

**Western Mining Action Network (WMAN), Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)  
and Western Organization of Resource Councils Education Project (WORCEP)**

**Mining Mini-Grant Program  
February 2022 Recipients**

**Summary**

With the generous support of True North Foundation and Cloud Mountain Foundation, WMAN, IEN, and WORCEP administered a very successful February 2022 Mini-Grant cycle.

**Mini-Grant Recipients**

**Magpie Buffalo Organizing, Rapid City, South Dakota**

Magpie Buffalo Organizing tries our very best to represent, bring awareness, advocate for, and defend the Silent Nations in regards to the Gold, Uranium, Hard rock, Rare Earth mining and other desecration to the Sacredness of the HeSapa. In all hopes, dreams, visions and prayers to save and protect for future generations. We go to Tribal Nations and the public in general to inform and seek help as it is a people problem to save the waters and lands we share.

With the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant, Magpie Buffalo Organizing will do an education and awareness campaign with local Tribes and Tribal Councils, including Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Oglala Sioux, and Yankton Sioux Tribes, as well as other communities affected by the Crow Butte and Dewey Burdock uranium project and gold mining that is impacting the Cheyenne River and area aquifers. Funds will cover the development of educational materials, travel, community meetings, media, and communications via local reservation stations.

**Deer Tail Scientific, Duluth, Minnesota**

The stated mission of Deer Tail Scientific (DTS) is "to educate the public, government officials and tribal sovereign nations with fact-based information on: (1) the permitting, development, reclamation, environmental performance and economics of Wisconsin's Flambeau Mine; and (2) how the Flambeau Mine compares to other mines (closed, currently operating or proposed) in the Great Lakes region and beyond".

Deer Tail Scientific will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to help cover attorney and consultant expenses associated with the upcoming hearing about the Flambeau Mine that recently petitioned for a "Certificate of Completion" (COC) of reclamation of the 32-acre industrial outlot near Ladysmith, Wisconsin, despite the fact that their own environmental monitoring data shows continued contamination of a Flambeau River tributary that crosses a portion of the outlot. The contamination is significant enough that the tributary was added to the Environmental Protection Agency's official list of impaired waters in 2012 due to copper toxicity linked to the Flambeau Mine operation and remains listed to this day. A public hearing will be held on the FMC petition sometime in early 2022, and Deer Tail Scientific has lined up two scientific experts to help and is in the process of seeking legal representation.

**Community Environmental Advocates Foundation, Cedar Ridge, California**

In 2017, three local organizations combined to form Community Environmental Advocates Foundation. All three predecessor organizations were committed to protecting residents of Nevada County, California from environmentally unsound projects. CEA Foundation's mission is to perform research, educate community members and decision makers, and advocate for responsible land use and environmental protection policies in Nevada County. Our goal for Nevada County's future is a thriving community, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.

Community Environmental Advocates Foundation will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to fight the reopening of an industrial scale gold mine in Grass Valley, California (the Idaho Maryland Mine), which closed in 1956. Rise Grass Valley, Inc has filed an application with Nevada County for a permit to reopen the mine. The mine expects to run 24/7 for 80 years. The mine site is now bordered by more than 100 residences on three sides and directly adjacent to the urban City of Grass Valley. This is the second attempt in the last decade to reopen this gold mine. The grant will help pay legal and professional fees related to responding to the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the reopening of the Idaho Maryland Mine which has just been released. The long term benefits we hope to achieve are to stop yet another attempt to reopen the mine and prevent the damage it would cause.

### **Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, Idaho**

The Nez Perce or Nimiipuu people have always resided and subsisted on lands that included the present-day Nez Perce Reservation in north-central Idaho. Today, the Nez Perce Tribe is a federally recognized tribal nation with more than 3,500 citizens. During the 1855 treaty negotiations at Walla Walla, the Tribe insisted on retaining these inherent rights. Once gold was discovered, mass trespass and theft took place within the Tribe's reservation. Instead of protecting the reservation from encroachment, the federal government forced the Tribe into a second treaty in 1863, which reduced the reservation to about 750,000 acres. Throughout the treaty-making process, the Nez Perce Tribe retained the inherent right to fish at usual and accustomed fishing stations, and to hunt, gather and graze livestock on open and unclaimed lands, all outside of the reservation boundary. These off-reservation rights have been upheld on numerous occasions in state court cases, citing treaty rights as the supreme law of the land. The Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee is made up of 9 elected members which governs the Tribe now.

