



BIENNIAL REPORT

1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019

MINES ACTION CANADA

A Note from the Executive Director:

Formed in 1994 in response to the growing global concerns over the crisis caused by landmines Mines Action Canada has evolved into a world leader in humanitarian disarmament. I am pleased to welcome you to our latest biennial report providing a brief overview of our achievements and activities in the various international campaigns in which we work and our focus on the cross-cutting areas of youth, gender and disarmament.



During the period covered by this report we celebrated several milestones including the 25th anniversary of the founding of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL); the 20th anniversary of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and the 29th anniversary of the ICBL being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; the 15th anniversary of the creation of the Cluster Munition Coalition; and, the 10th anniversary of the successful negotiations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We are proud of the important role that Mines Action Canada played in achieving these milestones. While commemorating them we have also recommitted ourselves to ensuring the key goals of a world without landmines or cluster munitions.

To protect innocent civilians from the harmful impacts of inhumane and indiscriminate weapons requires us to not only ensure the success of the landmines and cluster munitions treaties, but to also support and create new pieces of international humanitarian law to prohibit or regulate other weapons as well. We were pleased to be able to contribute our experiences with landmines and cluster munitions to support the successful work of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to push for negotiations that resulted in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. For its efforts ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

One of the key lessons we have learned from our decades of work on landmines and cluster munitions is to not wait until there is a global crisis affecting hundreds of thousands or people before taking action. In 2012 we joined a small group of organizations to create the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. The goal of this Campaign is to create a pre-emptive ban on autonomous weapons before they are developed or deployed thus avoiding the unnecessary death of innocent civilians and destruction to communities wherever they will be used. Since we launched the Campaign in April 2013 this has become an ever increasing area of work for us. Fully autonomous weapons or killer robots as we prefer to refer to them have been called the third revolution in warfare after gun powder and nuclear weapons. This is a revolution we believe needs to be and can be stopped peacefully before anyone is wrongly targeted or killed.

It is a huge challenge because technological developments take place at a rapid pace, but treaty diplomacy often moves at a glacial one. Mines Action Canada believes that it is inevitable that autonomous weapons will be banned. The question is whether that will happen before they are ever used, or will they create another humanitarian crisis first as happened with landmines and cluster munitions.

I hope you find this report informative and useful. It is merely a snapshot of our daily work, but you can get more information from our website www.minesactioncanada.org or by following us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Thank you to our donors, funders, partners and volunteers for your support in making this all happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Hannon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Hannon

About Mines Action Canada

Mines Action Canada (MAC) is a Canadian civil society organization¹ 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 and autonomous weapons. MAC achieves its goals through public engagement; national and international advocacy; collaborative initiatives with like-minded organizations; monitoring disarmament and international law compliance; cultivating youth involvement in disarmament; international capacity building and support; and, developing and disseminating information and educational resources.

Nationally, MAC works with Canadian non-governmental social justice, development and peace groups, like Project Ploughshares and Mennonite Central Committee, 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.

Our Work

Mines Action Canada currently plays a leadership role in international civil society in three major humanitarian disarmament campaigns: as an active member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) since 1994; and, founding member of both the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) in 2003² and Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in 2013. While the first two campaigns are in their treaty phase with activities focused on universalization, monitoring and compliance, the Killer Robots campaign is looking to secure a global pre-emptive ban — an international agreement to stop the development and therefore deployment of fully autonomous weapons (those without human control once deployed). Mines Action Canada is also a member of the International Network on Explosive Weapons and a new member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

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

² Mines Action Canada led the process that merged the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition.

Campaign to Stop Killer Robots: Momentum growing

During this reporting period the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots saw a marked increase internationally in the importance placed on a pre-emptive ban on fully autonomous weapons. Since 2014, the UN's Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) has held seven **meetings** in Geneva on the topic of lethal autonomous weapons systems — four of which took place between April 2017 and March 2019. Mines Action Canada staff have been part of the civil society delegation intervening at all of these CCW meetings, which we see primarily as an opportunity to reach a global audience of decision-makers about the dangers of these weapon systems and the need to act now.

From a statement delivered by MAC Executive Director Paul Hannon on the need for an international agreement banning fully autonomous weapons:

It is time to negotiate another legally binding instrument, either here or elsewhere, for three key reasons: firstly to protect civilians; secondly to ensure that research and development of the beneficial uses of these new technologies continues and are not tainted by the stigmatizing impact of fully autonomous weapons; and, finally to come to a common agreement on how retaining meaningful human control will help define those limits to autonomy.

