



MINES ACTION CANADA BIENNIAL REPORT

1 April 2015 – 31 March 2017

ABOUT MINES ACTION CANADA

Mines Action Canada (MAC) is a Canadian civil society organization working nationally and internationally to eliminate the serious humanitarian, environmental and development consequences of indiscriminate weapons, including landmines, cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war, explosive weapons in populated areas and autonomous weapons. MAC achieves its goals through public engagement, national and international advocacy, monitoring disarmament and international law compliance, cultivating youth involvement in disarmament, international capacity building and support, as well as developing and disseminating information and educational resources.

Nationally, MAC works with Canadian non-governmental social justice, development and peace groups whose interests include humanitarian disarmament. Internationally, MAC is the Canadian partner of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC), which has member organizations in about 100 countries.

Founded in 1994 and incorporated in 2002, Mines Action Canada is registered in Canada as a not-for-profit organization, #412174-1.

Although the focus of this report pertains to activities and events that occurred from April 2015 to March 2017, the nature of MAC's work, which is campaign-based, requires looking back to what and how things were accomplished, and looking ahead to the remaining challenges to ridding the world of indiscriminate weapons that have such devastating impacts on civilian populations. This report provides elements of background information, current achievements and future benchmarks.

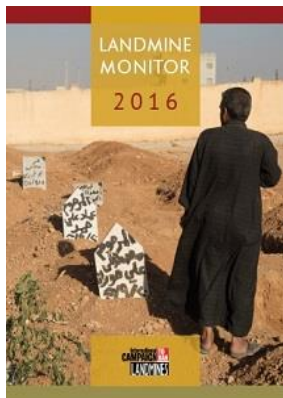
OUR CAMPAIGNS: Keeping momentum going

Mines Action Canada currently plays a leadership role in international civil society in three major humanitarian disarmament campaigns. MAC has been active in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) since 1994, and was a founding member of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) in 2003 and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in 2013. MAC has also played an active role in producing the annual Landmine Monitor and Cluster Munition Monitor treaty compliance reports since their inception.

Landmines: Providing oversight through Landmine Monitor

The Ottawa Treaty banning landmines is our oldest campaign and remains a successful example of what civil society can offer such international processes. Our systematic monitoring of treaty compliance since 1999 (when the treaty became international law), through the ICBL's annual production of *Landmine Monitor*, is unique in the treaty implementation process and remains a much valued resource for governments, the UN and other multilateral organizations, and international development, disability and social justice organizations.

Mines Action Canada has been active in producing the report since the beginning, first as a steering committee member, serving as host organization for seven production cycles and currently as a member of the Monitoring and Research Committee (which undertakes final editing of the report). Our staff is also involved in the editorial and research team: Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan works full time on ban policy issues and Erin Hunt works part time on victim assistance and casualties.



Landmine Monitor provides updates for the year on all the pillars of the treaty, looking at ban policy issues, mine clearance, stockpile destruction, casualties and victim assistance, and mine action funding. It also provides a lens on current activities both in keeping and those not in keeping with the terms and obligations of the treaty; for example, mine clearance achievements in severely affected countries (like Afghanistan and Cambodia), allegations of use by member countries of the treaty (like Ukraine and Yemen) and diminishing financial commitments to mine action activities (like Canada). It is a unique accountability and planning tool, generated in part through the research undertaken by ICBL

members in their respective countries.

Cluster Munitions: The importance of maintaining momentum and disinvestment

More than six years after signing the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Oslo, Canada ratified the international treaty on 16 March 2015, and later in the year formally became the 91st State Party. During the intervening years, Mines Action Canada had led efforts pushing for ratification, and closely monitored and spoke about the weak national legislation developed by the government, which included potential loopholes to a total ban.

Our work continued following Canada's ratification, In September 2015 in Croatia at the Convention's First Review Conference, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom attempted to weaken the final statement, objecting to the *Dubrovnik Declaration's* condemnation of all use of cluster munitions. MAC and other campaigners from around the world, in partnership with friendly governments, worked to keep the original statement intact. In the end, the declaration was adopted without amendment. Mines Action Canada will continue to follow Canada's implementation of the treaty closely.

At the June 2015 Intersessional meetings of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Geneva, Mines Action Canada provided a briefing on disinvestment in cluster munitions, which included an update on Canadian legislation regarding investment in cluster munitions. MAC also shared how it has worked with Canadian financial institutions to change their policies, citing the announcement in February by NEI Investment and Desjardins Investments, one of Canada's leaders in socially responsible investing (SRI), that they are banning investment in companies that manufacture cluster munitions. MAC's success working with such major Canadian financial institutions proved to be very inspirational to other civil society organizations and governments at the meeting.