The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will help the Nez Perce Tribe to actively oppose the proposed Stibnite Gold project which would be an immense open pit gold, silver, and antimony mine. We will continue to employ Jim Kuipers as a professional mining engineer to assist the Tribe with expertise in mining practices and CERCLA knowledge. A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released in March of 2022, so the Tribe needs all the help we can gather to comment on this project in order to protect natural resources that will be impacted if the mine operates.

### **Save the South Fork Salmon, McCall, Idaho**

Save the South Fork Salmon is a community-based, grassroots organization which seeks to promote ecologically informed stewardship of the South Fork. We organized in 2018 in response to the most immediate threat: a proposed gold mine by Perpetua Resources (formerly Midas Gold). The proposed mine is on the site of former mining operations that are still toxic to the waters and land at the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho.

This is a huge and complex mine and we are continually in need of expert analyses in order to challenge their conclusions and data. The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will enable us to hire geochemical experts, hydrologists, fisheries biologists and a water rights legal expert for reviewing the supplemental DEIS and for technical support for our Water Rights protest. The South Fork is prime habitat for endangered Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Bull Trout. The East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River flows directly through the site which has already been impacted by previous mining operations.

### **Headwater Inc., Whitesburg, Kentucky**

Headwaters was founded in 2005 to improve access to community education, access to timely and accurate water-quality information, and stewardship of local waterways in Letcher County, Kentucky, where there has been severe degradation due to coal mining over the past century. Letcher County contains the headwaters of three major rivers - the North Fork of the Kentucky River, Big Sandy River, and the Upper

Cumberland River, making the health of waterways in this county especially impactful for communities both here and downstream.

Headwaters will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to fund a water testing and monitoring program that will increase our ability to regularly water test in areas of need throughout Letcher County as well as improve our environmental education curriculum. Many community concerns are about water quality related to mining runoff from abandoned mine lands, which may contain heavy metals and other contaminants. We will visit nearby water sources and provide relatively quick water sampling and testing results. This will raise public awareness about water quality issues in the county and ensure local people have access to timely water quality information. Since our founding, Headwaters has conducted environmental education workshops in local schools. While the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented us from being able to safely conduct training in schools, we will continue our youth workshops at Cowan Community Center.

### **The Coalition to Save the Menominee River Inc., Marinette, Wisconsin**

The Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Inc. is a grassroots organization that was founded with a mission to educate and recruit advocates for the protection of all forms of habitat and life within and around the Menominee River freshwater system. We stand with the Indigenous people of the Menominee Nation in defending and protecting these waters and the sacred and culturally significant lands along the river. The life-giving waters of the Menominee River are a vital resource to all of the people along its 116 mile stretch from Iron Mountain, Mi to Marinette, Wi providing fresh drinking water for residents, for businesses and for thousands of recreationalists. The goal of this organization is to grow the number of advocates who will join together to help develop policies and laws to protect the river for generations to come.

The Coalition will use the IEN-WMAN funds to continue its efforts to keep the Back 40 sulfide mine from operating just 150 feet from the banks of the Menominee River. Funds will help in a public educational campaign, including advertising, newspapers, and flyers, as well as a July public event with expert speakers, to increase public awareness of the dangers and threats posed to the Menominee River by this mining operation. The project will also support the Coalition's legal environmental team who will challenge mining companies applications for licensing and other actions.

### **Kno'Qoti Native Wellness, Inc., Clearlake Oaks, California**

KNWI is a small grassroots, community-based non-profit which was founded in 2016. Our board is comprised entirely of local Pomo Indigenous women. KNWI's vision is to create life-long impacts that enhance the quality of life for Native American communities. We believe in empowering and supporting Native communities through programs and services that promote wellness, support families, and revitalize the Native American culture.

Kno'Qoti Native Wellness will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to continue ecorestoration efforts and public education about contamination from the abandoned Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine, declared a Superfund site in 1990, and adjacent to their lands. Funds will go towards research, heavy metal soil testing and an education campaign for the local Tribal community on the history of the mine and it's contamination of the lands and waters.