CCW Group of Governmental Experts Meeting, Geneva, March 2019

Some **major international developments** of note in 2018 and 2019 included:

- April 2018 saw more than 4,000 anonymous Google employees demand that the company commit to never build “warfare technology.” Since then, tech workers have become staunch supporters of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
- In September 2018, the European Parliament adopted a resolution by a vote of 566 in favour and 47 against, with 73 abstentions, urging the start of “international negotiations on a legally binding instrument prohibiting lethal autonomous weapons systems.”
- In October 2018, nearly 50 states raised killer robots concerns in their statements to the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, the highest number of countries to comment on this the topic at UNGA since it was first raised in 2013.
- In November 2018, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres used the Paris Peace Forum — marking 100 years since the end of World War I — to call on states to negotiate a new treaty to prohibit fully autonomous weapons. Guterres reiterated this call at the March 2019 Group of Governmental Experts Meeting, where he called autonomous weapons “politically unacceptable, morally repugnant”.

- In December 2018, the Federation of German Industries (the BDI) published a position paper which advocates a ban on lethal fully autonomous weapon systems and called on the German federal government to work towards a binding ban.
- In March 2019, three world leading artificial intelligence experts were awarded the Turing Prize (commonly referred to as the Nobel Prize for computing). The winners Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun are all supporters of a ban on autonomous weapons systems. Bengio and Hinton used the publicity around the award to advocate for a global ban on such systems.

National campaigning grants to support civil society activities were initiated beginning in May 2018. Administered by Mines Action Canada, three grant rounds were undertaken to March 2019, with grants awarded to NGOs in 32 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa (11), Asia-Pacific (8), Europe (9), and North and South America (4).³

These small grants are enabling the campaign to grow quickly, fostering growing awareness of the issue across capitals and facilitating important parliamentary outreach, media engagement and capacity building within civil society. During 2018, the number of campaign member organizations increased by more than a third to 100, and the number of countries we were active in doubled to 54.

Another significant part of building the campaign has been **generating media and public interest** in this disarmament issue. Some examples of how we are going about this can be found later in this report under *Education, Outreach and Collaboration*.

The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots continues to gain momentum, raise global awareness, and engage policy makers, government officials, business leaders and other relevant partners in the call to ban fully autonomous weapons.

³ NGOs in 16 countries were awarded national campaigning grants in the **first round** (Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and UK); the **second round** supported activities in 18 countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Norway, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe); while the **third round** supported programming in 16 countries (Argentina, Australia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Ireland, Nigeria, Pakistan, Spain, South Africa and Zimbabwe).

The Ottawa Treaty banning landmines turns 20

The period covered by this biennial report included two significant disarmament anniversaries: the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines in December 2017 and of the ‘entry into force’ of the treaty in March 2018. Mines Action Canada continues to be a member of the Monitoring and Research Committee of the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor. The 20th annual *Landmine Monitor* report, produced by the ICBL and released in November 2018, continues to give the world community the most reliable and up-to-date information on country progress and remaining challenges to meeting treaty obligations.

The push moving forward is to achieve a landmine free world by 2025, a target agreed in the 2014 Maputo Declaration at the 3rd Review Conference.⁴ In early 2019, Mines Action Canada was asked to participate in the Gender and Mine Action Working Group convened to provide expert advice from civil society to the Norwegian presidency of the 4th Review Conference.

December 2017: Celebrating major achievements in disarmament

December 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the treaty banning landmines, which took place on 3-4 December in Ottawa. In recognition of Canada’s and civil society’s key role in facilitating the success of this major disarmament treaty, Mines Action Canada organized two events in Ottawa to mark this occasion:

- **On December 4th**, Mines Action Canada co-hosted *Unfinished Business: The Ottawa Treaty at 20*, a day of panels and exchanges by over 70 civil society campaigners, government officials, diplomats and NGOs with a focus on continuing challenges. Speakers included the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, International Committee of the Red Cross, Canadians MPs, mine clearance NGOs, current and former ambassadors, and mine-affected civilians. The three panels looked at how mines affect women and girls, and the ways mine action can empower women; how mine contamination creates blockages to development and food security in some of the world’s poorest countries; and, the humanitarian impact of new landmine emergencies with a particular focus on links between contamination and displacement of people.



Press Conference with Humanity and Inclusion, Mines Advisory Group, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and The HALO Trust

⁴ The Maputo Action Plan, https://www.maputoreviewconference.org/fileadmin/APMBC-RC3/Maputo_Action_Plan.pdf

- **On December 10th**, MAC hosted a celebration with local peace and disarmament supporters, a public event to mark the day featuring two significant civil society milestones in which we played a role:
 - the 20th anniversary of the ICBL and its then Coordinator Jody Williams receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for their leadership in the global efforts to ban landmines.
 - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) receiving the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo for pushing governments to negotiate the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty.⁵

Progress on the Cluster Munitions Treaty

December 2018 marked the 10-year anniversary of the signing of the Cluster Munitions Treaty. As a founding member of civil society's Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), MAC along with other CMC members have maintained steady pressure on states — primarily through participating in international forums and producing the *Cluster Munition Monitor* — to join and respect the aims of this treaty. As of January 2019, a total of 120 countries had signed or acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, of which 106 are States Parties legally bound by all of



Cluster Munition Monitor 2018

the convention's provisions. In the period covered by this report, Madagascar, Benin, Sri Lanka, Namibia, Gambia and Philippines either ratified or acceded to the treaty.