Mines Action Canada contributed to Netherlands-based partner PAX's 2016 update, *Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions: A Shared Responsibility*, providing updated research about Canada and organizing the global launch of the report in Ottawa in June 2016 with a press conference and meetings with MPs.

Killer Robots: Building international support for a pre-emptive ban

Our newest campaign, which Mines Action Canada helped co-found, looks to secure international agreement to stop the development and therefore deployment of fully autonomous weapons (those without human control once deployed). In April 2015, MAC participated in the United Nations' Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) discussions on such lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) — more often referred to as 'killer robots'. Throughout the week, we saw an increasing number of states recognize that there should always be meaningful human control over the use of force. As part of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, MAC gave an opening and closing statement at the UN, as well as releasing a memorandum to CCW delegates on public trust and autonomous weapon systems. At the November meetings, the CCW agreed to keep discussions of these weapon systems on its agenda in 2016.



At the CCW's "Informal Meeting" in April 2016, two statements were delivered by Mines Action Canada.

Executive Director Paul Hannon talked about the need to implement a ban on LAWS before a humanitarian catastrophe occurs, as well as the growing public support for a pre-emptive ban. Program Coordinator Erin Hunt detailed the limitations of weapon reviews for lethal autonomous weapons systems and the importance of prioritizing a ban on these systems.

Getting the word out beyond the UN system is an important part of MAC's work on this issue. In October 2016, Paul Hannon was interviewed on autonomous weapons on Bloomberg News; in January 2017, Erin Hunt drafted an update on autonomous weapons for the civil society network Forum on the Arms Trade.

OUR WORK WITH YOUTH: Building skills for over 15 years

Mines Action Canada began initiating youth training and engagement programs in 1998 to involve young Canadians in international disarmament and other social justice issues in a meaningful way. MAC is considered a leader by fellow international campaigners on skills-focused youth programming; many of our 'graduates' have moved on to careers in non-profit organizations and charities, government departments and agencies, multilateral organizations, mine action organizations overseas and the education field. MAC runs international youth capacity building programs on behalf of the ICBL-CMC.

Student Internship Program

Since 2014, Mines Action Canada has worked with the University of Ottawa to offer student internships with our partners overseas that offer clear benefits for both. The undergraduate students receive training, valuable work experience and course credit, while our host partners get invaluable support to run their grassroots campaigns and activities. This internship program was piloted with the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal hosting one intern in the 2014 autumn semester.



In the two-year period covered by this report, 24 students have participated in the Young Professionals International Mine Action Program (YPIMAP) during the winter, summer or autumn school terms. These students have worked with the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal, Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD) and Project Renew in Vietnam, Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) in Trinidad and Tobago, and the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Youth Outreach

Mines Action Canada also supports youth from affected countries to become more engaged in advocating for a landmine and cluster munition free world, for stronger victim assistance programs and support, and for increased mine clearance. MAC organizes youth leader forums and apprenticeships for youth from affected countries, and maintains a Youth-to-Youth Action Network that provides peer support for young activists around the world.

In 2015, Executive Director Paul Hannon was invited to Taiwan in June to assist EDEN Social Welfare with public awareness and training on the landmines issue, helping to train young landmine survivors from Asia in campaigning. Along with other experts from the ICBL, he also spoke at a public symposium and advocated for Taiwanese leadership on the landmines issue.



Program Coordinator Erin Hunt helped coordinate an International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition held in Japan in August to mark the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which brought together youth activists from more than 20 countries and included a public forum that attracted 250 participants. A “Youth Pledge” speaking against nuclear weapons was created and presented to the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth at

the public forum. The summit was coordinated by representatives from Mines Action Canada, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, PAX, Soka Gakkai International and Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Election 2015 and Humanitarian Disarmament

Mines Action Canada undertook a major research initiative in 2015 to gather information about the disarmament policies of the four national political parties in the lead up to the Canadian federal election in October. The long campaign gave MAC the opportunity to circulate a survey in June to the four parties, analyze the responses in September and then circulate the results pre-election. The issues covered included cluster munitions, landmines, nuclear weapons, the Arms Trade Treaty, autonomous weapons systems, armed drones, explosive weapons in populated areas, depleted uranium weapons, environmental damage from conflict, and rape and gender

violence in conflict. Analysis was done with assistance from 11 international experts on these topics. MAC felt this was an important opportunity to educate Canadians and our political parties about the range of issues under the umbrella of humanitarian disarmament.