### **Association pour la protection de l'environnement du Lac Des Plages, Lac Des Plages, Quebec**

Association pour la protection de l'environnement du Lac Des Plages (APELDP) is a community non-profit organization formed to protect the local environment, and they are raising public awareness of a potential open graphite mine in Lac des Plages by Lomiko Metals Inc. The graphite ore is within 42 mineral claims, over 2,509 hectares (25 square km), and located near local lakes, including within 10 km of Lac-des-Plages, 600 metres of Lac Doré and less than 100 metres of Lac Bélanger.

The IEN-WMAN Mini Grant will enable APELDP to create a public education campaign about the proposed mine, including the costs of organizing public meetings, creating a website, and developing, printing, and distributing printed materials. We will organize public meetings with environmental experts to answer residents' questions. As internet availability is low in the area, we will create and distribute a printed flyer with relevant information. Along with developing the website, the flyer and community meetings will form help to inform and mobilize our citizens.

### **Northern Confluence Initiative, Smithers, British Columbia**

Northern Confluence is dedicated to conserving the salmon watersheds that sustain our communities, economies and shared futures. We are rooted in northwestern British Columbia and draw together perspectives from across the region. Together, we are working to improve land use decisions that respect Indigenous laws and rights and are based on sustainability principles. Given the impacts of mining in northwest B.C., we are also working to bring BC's mining laws into the 21st Century. We have helped form a network focused on three main goals to reform BC's mining laws. These priorities are around Mineral Tenure Act reform (ensuring consent of First Nations, respect for land-use plans, and more no-go zones); polluter pays (both full bonding for mine reclamation and a disaster fund); and reducing risks from tailings to watersheds (see: <https://reformbcmining.ca>). Northern Confluence was founded in May 2018 and is a project on the shared platform of MakeWay.

Northern Confluence Initiative will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant funds to assist in producing communications materials in support of the Gitxaala First Nation court case that aims to reform British Columbia's Mineral Tenure Act and bring it into compliance with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The grant will help to amplify support for Gitxaala's legal challenge and reform BC's mineral claim system through means such as polling, press releases, short videos edited for social media shares from intervenors, and/or social media ad buys.

### **Cabinet Resource Group, Heron, Montana**

Cabinet Resource Group works to protect & preserve the social, physical & environmental integrity of our people, community and the wild nature and wildlife we share the landscape with.

The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will enable Cabinet Resource Group to monitor the Troy copper silver mine and contamination of Lake Creek, a tributary of the Kootenai River. Funds will enable the hiring of Summit Enviro Solutions and Pace Analytical for contaminants monitoring of the closed Troy copper-silver mine that is in a reclamation phase. The grant will fund sampling in Lake Creek adjacent to the Troy mine tailings impoundment, to confirm the presence of ammonia resulting from a breakdown of explosives used in the mine and other heavy metals, copper in particular, and help with costs of a fisheries sampling study along these two reaches of Lake Creek adjacent to tailings impoundment.

### **Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Patagonia, Arizona**

PARA's mission is to protect the Patagonia Mountains and the Sonoita Creek Watershed from the impacts of 21st century industrialized mining. The Patagonia Mountains and the Sonoita Creek Watershed are located in an arid desert environment and are part of the Madrean Pine Oak Woodlands recognized by scientists as one of the top regions in the world most in need of protection for species survival. The Patagonia Mountains have a rich and diverse body of minerals of interest to mining companies. There is a 100 year history of mining (roughly 1860-1960) in these mountains. During that 100 year history, a total of 250,000 tons of ore was removed from the mountains. 21st century industrialized mining is dramatically different. A former owner of the Hermosa Project had forecast removing that 100 year total EVERY 25 DAYS. Unfortunately, the reality is that federal and state laws encourage mining.

PARA will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant for legal fees and technical expert fees for the Arizona Water Quality Appeals process for permits for the Hermosa Mine Project of South 32 in the Patagonia mountains, where the company proposes to extract the mineral resources. The mine

company South 32 contends that it met all the legal requirements to obtain the permit. PARA contested that both the mining company and the state regulators at the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) failed to consider all of the necessary environmental consequences to discharging such a large volume of groundwater just nine miles upstream from 900 Patagonia residents.