Having an impact on the availability of cluster munitions has been the goal of the **Cluster Munition Coalition's disinvestment campaign**, in which MAC has played a role since its inception in 2009. The most recent annual *Worldwide Investments in Cluster Munitions* report, produced by CMC member PAX, was released in December 2018 and noted some significant achievements between 2017 and 2018:

- over 70% reduction in global financial investment in these weapons (from US\$31 billion to \$9 billion)
- almost 50% reduction in the number of financial institutions found to have invested in cluster munitions producers (from 166 to 88)
- a significant rise in the number of states taking steps to prohibit investments in cluster munitions (from 38 to 46)

⁵ MAC was part of the civil society negotiating team for the nuclear weapons ban treaty, writing working papers and delivering statements during the process.

Working with youth, working with women

Mines Action Canada has implemented **youth intern programs** for two decades, developing the skills and potential of students, campaigners and young professionals from Canada and abroad to contribute to humanitarian mine action work nationally, regionally and internationally.

During the period covered by this report, Mines Action Canada sent 11 University of Ottawa undergraduates to intern with campaign partners in Nepal (2) Vietnam (5) and Colombia (4). In June–July 2018, as part of a new partnership, the MAC office in Ottawa hosted two students from the University of Liverpool’s School of Law & Social Justice. In early 2018 and 2019, MAC participated in Carleton University’s internship program by providing for-credit internship positions for graduate students from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs.

In 2017 and 2018, **MAC organized international delegations of young women leaders** to attend the annual Meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines to highlight the importance of gender equality in ongoing disarmament efforts:

Women in Disarmament Youth Leaders Forum, Vienna MSP 2017

In December 2017, a delegation of 12 young women leaders from Albania, Argentina, Bosnia, Colombia, Georgia, Lebanon, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ukraine and Vietnam attended the 16th Meeting of States Parties of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines in Vienna. This pilot project sought to increase the number of women participating meaningfully in disarmament decision-making to promote gender equality. Their participation saw the number of women on the ICBL delegation increase by 30% so that 51% of the delegates were women; and, the young women leaders were able to directly express their views to the plenary and to government delegates in small group meetings.

These young women leaders participated in meetings with the delegations of Ireland, Canada, Chile and Mozambique, among others. One of the delegates also participated in a meeting between the Government of Sri Lanka, Princess Astrid of Belgium and Prince Mirad of Jordan, who are champions of the Ottawa Treaty, to discuss the recent accession of Sri Lanka to the Ottawa Treaty. The delegates from Serbia and Sri Lanka delivered a speech crafted by the young women leaders to the closing plenary.

From the youth leaders speech delivered at the Vienna MSP:

We are young women, we are acquiring experience in mine action and we are aware of the global challenges that we are all facing. But challenges can be met, and we are raising our voice against this inhumane and banned weapon.

We saw you and your work here, and saw the importance of the international community coming together to make political changes. We ask you, the Governments, to set concrete strategies for reaching your 2025 goals, implement the Maputo Action Plan, and provide the space for youth to contribute to the process. As young people we know that this problem can be solved in our lifetime and we are committed to working with you to finish the job for a landmine free 2025.

Mine Action Fellows Program 2018

The successful 2017 pilot in Vienna led to the formal launch of MAC's Mine Action Fellows program in 2018, to ensure a sustained approach to meaningful and empowering participation by young women in humanitarian disarmament forums, especially the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The 2018 program provided online training and education to 27 youth from 16 countries —



Mine Action Fellows at 18MSP meeting with mine action operators

Albania, Argentina, Bosnia, Brazil, Colombia, France, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam — in addition to offering opportunities to take action and work with mentors. Four Fellows from Colombia, France and Vietnam were sponsored to attend and undertake an inaugural participatory training program at the 17th Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines in November 2018 in Geneva.

This online learning network will expand in 2019; a second cohort will be recruited to increase the size of the community to approximately 35 young women. Mines Action

Canada's aim is to strengthen the network of Mine Action Fellows in order to have a significant youth presence at the 4th Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in November 2019.

Ongoing monitoring and outreach through the program will further support these young women leaders as they utilize their new skills and experiences. Mines Action Canada is also exploring ways to support activities initiated by the Fellows in their home communities.