As part of our post-election follow-up, in February 2016 MAC organized an all-party meeting for MP staff on disarmament issues. We continued meeting regularly with MPs, senators and their staff through 2016/17 to keep the weapons and issues that impact human disarmament on the government's agenda.

In October 2016, MAC co-hosted the Humanitarian Disarmament Forum — with Handicap International and International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) — in New York City. The theme of the forum was “Higher, Faster, Stronger”, focusing on the need to increase international standards, make faster progress and strengthen the humanitarian disarmament community. Over 100 disarmament campaigners and activists attended the forum, participating in workshops and discussions to improve our collective effectiveness and build better campaigns.

Explosive weapons in populated areas

In September 2015, the Government of Austria and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs invited some states, international organizations and civil society to a two-day meeting in Vienna aimed at addressing harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. To support that meeting, MAC contributed a briefing paper to the discussion, “Hidden Victims: Additional Humanitarian Consequences of Explosive Weapons Use”, which looks at the implications of long-term humanitarian harm.

As the Canadian member of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), in February 2016 Mines Action Canada helped coordinate the visit to Ottawa — during International Development Week — of Humanitarian Policy Advisor Kimberly Brown from Save the Children UK, to raise the profile of explosive weapons in populated areas. Two public talks were organized: one at University of Ottawa on civil society's efforts to curb the humanitarian harm caused by this issue; and another at Carleton University on the impact of explosive weapons use on children, with a focus on current conflicts. MAC also organized information-sharing meetings with the PM's Foreign Policy Advisor, Global Affairs Canada, an International Committee of the Red Cross representative, members of parliament, the McLeod Group and Ottawa-based NGOs.

Towards nuclear disarmament

In May 2016, Mines Action Canada delivered a statement on victim assistance at the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) towards multilateral nuclear disarmament, tasked by the UN General Assembly to develop proposals that would further negotiations on this crucial issue. MAC's statement shared lessons learned from the landmines and cluster munition treaties.

In March 2017 at the negotiations session on a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, Program Coordinator Erin Hunt took part in an interactive panel discussion in the main negotiating chamber and spoke at a briefing event on positive obligations, once again sharing lessons learned

on victim assistance from the treaties banning landmines and cluster munitions. MAC also submitted a working paper on victim assistance to the negotiations in partnership with ICAN.

LOOKING AHEAD

December 2017 will mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the international treaty banning landmines. The Government of Canada played a key role in this historic event, leading the process which fast tracked treaty negotiations and culminated in Ottawa hosting the signing of the treaty by 122 governments. So important was the leadership Canada demonstrated in accelerating the process for negotiating this legal framework, the treaty is commonly referred to in UN and humanitarian circles as the Ottawa Convention or Ottawa Treaty.

Civil society was also a key partner in seeing this treaty come into being. In the same year as the treaty was signed, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, of which Mines Action Canada was the Canadian member, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its role in lobbying effectively for a landmines ban.

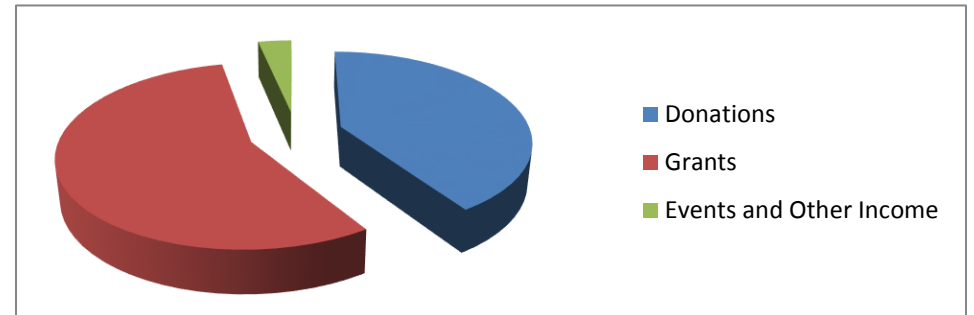
Mines Action Canada has already begun and will continue discussions with Global Affairs Canada and the War Museum on possible activities to mark this significant anniversary in humanitarian disarmament.

MAC will also continue offering support to its sister campaign ICAN, working for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, by drawing on and sharing our experience of working on the Ottawa Treaty and Cluster Munitions ban treaty processes.

Financial Report 2017

Source of Funds

Donations	108,276	41%
Grants	148,528	56%
Events and Other Income	<u>8,920</u>	3%
	265,724	



Use of Funds

Program Support	21,278	8%
Staffing	126,141	46%
Youth Programs	24,446	9%
Public Engagement & Outreach	18,655	7%
Research and Monitoring	<u>80,801</u>	30%
	271,321	