### **Eyak Preservation Council, Cordova, Alaska**

The Eyak Preservation Council (EPC), based in Cordova, Alaska, is a 501(c)(3) grassroots Native-founded and led environmental justice and social change organization dedicated to protecting and preserving wild salmon habitat, Indigenous culture and promoting sustainable communities in the Prince William Sound, Copper River and Gulf of Alaska watersheds. The heart of EPC's work are wild salmon, their pristine habitat and the ecosystems that sustain them and the traditional heritage and economies that depend on them.

The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will enable Eyak Preservation Council to continue work on retiring the Bering River Coalfields 11,000-acre bituminous subsurface coal title, owned by the Korea Alaska Development Corporation (KADCO), with a conservation easement in perpetuity in Alaska's Bering River watershed, within the Copper River Delta. The goal is to have the conservation covenant/easement placed into the Native Conservancy land trust, where the 62,000 acre conservation easement for the additional previously retired Bering River Coalfields are placed in perpetuity. The grant will fund community, regional, national, and social media communications, materials and outreach campaign, and travel for meetings, and will assist strategies for current communications outreach to raise awareness and purchase funding.

### **Friends of the Stikine Society, Victoria, British Columbia**

FOSS, a grass roots organisation (founded 1980) helped stop 5 dams on the Stikine and Iskut watersheds. For 22 years we have worked to keep mining to a sane cultural, social, and environmentally secure level in the Stikine, Iskut, Unuk, Skeena, Nass, Taku, Yukon, & Finlay watersheds, focussing on monitoring, remediation, and education. FOSS members have a history (since 1974) of living in the Stikine and collaborating with Tahltan, Tlingit, and white settlers living in Iskut, Dease Lake, Telegraph Creek, & Wrangell in Northwest BC and AK. Our main mining focuses: Seabridge Gold Corp and the Unuk watershed (Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell, now including Iron Cap), on the Iskut watershed (Iskut Property), on the Yukon watershed (3 Aces); also Galore Creek Mining Corp. (Galore Creek Mine Proposal) on the Stikine watershed; and Newmont/Imperial Metals (Red Chris Mine) on the Iskut watershed. Communities affected: Iskut First Nation, Telegraph Creek First Nation, Dease Lake Indigenous and settler communities of NW BC; Tlingit and Haida Tribes and settler communities of Wrangell, Petersburg, and Ketchikan, Alaska.

FOSS will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to fund an public education campaign in northwest BC and work more closely with Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission to facilitate cross border partnering through our friendships in Tahltan communities, and to further networking, collaboration, and liaising among First Nation, Tribes, NGO's, settler communities, and miners to stop inappropriate exploration and mine proposals, and help ensure best available practices and remediation on projects that proceed. We will also use water and sediment testing to help establish baselines to inform and encourage communities to pick up more extensive testing. Funds will go towards environmental sampling, the costs of travel, and creation of educational materials.

### **WaterLegacy, Saint Paul, Minnesota**

WaterLegacy is a grassroots non-profit that uses science, law, and organizing to protect Minnesota waters from contamination, particularly sulfide mining pollution. WaterLegacy's accomplishments in partnership with Tribes and other allies include: 1) Legal victory in 2021 reversing the PolyMet sulfide mine Permit to Mine and ordering a contested case hearing on control of acid mine drainage; 2) Legal victory in 2022

reversing the PolyMet water pollution (NPDES/SDS) permit to require analysis of discharge through groundwater; 3) Advocacy and public engagement victory in 2021 resulting in U.S. EPA and State of Minnesota's historic listing of impaired wild rice waters for protection from sulfate pollution.

WaterLegacy will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant for contract legal and public engagement costs for the PolyMet Permit to Mine contested case hearing ordered by the Minnesota Supreme Court. This trial-like hearing will take place in spring or summer 2022. The PolyMet Permit to Mine contested case hearing is a singular opportunity to demonstrate that PolyMet tailings waste storage would release acid mine drainage and toxic metals pollution for centuries. The PolyMet mine would be located in 1854 Treaty Ceded Territories in the headwaters of the St. Louis River. Downstream, the Fond du Lac Reservation, Duluth residents, and Lake Superior would all be harmed by toxic PolyMet pollution. WaterLegacy has opposed the PolyMet sulfide mine for more than a decade. But the upcoming contested case hearing is the first and likely our only opportunity to challenge any aspect of PolyMet's mine plan in a trial-like hearing.

