



Didipio residents blockade access to OceanaGold's mine in Nueva Vizcaya province, Philippines.

Highlights of 2019

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

Holding Canada to Account for Abuses in Mexico

As part of our efforts to document and expose the extent of Canadian state support for the mining industry in the face of community opposition and grave human rights violations, we have been supporting the family of Mariano Abarca – a Mexican community leader who was murdered for speaking out about the impacts of Blackfire Exploration's barite mine in Chiapas – in their pursuit of justice. In March, we supported a delegation, including two members of the Abarca family, to attend a hearing in the Federal Court of Canada. The hearing was for an administrative review of the Public Service Integrity Commissioner's refusal to investigate the actions of the Canadian embassy in its involvement with Mariano and the company.

The judge dismissed the case, validating the government's position that the government's own policies regarding corporate responsibility and embassies' roles in mining conflicts are voluntary and non-enforceable. Despite this disappointing decision, the judge made an important statement, supporting the position of the family: if the embassy had acted differently, Mariano Abarca might still be alive today. We supported the family in submitting an appeal to the Federal Court of Appeals, and the case is expected to be heard in the fall of 2020.

Seeking Justice for Eritrean Plaintiffs

In January 2019, the Supreme Court of Canada heard an appeal by Nevsun Resources Ltd. of lower court rulings that accusations against it regarding the use of forced labour at its Bisha mine in Eritrea should be heard in British Columbia, not Eritrea. MiningWatch, ably represented by Andrew Cleland and the firm Trudel Johnston & Lespérance, was granted intervenor status to support the case being heard in Canada.

Earlier this year, the Court ruled that corporations can be held liable for breaches of customary international law, in this case, against forced labour, and that the case against Nevsun could proceed. The case is expected to be heard in late 2020.

Aiding Legal Action for Victims in Tanzania

In 2019 MiningWatch continued years of documenting the cases of victims of injury and death at the hands of mine security at Barrick Gold's North Mara mine in Tanzania. This year we met with some of those victims to prepare them for possible inclusion in legal action to be initiated by UK law firm Hugh James against Barrick's subsidiary Acacia Mining Plc. (now Twiga Minerals). We also continued our research and documentation of the flaws of the mine's own grievance mechanism.

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

Making the Best of the New Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The new federal *Impact Assessment Act* (Bill C-69) came into force in August 2019. We worked intensely for three years, with experts and groups across the country, to try to create a leading-edge impact assessment regime. The new law makes some improvements, but it's far from the leading-edge reform that we had been pushing for. It fails to make the process more independent, and it doesn't set out a lot of actual requirements – other than that assessments not to take too long. Worse, it applies to even fewer projects (and fewer *mining* projects) than the Harper Conservatives' 2012 *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. We are continuing to work on regulations and guidelines under the new Act to make sure they are as good as possible.

Reforming British Columbia's Mining Laws

B.C. has the only provincial mining law regime in Canada that has not been significantly reformed since its inception in the gold rush era of the 1850s and early 1860s. This regime is responsible for the injustice of the enduring disproportionate impact on Indigenous peoples and the growing environmental liability of contaminated mine sites. Over the past year, we worked with B.C. partners to build a comprehensive reform platform with nine policy and regulatory roadmaps for reforms, focusing on Indigenous rights and environmental quality.

Movement building and community support – Working in common cause

Supporting Communities' Resistance to Mining in Ecuador

In collaboration with Ecuadorian networks and organizations in the Intag region of northern Ecuador, we took action to highlight community concerns related to Cornerstone Capital Resources' exploration projects in the area. We delivered a letter to the company signed by presidents of all eight communities in the Parish of Cuellaje. We also published a community statement and coordinated a public action with the Mining Injustice Solidarity Network at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's 2019 convention in Toronto, condemning the company's continued exploration activity in spite of local opposition. As well, we facilitated the visit of a hydrologist to conduct water sampling and open a space for communities to address concerns related to water impacts from mining in the region.

In southern Ecuador, we continued our efforts to support the longstanding resistance of communities downstream of INV Metals' proposed gold-copper-silver project in Kimsakocha, Ecuador. We coordinated a public response to the company's feasibility study, and we provided support to a local referendum, urging the company to respect the communities' right to decide what happens in their territory and cease its attempts to undermine the process. In addition, at the request of affected communities, we commissioned an analysis of the feasibility study to identify potential environmental impacts and brought two hydrologists to the region to address the project's potential impacts.

Halting OceanaGold in the Philippines

OceanaGold's licence to mine copper and gold at its Didipio mine in the Philippines expired on June 20, 2019. The Canadian-Australian company continued mining, so on July 1, Didipio residents, mostly Indigenous, blockaded access to the mine. MiningWatch and Jubilee Australia released a brief detailing how OceanaGold is ignoring the fact that it lacks both a legal licence and a social licence to operate the controversial mine.