Education, Outreach and Collaboration

From speaking at schools and in communities, to participating in conference panels, to organizing side events and stunts at treaty UN States Party meetings and other international gatherings, to collaborating with other disarmament groups, the staff of Mines Action Canada have been active in delivering and developing education and outreach activities at home and abroad. Some examples:

- As a capital city, Ottawa has many significant landmarks honouring Canada's history. In 2017, Mines Action Canada researched sites that illustrate Canadians striving for global peace, social justice and human rights. MAC then participated in the annual "Jane's Walk" weekend in May — named for urban activist Jane Jacobs — with staff leading a **public walking tour** of seven monuments, sculptures and buildings in downtown Ottawa that demonstrate the prominent role both individual Canadians and our government have played in promoting peace and human rights over the past 100 years. MAC hopes to turn this research into an app so that people, especially students, can take a virtual walking tour from anywhere in the country.
- 

**Human Rights, Disarmament
and Peace Sites in Ottawa**

Jane's Walk Ottawa-Gatineau 2017
Date: May 07, 2017
Time: 1:00 PM
Starts at the Human Rights Monument
(Elgin St at Lisgar St)

 MINES
ACTION
CANADA
- In 2017, Mines Action Canada staff continued to be active in the negotiations leading up to the adoption by the UN on July 7th of the treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. We did this by **sharing lessons learned with sister campaign ICAN** from our experience of working on the landmines and cluster munitions treaties with respect to victim assistance and environmental remediation. During the final treaty negotiation push in New York in June and July, MAC delivered a statement and spoke at a side event. Based on this successful partnership, MAC officially joined ICAN in 2019.
 - During the 17th MSP in Geneva in 2018, as part of their MAC training program, the Mine Action Fellows from Colombia and Vietnam wrote and delivered presentations for a **side event briefing on youth engagement**. They were joined on the panel by ICBL campaigners from Pakistan and Serbia to share their experiences as youth campaigners or as mentors to youth campaigners. The panel participants were pleased to note the attention that was paid by the delegates at the side event, and their subsequent engagement on the messages delivered by the youth.

- The **Campaign to Stop Killer Robots** organized a number of **high profile outreach activities** during 2018–2019 to attract media and public attention to our work:

- The campaign organized an innovative **publicity stunt** outside the UN in Geneva in August 2018, which was repeated outside the UN in New York in October and the White House in Washington, DC in December. The photographs and footage of campaigners dressed in anonymous white boiler suits and red bandanas — highlighting the precautions that civilians may have to take should autonomous weapons systems ever be used — have been published by media outlets and have attracted serious interest online. The campaign plans to replicate this stunt elsewhere.



Visual stunt by campaigners in front of United Nations buildings in Geneva. [Photo credit: Clare Conboy, 2018]

- Over 100 campaigners from the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, including MAC staff, met in Berlin on 22-23 March 2019. This included a [public event](#) and a photo stunt where ‘David Wreckham’, the friendly robot campaigner, joined the campaign at the Brandenburg Gate.



Stop Killer Robot campaigners in Berlin, March 2019. [Photo credit: Ralf Schlesener, 2019]

- In February 2019, Mines Action Canada attended the annual National Mine Action Directors' Meeting in Geneva. Normally a technical meeting on field operations, this year Program Manager Erin Hunt was invited to **address the plenary** during a panel discussion on ***Building Stronger Communities: Youth and Women in Mine Action***. Her presentation focused on MAC’s youth programming and on gender equality, and used this opportunity to introduce our new Mine Action Fellows program.

MINES ACTION CANADA**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 349,468	\$ 386,240
Accounts Receivable	6,827	1,390
Prepaid Expenses	<u>45,406</u>	<u>18,544</u>
	<u>401,701</u>	<u>406,174</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>3,994</u>	<u>4,419</u>
	<u>\$ 405,695</u>	<u>\$ 410,593</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 61,772	\$ 433
Deferred Contributions	<u>333,529</u>	<u>421,833</u>
	<u>395,301</u>	<u>422,266</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>10,394</u>	<u>(11,673)</u>
	<u>\$ 405,695</u>	<u>\$ 410,593</u>

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 69,033	\$ 111,474
Foundations	1,229,278	54,191
Grants	59,085	87,035
Non-governmental Organizations	54,494	48,194
Other Income	<u>26</u>	<u>970</u>
	<u>1,411,916</u>	<u>301,864</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Advocacy and Public Engagement	24,652	16,528
Campaign to Stop Killer Robots	1,092,692	23,726
Research and Monitoring	49,120	43,685
Youth Programming	33,377	44,968
Personnel	143,228	146,099
Program Support	<u>46,780</u>	<u>26,207</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>1,389,849</u>	<u>301,213</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ 22,067</u>	<u>\$ 651</u>