

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN)
Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project
(WORCEP)
Mini-Grant Recipients
June 2018**

1. Cabinet Resource Group, Montana

The Cabinet Resource Group (CRG) is a volunteer grassroots environmental organization started in 1976. They are located near the pristine Cabinet Wilderness Area, which has very limited development. Their initial success was preventing a dam at Kootenai Falls, but their main focus has been battling the now closed Troy Mine and the proposed mines at Rock Creek and Montanore. In the past year, they also have sponsored local youth camps, hikes and educational events. Currently they have a role in funding trail maintenance in the Cabinet Mountains as Forest Service funding dwindles.

The Cabinet Resource Group will use their mini-grant to help pay for equipment and a server line to be used for continuous monitoring of ground water levels near the proposed Rock Creek Mine in Noxon, MT. Information gathered will be pertinent to tailings stability and water quality. CRG believes the full-time monitoring results could illustrate the need for further testing and review, and hope to highlight this issue with the state's DEQ.

2. Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, Northwest Territories

Established in 1971, Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC) is a well-respected non-partisan public interest, research, and advocacy organization. Composed of citizens committed to environmentally-responsible northern development, support for the rights of Indigenous peoples, respect for the authority of northern territorial governments, and increased international co-operation in the circumpolar world, CARC has a reputation for high quality research and public policy analyses, effective public communication and advocacy, and helping to set the public policy agenda. CARC has published more than 100 books, monographs, and facilitated nationally significant conferences on the Arctic.

Mini-grant funding will be used for the scoping phase of a study on the cost benefit analysis of the resource extraction industry in the Canadian Arctic, especially as it relates to mining, which is the most ubiquitous. The study will be called 'Sustainable economies for the North: Developing a vision and policy pathway,' and will be done in conjunction with several consultants and Indigenous partners. The study will question economic policies for the north including those put forward by governments and industry that prioritize nonrenewable resource development over economic diversification, and seeks to answer whether resource development's dominance is part of the region's future and if it should be.

3. Canary Research Institute on Mining, Health, and Environment, Ontario

The Canary Research Institute on Mining, Environment and Health was incorporated in 2003 "to promote the advancement of education and the reduction of poverty in Canada and elsewhere relating to and resulting from the impacts of mineral development on the physical, cultural, social and emotional health of humans and human communities, and on the health of terrestrial and aquatic environments." It is a non-profit organization that primarily carries out research and educational projects by contracting organizations such as MiningWatch Canada and other organizations that align with their values, vision and mission.

Funding will be used to research, compile and publish, in an accessible format, the best water quality laws and standards as currently being applied in the mining sector in the US and Canada (e.g. state-level, federal-level and/or project-level, with concrete projects examples) in order to inform and better position affected communities, organizations and regulators confronted with mine water pollution issues in the US and Canada—especially communities which often deal with the perpetual pollution risks left behind once mining operations end. The report will be geared towards a broad audience, and webinars and presentations will be organized to present the findings. In addition, the findings will be written up in a format suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

4. Cascade Forest Conservancy, Oregon

The mission of the Cascade Forest Conservancy (formerly the Gifford Pinchot Task Force) is to protect and sustain the forests, streams, wildlife, and communities in Washington's South Cascades through conservation, education, and advocacy. Since their founding in 1985, they have been the only non-profit conservation organization focused on conserving the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF)—1.4 million acres of public land anchored by Mount Rainer, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Adams and continuing all the way to the Columbia River.

The Cascade Forest Conservancy will use their mini-grant for a campaign to protect Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and the Green River Valley from a hard rock mining proposal. Their short-term goal is to defeat an attempt by Ascot Resources Limited—a Canadian mining company—to conduct exploratory drilling for copper, gold, and molybdenum. They also are working for permanent protections for the Green River Valley. Funding would be used for outreach materials, events, meetings, and travel.

5. Clearfork Community Institute, Tennessee

The Clearfork Community Institute (CCI) was founded in 1997 by local women who secured the last standing coal camp school in the area and restored it into a place-based, living, learning center that today is the Clearfork Community Institute. CCI is still led by local women and facilitates community participation in social change work. The main goal of CCI is to support coalfield residents in bringing themselves

out of poverty, away from mono-industrial practices and into a flourishing state of wellbeing with one another and our Earth.