We worked with partners to organise demonstrations in Ottawa and Vancouver in support of the Didipio blockades. We also travelled to the blockade, where we interviewed local activists to document the history of harms at the mine site, coordinated fundraising efforts to support the blockade, and met with lawyers looking to undertake legal action in support of the community.

We also founded the B.C. Mining Law Reform network and campaign for changes to mineral development laws and practices to ensure they are environmentally sound, do not pollute waters, respect community decisions, and account for the costs to clean up toxic mine wastes.

Reducing the Demand for Primary Minerals in Quebec

In 2019, MiningWatch played an active role on the Quebec Mines Minister's Advisory Committee. We called for greater efforts and resources to address contaminated abandoned sites; a review of the current Mining Act to align with Indigenous rights, and more powers to local communities to designate "no-go mining zones". As well, we collaborated with the Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine, to launch a campaign calling on the province to implement five conditions to avoid undermining the green energy transition.

Preventing Mine Waste Dam Failures

The Global Tailings Review developed a draft Global Tailings Standard that aims to prevent catastrophic failures by setting new requirements for the industry in the safety and security of mine waste facilities. We responded with a brief that stressed the need for clear and mandatory technical guidelines, enforceable compliance mechanisms, and an independent global oversight body.

Protecting the Wellbeing of Citizens in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge

We have been playing a leading role in supporting Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, a small, tourist and cottaging community facing a \$96 million suit by Vancouver-based junior mining company Canada Carbon. The company alleged that the municipality had no right to regulate against its graphite mining project to protect its territory. In turn, the municipality argued it has a responsibility to protect its citizens, its environment, and its local economy which is heavily dependent on a healthy and quiet environment—not a mining environment.

We helped a local citizens' group mobilize and launch a solidarity campaign ahead of the municipality's court date. We also commissioned an expert report that found that the project was not economically viable and that the \$96 million damage claim was unfounded. Finally, we supported the community in coordinating a public response to the company settling with the municipality out of court.

Addressing Environmental Concerns in Saint-Michel des Saints

Nouveau Monde Graphite's proposed open pit mine – right next to the world-renowned Mont Tremblant National Park and within the Lake Taureau Regional Park watershed – faces opposition from local citizens and the cottaging/tourist community. We supported a local group to commission an expert review of the company's feasibility study. The report found that the company had overestimated revenues and underestimated the costs related to operating a large open pit mine in a sensitive area, for water pollution controls and water treatment, dust and noise controls, and reclamation, among other things.

Securing Redress for Damages in Malartic

In October 2019, three years after the launch of a class action suit for damages related to dust, noise, and ground tremors from the Malartic mine, community members reached an out of court agreement with the mine operator. The mine is the largest open pit gold mine in Canada, located right next to the community. In the weeks leading to the agreement, we facilitated discussions with community members and their lawyers to assess the advantages and disadvantages of accepting the out of court settlement. In the end, the agreement offered increased compensation for affected residents.

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

Assessing Mining in the Context of the Energy Transition

In collaboration with the Latin American Observatory of Environmental Conflicts (OLCA), the Observatory of Mining Conflicts of Latin America (OCMAL), and UK-based War on Want, we organized and hosted a three-day regional meeting in Chile on September 26-28 in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) and the parallel People's Summit. With the participation of fifteen organizations from Chile and over twenty from the rest of Latin America, we explored the risks and future of an industry-led, mining-intensive solution to climate change and the conditions and strategies needed to move beyond extractivism and released a joint statement.

We also held a hugely successful international conference in Ottawa on November 14-15: *“Turning Down the Heat: Can We Mine Our Way Out of the Climate Crisis?”*. We convened representatives from communities – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous – affected by mining on the front lines of “energy metals” extraction from Canada and around the world, researchers and experts on materials efficiency, technology, and energy transition, and activists and leaders in the struggle to address the climate crisis. We explored the implications of this new extractive rush for communities that are already struggling with the impacts of mining, as well as the need for more stringent regulation of mining activity, the potential for reducing the demand for new mined metals and minerals through improved efficiency and recycling, and policies that can account for the full costs of raw metals – not to mention larger-scale transformations in transportation, production, trade, and consumption.