### **Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS), Londonderry, Nova Scotia**

SuNNS is a group of concerned citizens that has a collective vision and strategy to encourage sustainable, locally driven community and economic development. We have three broad goals. 1. Be a voice for sustainable development on the North Shore of Nova Scotia. 2. Encourage and promote an environmentally friendly economy. 3. Oppose industry that threatens our natural and lived environment. For the past 4 years we have been entirely focused on preventing an open pit gold mine in our watershed. We also participate in a pan-provincial anti-gold mines organization of Indigenous and settler participants called Flowing Together. Just this week we heard our campaign to protect our watershed was successful!! While we are protected for now our neighbours are threatened by 5 gold mining projects that we are working to counter.

SuNNS will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to produce and operate a social media campaign, including graphic design, signs, stickers, social media, and the production and distribution of materials. The campaign is to generate enough public pressure to stop the proposed development of 5 new gold mines in Mi'Kma'ki Nova Scotia. Thanks to a previous IEN-WMAN Mini-grant we were able to research and experiment with how best to get our anti-mining messages out to a number of key audiences. Now we have a better idea of what works well, our next step is to collaborate with the media team of an allied group called "Ecology Not Excavation" to create and deliver our mining messaging to allied environmental groups working in related areas such as climate catastrophe, biodiversity, wildlife, forestry, salmon restoration, open pen fish farms, etc. Mining impacts their interests but up to now it's been difficult to connect the dots. Through this we hope to generate a huge public uptake to our urgent action requests centred on stopping new gold mines in the entirety of Mi'Kma'ki/Nova Scotia.

### **Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment, Knoxville, Tennessee**

SOCM is a member-driven organization founded in 1972 in the coal-fields of East TN, where community residents responded to problems caused by irresponsible strip mining practices. Our mission is to empower rural and urban Tennesseans to protect, defend, and improve the quality of life in their communities across the state. We have members in 91 of Tennessee's 95 counties working on issues ranging from environmental justice to social and economic justice. Our primary focus is supporting the development of member-led, county based chapters through local and regional organizing training, development of member-led chapters and support for local and regional issue campaigns. SOCM has led local efforts to challenge harmful coal mining permits and support proper mine site reclamation, and to support federal just transition legislation through locally-based advocacy campaigns and meetings with legislators.

Over the past decade, SOCM has co-led ongoing community efforts focused on coal ash cleanup following the catastrophic Kingston Coal Ash spill in 2008. Recently, TVA announced the closure of it's Bull Run Fossil Plant in Claxton, TN. Community members are extremely concerned about the storage and maintenance of the plant's remaining coal ash and its documented impacts on

community health. Following the Department of Environment and Conservation finding exceedances of 11 different toxic substances in local streams and creeks, our local members will launch an ongoing citizen water monitoring program. Our goal is to use the monitoring effort as an organizing tool, empowering Claxton residents to conduct their own high quality lab testing for use in their campaign to hold TVA responsible for cleaning up unlined coal ash ponds in the area. The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will help to fund testing supplies and equipment, travel costs and meeting material for training events, and printing costs for community outreach and reports.

### **Coucheemoskog Aki Ikwewok, Ignace, Ontario**

Coucheemoskog Aki Ikwewok is a grassroots project that focuses on prevention, wellness and healing our women in homeland re-connection. Coucheemoskog Aki Ikwewok would enable our women to return to the land with grassroots leading with empowerment and culture.

The Ring of Fire is the extreme mining that's expected to run for 120 years, in Mishkeegogamang Treaty 9 Territories. The Ring of Fire is impacting Mishkeegogamang, as well as all communities in the Nishnaabe Aski (Cree). The territory consists of 43 Communities. Coucheemoskog Aki Ikwewok will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to fund travel costs and supplies for a Retreat Camp that would start the process of addressing old and new mines in our territory. Ring of Fire Mining involves many hundreds of mines that need to be addressed through a grassroots led, such as this vision in returning to the Land. This project would awaken the need for "no more stolen sisters MMIW", as mining companies with man camps that have and will have a high risk of impacts on our Women. This grassroots lead project is also about empowerment, capacity building, prevention, education and the urgency to be reconnected to land.