Mini-grant funding will support CCI's Citizen's Water Monitoring and Enforcement project by equipping community members with knowledge, equipment, and professional support to monitor local waterways. The project supports enforcement work, prevents future stream degradation and contributes to the restoration of watersheds. It also will help strengthen protection for the environment and communities of Tennessee and advocates for stricter water quality mandates, as well as stronger enforcement of existing law.

6. Children of the Taku Land Protection Society, Yukon

Children of the Taku Society (COTTS) is a volunteer non-profit society created in 2012 as a forum for citizens to have their voices heard and be represented at government forums and negotiations, independent of Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) governance structures. They have joined together to restore and protect the culture, traditions and heritage of the TRTFN and work with TRTFN leadership and citizens to protect the benefits, health, productivity and integrity of traditional territory. Their mandate is to maintain open, peaceful, grassroots community action, in response to the unchecked and unaccountable mining that they have seen grow within their territory.

Children of the Taku Land Protection Society will use their mini-grant to raise awareness about the effects of mining within the Taku River Tlingit First Nation territory, including addressing extensive and unacceptable impacts from the abandoned Tulsequah Chief mine. Specifically, funding will be used for travel to meetings with the TRTFN government and citizens, supplies for meetings, printing costs, and a promotional film.

7. Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine, Quebec

The Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine was founded in 2008 to counter the mining industry lobby in the Province of Quebec, one of the three main mining jurisdictions in Canada (with Ontario and British Columbia). Its mission is to defend the health of ecosystems and communities affected by mining in Quebec and to promote improved practices, laws and policies. The Coalition is composed of 30-member organizations, mainly grassroots citizen organizations, environmental groups, and public-sector workers' unions, and dozens more partners throughout the Province and Canada. It is the leading citizen and civil society voice on mining issues in the Province of Quebec and has contributed to major advancements and victories for the health of communities and the environment.

The Coalition's mini-grant will be used to support a state-wide citizen and Indigenous Peoples participatory forum to be held on June 15-16 in Rouyn-Noranda, in a core mining region in the Province of Quebec. The goals are to maintain a strong state-wide network by celebrating a well-deserved 10-year anniversary of mining actions by the Coalition Quebec Meilleure Mine and to

highlight mining issues ahead of the upcoming provincial/state elections in early Fall 2018. Funding will be used to cover the cost of the venue, travel scholarships, meals, audio-video systems, etc. for the forum of 100 people.

8. Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake, Alberta

Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake was founded in 2008 in response to the environmental tailings pond failure/disaster and ongoing discharge of mine waste from the Mount Polley Mine into Quesnel Lake. Their goals include stopping the use of Quesnel Lake as a “water treatment system,” challenging the use of “initial dilution zones,” sending a message to the mining industry and provincial government, and updating B.C.’s archaic mining laws.

Mini-grant funding will be used to acquire scientific and legal expertise in support of their legal case in front of the Environmental Review Board. Experts will finalize reports and prepare testimony.

9. Couchiching First Nation, Ontario

The Couchiching First Nation is one of the First Nations within the North Western Ontario area and part of eastern Manitoba in an area now known as Treaty 3, which was created in 1873 by the surrounding Ojibwe First Nations and Queen Victoria. They are a large community with many departments and many projects going on within the community. One of the larger ones is the Contaminated Sites project and Water Adaption project, both focused on their community’s environmental health.

Couchiching First nation will use their mini-grant to organize a community drum social that will bring awareness on the mining issues they are currently facing. This event will include informational tabling and guest speakers.

10. Council for Responsible Mining, South Dakota

Founded in 2014, the purpose of the Council for Responsible Mining is to provide an organization through which various scientists, attorneys and interested public can work to bring environmental responsibility to various activities of mining that would impact the health and wellness of the environment and the living beings of the planet. The organization’s goals include providing education and expert witnesses to the public, supporting and funding research, promoting the development of new laws that protect the environment, and supporting old laws to remain in effect where necessary.

Funding would be used for water testing of the White River that runs through Crow Butte Resources working uranium mine in Crawford, NE for toxic metals, starting from above the mine and going through the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations where the river flows. Testing of the biota of the river also will be done to match the chemical health with the biological health of the river. Since Crow Butte will be closing and going into remediation and reclamation, baseline information and monitoring of the

river will ensure sure that the company is cleaning up their mess and not continuing to pollute the river.

11. Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho

Friends of the Clearwater (FOC), a recognized non-profit organization since 1987, defends the Idaho Clearwater Bioregion's wildlands and biodiversity through a Forest Watch program, litigation, grassroots public involvement, outreach and education. FOC started as an all-volunteer organization and has grown to 3.5 staff members. Leading projects include holding government accountable for all proposals on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the Clearwater Basin.

Friends of the Clearwater will use their mini-grant to produce and distribute a short educational video about the harmful impacts of suction dredge mining in the Clearwater Basin of North Central Idaho. Long-term benefits include engaging the general public on an issue they may not know much about. While suction dredge mining has been heavily criticized and/or stopped in California, Oregon and Washington, the controversial practice is still allowed in Idaho. The video will be shared on the web, with other conservation groups, and with government agencies.

12. Grand Council Treaty #3, Ontario

Grand Council has existed since the late 1800's and serves as an administrative and political organization that represents 28 first nation communities within Treaty #3 territory. Grand Council's mandate is "protecting the future of our people by ensuring the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Treaty and Aboriginal rights." This is achieved by advancing the exercise of inherent jurisdiction, sovereignty, nation-building and traditional governance with the aim to preserve and build the Anishinaabe Nation's goal of self-determination. Grand Council has a number of different departments, which are political, education, fish and wildlife, health, justice, and territorial planning.

Mini-grant funding will be used to implement a community-based monitoring program to address the active mining activities and numerous abandoned mines, which have degraded environmental quality within Treaty #3. The monitoring program will have communities collect data on environmental health from their surrounding lands and waters and monitor for change over time. This will provide a long-term benefit by allowing declining environmental health trends to be detected, which will help identify possible pollution sources and guide future environmental restoration and mitigation initiatives.

13. Kitimat Terrace Clean Air Coalition, British Columbia

Kitimat Terrace Clean Air Coalition is a volunteer citizen group concerned about air quality degradation, formalized as a non-profit in 2016. Rio Tinto's Kitimat smelter

is presently the main focus of the group. Their purposes are to advocate for healthy air quality in the Kitimat Terrace airshed, promote and provide education of healthy air quality best practice, support environmental stewardship in the Kitimat Terrace airshed, and apply pressure on governments and industry to be more accountable for decisions that impact local people.

Funding will be used to help to pay the Coalition's legal team, which is preparing for a month long appeal of a sulphur dioxide environmental monitoring plan issued by the BC government to Rio Tinto. Their attorneys will be arguing that the government failed to protect human health by approving an adaptive management plan without taking adequate steps to gather baseline public health data or conduct a human health risk assessment when SO₂ is a known health hazard.

14. Lynn Canal Conservation, Alaska

Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC) is a grassroots environmental organization based in Haines Alaska. LCC was founded in 1972 to protect the integrity of wild lands and quality of life in the Lynn Canal region of Southeast Alaska, specifically the Chilkat/Chilkoot watersheds near Haines. In the last several years, LCC has been investing significant resources to educate the communities of Haines and Klukwan about the risks of a copper/zinc/gold mine project that is currently being explored upstream of the village of Klukwan and the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

Lynn Canal Conservation will use their mini-grant to address the threat of a large sulfide mine (Palmer Project), which is being explored on a tributary of the Chilkat River. They will launch a targeted outreach campaign that will focus on educating and activating regional commercial fishing interests dependent on Chilkat wild salmon, and will support the national distribution of a locally produced short film that promotes awareness of the threats faced by the communities and ecosystems of the Chilkat watershed. Funds will pay for graphic design and printing, film distribution, and screening.

15. Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness, Minnesota

Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) was founded by local citizens from wilderness-edge communities that would be seriously harmed by proposed sulfide-ore copper mining projects near the Boundary Waters. Since launching the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters (the Campaign) in 2013, NMW has quickly built a powerful coalition. The Campaign has over 140,000 members and activists and the support of more than 350 sportsmen groups, environmental and public interest organizations, and businesses. The goal of the Campaign is permanent protection of the watershed of the Boundary Waters from sulfide-ore copper mining.

Mini-grant funding will be used for Kids for the Boundary Waters, a national campaign led by young people, that focuses on a message of conservation and

protection of the Boundary Waters from the threat of proposed sulfide-ore copper mining on adjacent Superior National Forest lands. The campaign will teach kids how to advocate by writing letters, placing telephone calls, and making personal appeals to political office holders. Funding will be used to cover travel, lodging, materials, and other expenses for youth members of Kids for the Boundary Waters to visit Washington, D.C. to meet with decision makers and advocate for protection of the Boundary Waters.

16. Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Arizona

In the seven years since it's founding, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA) has succeeded in halting unlawful mining proposals as well as in monitoring and inventorying the biological wealth of the Patagonia Mountains. Through strategic partnerships with well-established organizations, PARA has established itself as the foremost watchdog organization protecting the Patagonia, Arizona region. As a direct result of their watchdog activities, they have prevented the start of any mining activity on public land in the Patagonia Mountains.

Mini-grant funding will pay for an expert analysis of Arizona Mining, Inc.'s Taylor Project Feasibility Study (a document that is expected to be released in quarter three of this year). PARA will distribute the analysis findings discussing the anticipated environmental impacts of the Taylor Project through various community presentations and printed materials. Their goals are to provide community members an opportunity to present substantive objections to hold Arizona Mining, Inc. and the Forest Service to the highest standards of environmental protection, support the long-term protection of the Patagonia Mountains from mining, and increase national attention to the region and the threats presented by extractive industries.

17. Quesnel River Watershed Alliance, British Columbia

The Quesnel River Watershed Alliance was founded in 1994 with a mission statement "To enhance, maintain and protect the overall health of the Quesnel River Watershed" through education and awareness. Their projects include Sockeye Salmon festivals and paddles, and working with First Nations, Endangered species, Sustainable Leadership Project, and mining issues on the Quesnel River System.

Funding will be used to cover registration and costs for the organization's members to attend the BC Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation annual symposium in Williams Lake, BC in September 2018, with the main topic being the remediation at the Mount Polley mine site, and to take part in the Community Panel discussion. Since the mining spill in Aug. 2014, the Quesnel River Watershed Alliance has advocated for an open panel/workshop to allow community members to discuss the effects the Mount Polley Mine disaster has had on the area.

18. Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs, British Columbia

Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs (RAVEN) was founded in 2009, and is the only non-profit charitable organization in Canada that provides legal defense funds to Indigenous People to curtail unsustainable industrial development and drive systemic change. RAVEN's vision is a country (Canada) that honors the ancestral laws, rights and stewardship values of Indigenous Peoples, and their equitable access to the justice system within a thriving natural environment. Their mission is raising legal defense funds from grassroots donors and foundations, to assist Indigenous Peoples who enforce their rights and title through the courts to protect their traditional territories.

Funding will be used to support litigation in both provincial and federal courts related to a plan by Taseko Mines Limited to construct and operate a large open pit gold-copper mine at Teztan Biny (Fish Lake). Fish Lake is a region that holds cultural, spiritual and economic significance for the Tsilhqot'in people, and the Tsilhqot'in Nation and Canadian government have determined that the proposal will cause severe, permanent environmental damage, harm Tsilhqot'in culture and violate aboriginal rights. An injunction against drilling activities is in place, but is being challenged. Also, Taseko is appealing the federal government's earlier decision to reject the mine.

19. Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc Nation, British Columbia

The Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc is a geopolitical governance group of the Secwépemc Nation, situated in the Secwépemc Traditional Territory around Kamloops Lake, British Columbia (BC). The Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc includes and is principally comprised of Secwépemc persons who are members of the Skeetchestn Indian Band and the Tk'emlúps Indian Band and are referred to as "Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc" or "SSN". In accordance with Secwépemc laws, customs, and traditions, members of the Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemc are the caretakers and stewards, who own, care for, and are responsible for the protection and management of that part of Stk'emlúpsemc te Secwépemcúl'ecw (Secwépemc Traditional Territory) that includes Pípsell and the land that surrounds it.

SSN's mini-grant will support their project to reinforce international recognition of their decision to reject the KGHM Ajax copper/gold open pit mine proposal and the review process that led to this decision, while showcasing how Indigenous peoples can take control of their environmental and cultural impact assessment process when facing mining projects. Specifically, funding will be used to work with a consultant to have the Secwépemc Pípsell Heritage & Cultural Site recognized as a UNESCO International Heritage Site, to host an international/solidarity cultural gathering at the Pípsell Heritage & Cultural Site, to contract with a filmmaker to film the gathering and record testimonies for the creation of short videos, and to hire a media person.

20. Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia

Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS) was formed in 2017 to be a voice for sustainable development on the North Shore, to encourage and promote an environmentally friendly economy, and to oppose industry that threatens their natural and lived environment. SuNNS current focus is to prevent the beginning of prospecting and eventual gold mining in a 70,000-acre area containing six watersheds that provides water to 37 communities. This mining activity would threaten the sacred waterways of Mi'Kmaq communities.

SuNNS will use their mini-grant to obtain a formal legal opinion on whether they have standing and grounds to file for a Judicial Review or an Injunction that would prevent or delay the Provincial Department of Natural Resources from issuing the Request For Proposals (RFP). Once an RFP is issued, there are no grounds for the Province to prevent a mining lease without risking a lawsuit for damages. Funding will cover legal fees, brief preparation, and filing expenses.

21. Utah Dine Bikeyah, Utah

Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) established itself in 2011 as a Native American organization focused on safeguarding cultural resources and protecting the ecological integrity of ancestral, public lands in southeastern Utah. UDB aims to safeguard the land and human health by conserving and protecting public lands and Native American cultures through secured access and co-management. UDB's mission is to: "Preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources of ancestral Native American lands to benefit and bring healing to people and the Earth."

Utah Diné Bikéyah will utilize their funding to hire a consultant to research the environmental legacy and human impact of uranium mining on Native American communities in the four corners region of the southwestern United States. This research will factually inform the work of two artists (Fazal Sheikh and Terry Tempest Williams) working visually and through words to raise awareness and move the public emotionally through art. Additionally, their work will include a forensic and historical analysis of the sites of incursion across the region, as well as first-person testimonies of those impacted by years of mining. This research will inform strategies and political opportunities that UDB is analyzing to impact policy change around mining in the near future.

22. WaterLegacy, Minnesota

WaterLegacy was founded in 2009 by citizens concerned that sulfide mining proposed for Northeastern Minnesota would destroy wetlands, habitats and wild rice; contaminate water with toxic metals; increase mercury in fish; and impair human health and tribal rights. WaterLegacy works with environmental allies to advocate and engage citizens to oppose the PolyMet sulfide mine.

WaterLegacy will use their mini-grant for the Prevent PolyMet Water Pollution Permit project to advocate that any water pollution discharge permit for the PolyMet mine project must require modern reverse osmosis treatment, set enforceable limits to comply with all Minnesota water quality standards, and meet federal Clean Water Act requirements to control pollution through groundwater to nearby streams and wetlands. Since PolyMet is Minnesota's first proposed sulfate mine, decisions about its water pollution permit will set precedent for all other Minnesota sulfide mines.

23. Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed, Alaska

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) is an indigenous grassroots non-profit organization established in 1997. The YRITWC was created by Indigenous leaders who were concerned about safeguarding and cleaning-up the Yukon River Watershed (YRW). It is a coalition comprised of 74 Indigenous governments in Canada and Alaska with the 50-year vision "To be able to drink water directly from the Yukon River." The YRITWC is an entity that coordinates efforts to protect, clean and maintain the health of the Yukon River and its diverse peoples.

Mini-grant funding will be used to build capacity in local Indigenous communities for water and sediment sampling at four abandoned placer mines. The project will include community meetings to present basic factual information about mining and discuss local mining activity as well as the big picture of mining activities in the Yukon River Watershed. Community members will then be invited to training in water and sediment sampling.

24. Xenigwet'in First Nations Government, British Columbia

The Xenigwet'in First Nation is a First Nations government located in the western Central Interior region of the Canadian province of British Columbia, 170 kilometers west of Williams Lake. A member of the Tsilhqot'in Tribal Council, the population in Xenigwet'in is approximately 443. The Xenigwet'in First Nation Government chose not to take part in the British Columbia Treaty Process and instead fought for Aboriginal Rights and Title through the Canadian judicial system. In 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada acknowledged Aboriginal Title to approximately 1800 square kilometers of the Nation's traditional territory - a first for any indigenous group in Canada.

Mini-grant funding will be used for Xenigwet'in members, including elders, leaders, and possibly youth, to attend federal court proceedings during which Taseko Mines will challenge the legitimacy of the Canadian Environmental Assessment. The assessment process resulted in two rejections by the federal government of a proposal for an open-pit copper and gold mine in an area where the Xenigwet'in First Nations Government, along with the Tsilhqot'in Nation, have established aboriginal rights. An injunction will be sought to prevent ground disturbance by the mining company.