Exposing How Mining Companies Challenge National Laws

In collaboration with the Institute for Policy Studies, we researched and published a report documenting thirty-eight cases filed by global mining corporations against Latin American governments using the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system. The report

documents the magnitude of the problem in the context of mining conflicts in Latin America and the troubling implications that ISDS suits pose for the already difficult struggles of Indigenous peoples and mining-affected communities to exercise their self-determination and to defend lands, waters, and ways of life from the destructive impacts of industrial mining. We organized a public launch of the report in Ottawa with the participation of members of the Comité para la Defensa del Agua y los Páramos de Santurbán (Committee for the Defence of Water and Páramos of Santurban, Colombia), given their first-hand experience with the process.

Highlighting the Threat and Impact of New Deep Sea Mining Frontier

Together with the Deep Sea Mining Campaign and the London Mining Network, we co-authored the report *‘Why the Rush? Seabed Mining in the Pacific Ocean’*, which exposes the role of Canadian companies in driving a speculative rush for seabed minerals in an unholy alliance with the very UN body charged with regulating them, the International Seabed Authority (ISA). The report exposes blatant corporate capture of the ISA and the manipulation of Pacific regional decision-making processes by deep sea mining promoters, and it calls for a moratorium on the development of deep sea mining regulations and on the issuance of exploration and exploitation licences in international and national waters.

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

Our Facebook fans, Twitter followers, website visitors, and e-mail lists have all been very active. Numbers, as well as good interactions, retweets, and ‘shares’ kept growing with almost 15,600 Twitter followers (and over a million tweet “impressions”) with nearly 8,300 Facebook fans and a total of over 105,000 website pageviews by year-end.

Board of Directors in 2019

Co-chairs: Earl Commanda, Ottawa, Ontario (resigned, May 2019)
Jean Symes, Ottawa, Ontario (on leave)
Donna Ashamock, Moose Factory, Ontario (since April 2019)

Treasurer: Ian Thomson, Ottawa, Ontario

Secretary: Esperanza Moreno, Gatineau, Québec

Directors: 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 (resigned July 2019)
Hilu Tagoona, Baker Lake, Nunavut

Staff in 2019

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 2019

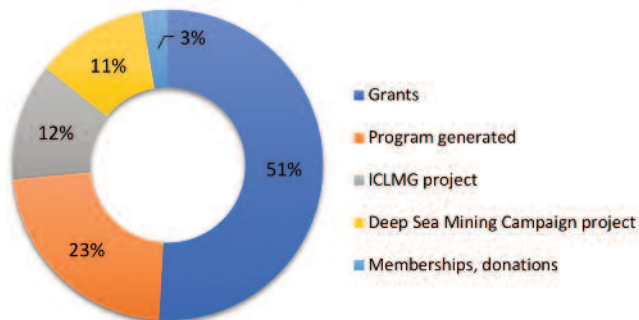
1. Alternatives North
2. Bathurst Sustainable Development
3. Bedford Mining Alert
4. Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)
5. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
6. Centre for Longterm Environmental Action Newfoundland/Labrador (CLEAN)
7. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
8. 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)

MININGWATCH CANADA / MINES ALERTE CANADA

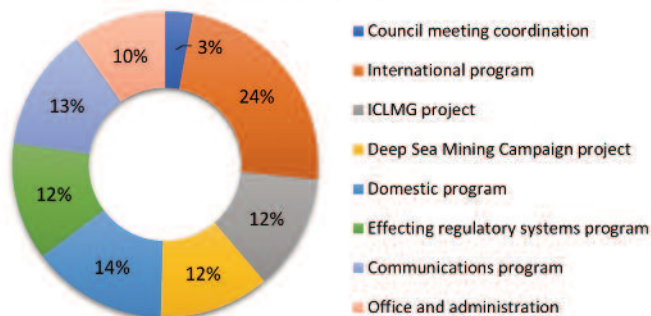
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019

	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 188,842	\$ 163,572
Short-term investments	116,922	31,016
Accounts receivable	75,786	62,838
Due from Canary Research Institute	84,822	73,740
Government remittances receivable	11,729	10,065
Prepaid expenses	5,633	5,380
	483,734	346,611
INVESTMENTS		
	-	113,567
	\$ 483,734	\$ 460,178
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 44,053	\$ 42,259
Deferred revenue	121,646	104,147
	165,699	146,406
DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT		
	1,580	2,768
	167,279	149,174
NET ASSETS		
Reserve fund - internally restricted	197,000	192,000
Legal fund - internally restricted	25,000	25,000
Unrestricted net assets	94,455	94,004
	316,455	311,004
	\$ 483,734	\$ 460,178

Total Revenue \$1,039,597



Total Expense \$1,034,146



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

MiningWatch Canada is thankful for support from the following organizations:

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 Echo Foundation
 Fidelity Gift Fund
 The Firelight Group
 Ford Foundation
 The Gaia Foundation

Global Greengrants Fund
 Inter Pares
 The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
 Ontario Public Service Employees Union
 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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