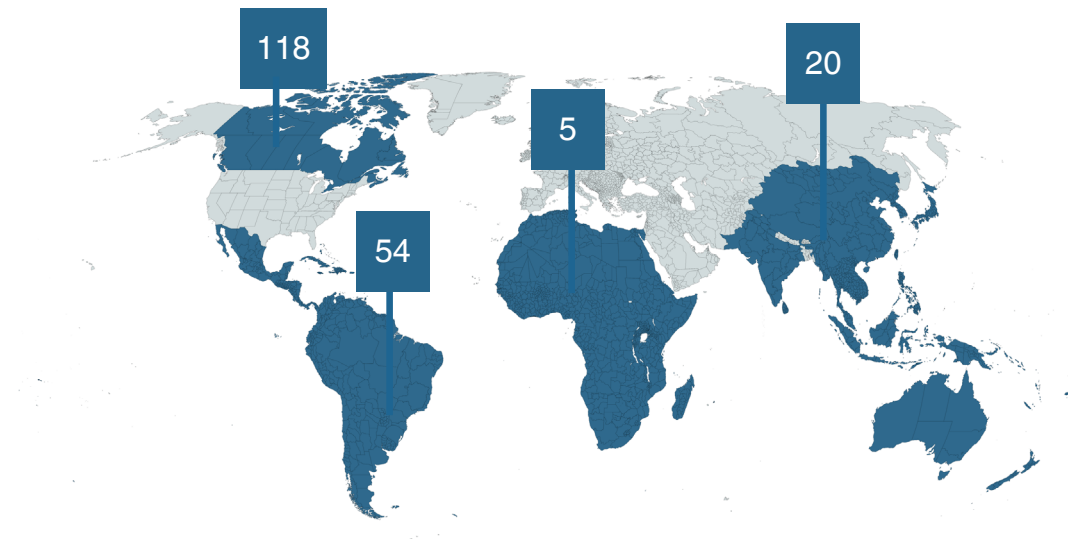
The purpose of the evening was to provide affected communities with an independent overview of current and future mining development on their territories. Journalists **reported** that about 100 people attended, more than a quarter of whom were Innu. The session was an important opportunity for audience members to share their concerns and questions about the future of mining in their region.



MiningWatch staff Rodrigue Turgeon speaks to a packed room at the Musée Shaputuan in Uashat.

# In the numbers

In 2025, we supported 197 community partners and counterparts around the world:



## Publications

We authored or co-authored **19 major publications**, including 5 reports, 13 briefs, and 1 journal article



## Blogs

We published **51 blogs** across three languages: English (25), French (7), and Spanish (19)



## Media

We were quoted in **137 media reports**, including:

“First Quantum backs off Panama arbitration claims, opening door to reopening copper mine” | Niall McGee, **Globe and Mail**

“Ontario wants to speed up mine approvals. Critics say it’s using the tariff threat as a pretext” | Mike Crawley, **CBC**



## Webinars

We hosted **4 webinars**, with a total of **464 participants**



## Solidarity Letters

We circulated **13 solidarity letters**, garnering a total of **571 organizational signatures**



## Events

We hosted and co-hosted **4 in-person events**, with over **200 participants**

# Our Team

## Board of Directors

Co-chairs:

Nadia Wysote  
Alexandra Pedersen

Treasurer: Jean Symes

Secretary: Esperanza Moreno

Directors:

Michael Desautels, Tracy Glynn,  
Blaine Grinder, Tara Lamothe, Elysia  
Petrona Reitberger, Donna Ashamock,  
Ellen Kaas

## Staff

**Catherine Coumans**,  
Asia-Pacific Program Coordinator

**Val Croft**,  
Communications Coordinator  
(on maternity leave after May)

**Viviana Herrera**, Latin America  
Program Coordinator

**Jamie Kneen**, Canada Program  
Co-Lead

**Diana Martin**, Fundraising and  
Operations Coordinator

**Rodrigue Turgeon**, Canada  
Program Co-Lead

**Miriam Shaftoe**, Interim  
Communications Coordinator

**Laura Pitkanen**, Grant Writer

## Members

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

## Here's how you can support our work:

Follow MiningWatch and share

- Subscribe to our newsletter
- Follow us on social media

Donate to sustain our work!

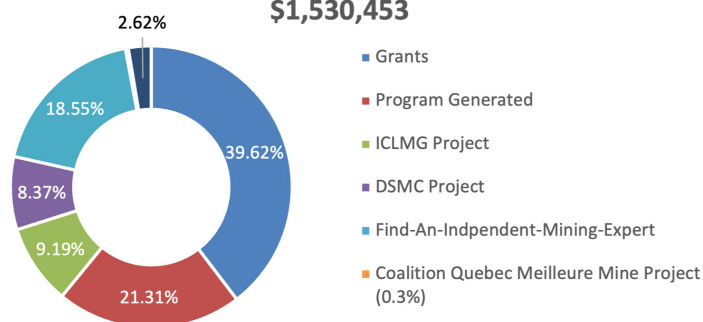
- Become a monthly donor
- Join our legacy giving program

# FINANCIALS

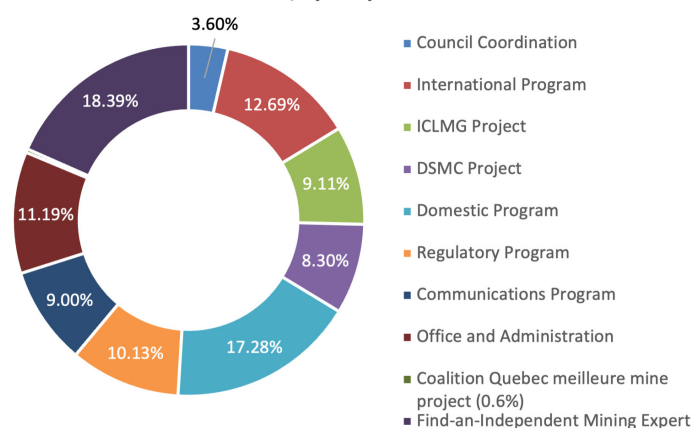
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025

	2025	2024
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 435,094	\$ 266,764
Short-term investments (note 2)	623,123	681,845
Accounts receivable	144,903	122,618
Due from Canary Research Institute (note 5)	157,762	99,129
Prepaid expenses	6,661	6,679
	1,367,543	1,177,035
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS (note 3)</b>	<b>6,763</b>	<b>7,332</b>
	<b>\$ 1,374,306</b>	<b>\$ 1,184,367</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 59,410	\$ 74,342
Government remittances payable	40,527	21,490
Deferred revenue (note 4)	930,491	730,751
	1,030,428	826,583
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Reserve fund - internally restricted (note 6)	233,123	223,123
Legal fund - internally restricted (note 6)	25,000	25,000
Unrestricted net assets	85,755	109,661
	343,878	357,784
	<b>\$ 1,374,306</b>	<b>\$ 1,184,367</b>

**Total Revenue**  
**\$1,530,453**



**Total Expense**  
**\$1,544,359**



## MiningWatch is thankful for support from the following organizations:

Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Clean Economy Fund  
Fidelity Gift Fund  
Ford Foundation  
Global Greengrants Fund  
Inter Pares

Ontario Public Service Employees Union  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
The 11th Hour Project/The Schmidt Family Foundation  
Unifor Social Justice Fund  
Western Organization of Resource Councils  
Education Project