### **West Country Sustainability Coalition, Nordegg, Alberta**

The West Country Sustainability Coalition (WCSC) was formed over a year ago in response to the Alberta Government rescinding the 1976 Coal Policy and selling more coal leases in the Eastern Slopes. The WCSC is a non-political, volunteer group of area residents, and recreation users working together towards a healthy West Country. Members have made a number of presentations to local municipalities to encourage them to write the Alberta Government asking them to express their concerns over further coal mining in the Eastern Slopes. The WCSC was also invited to present to the government appointed Coal Policy committee to share concerns over the impacts of coal mining in the North Saskatchewan River watershed. The coalition is provided with administrative and logistical support by CPAWS Northern Alberta; however, operates independently from them.

Coal mining is currently the biggest emerging threat to the West Country and will be the focus for this grant. West Country Sustainability Coalition will use the IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant to provide the public with information about the importance of Alberta's Eastern Slopes for watershed protection and natural landscape preservation and the irreparable damage coal mining would do. Funds will support the development of our website to become a trusted tool and source of information for Albertans accessing the West Country. Tools will include maps, links to relevant information, recreation areas and events. Information will include photos, short film clips, blogs, identification of risks to the environment, activities of the WCSC. As part of this we will develop and distribute a small pamphlet summarizing the importance of the West Country to our future and the risks to it. The pamphlet will also direct readers to our website.

### **Chilkat Indian Village, Klukwan, Alaska**

The Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan) is a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe. The Tribal Council is mandated by its Tribal Constitution to protect and maintain the lands, waterways and subsistence resources of the Jilkaat Kwaan (the people of the Chilkat Valley) Territory, for the Tlingit people. Currently the lands, waterways and subsistence resources within the Territory of the Chilkat Indian Village (CIV) are seeing impacts and are under threat from two large-scale resource extraction projects - Constantine's Palmer

Project, mineral exploration and mining project and the University of Alaska's proposed timber sale of 13,000 acres. In addition to these industrial development projects, CIV's is working to respond to BLM's -- Ring of Fire Management Plan Haines Amendment update and the US Army Corps' Haines Fairbanks Pipeline formally used defense site, contaminated site clean-up.

The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will help Chilkat Indian Village to help protect the Chilkat River from upstream development of the Constantine Metals Palmer Project. The Palmer Project is an advanced exploratory mining project developing a deposit with Copper, Zinc, Gold and Silver metals. The mine would impact the quality of the Klehini and Chilkat River systems, which provide food for communities in the region and are home to all five species of Pacific salmon. The grant will fund technical assistance to CIV's Environmental Program and consultant support for CIV's environmental program staff to explore opportunities to increase CIV's management authority over lands and waters in the region, and will offset costs for CIV's Environmental program staff to participate in the Chilkat Valley Working Group (CVWG) that includes the Takshanuk Watershed Council, Lynn Canal Conservation, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Rivers Without Boarders, Earthjustice, the Chilkoot Indian Association and Audubon.

### **Mothers Step In Val-D'Or (Meres au front), Val-D'Or, Quebec**

Mothers Step In - Val-d'Or is a small grassroots organization led by benevolent mothers working full-time on other jobs. We're a bunch of mothers and grandmothers who refuse to let this climate emergency happen to our kids. We've literally had enough, and we're stepping in to make sure the government knows that we are watching and judging them. Mothers Step In is a large provincial coalition. This project is by the local organization located in the city of Val-d'Or, in northern Quebec, in the mining region of Abitibi-Temiscamingue. The latest developments of threatening mining projects that are moving forward at great speed and greatly affecting the Anicinape Aki / Abitibi territory are: Sayona Mining (Authier Lithium Project, North American Lithium Mine, Tansim Lithium); Eldorado Gold (Mongolfier project on Harricana River); Yamana Gold (Wasamac project); Minière O3 (Morban project); and Probe Metals (Val-d'Or East project).

On Earth Day, April 22, Mothers Step In - Val D'Or will launch an event and podcast that consists of a video and audio recording before the public of a series of two episodes dedicated to large-scale environmental fights from a local perspective, starting with the mining industry. The first recorded episode will be about the present and current battles for the protection of the territory of the Val-D'Or region from the mining industry. In the first part of the first episode, the floor will be given to Indigenous women from different Nations. The second part will be invited speakers from Action Boreale and MiningWatch to directly question the lack of utility of gold mines and the threat of the expansion of lithium mining in the Abitibi region. The IEN-WMAN Mini-Grant will fund the room rental, sound technician and podcast post-production, video technician, production, and webcast, pre and post-promotion, and speaker fees.