



Biennial Report

April 2023 - March 2025



Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction	2
Mine Action Fellows Program.....	3
Youth in Disarmament Seminars	11
Youth Program Evaluation.....	13
Partnership with University of Ottawa	14
Partnership with the MUNK School at the University of Toronto	14
Peace Boat Visit	15
International Engagement	15
New Resources	18
Financial Summary	19

Introduction

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, nuclear weapons, and autonomous weapons. MAC achieves its goals through cultivating youth involvement in disarmament; national and international advocacy; public engagement; collaborative initiatives with like-minded organizations; monitoring disarmament and international law compliance; international capacity building and support; developing and disseminating information and educational resources. Mines Action Canada envisions a world in which individual and communal rights and dignities are no longer ravaged by the devastating impact of armed conflict.

Nationally, MAC works with Canadian non-governmental (NGO) social justice, development, and peace groups, like [Project Ploughshares](#) and [Humanity and Inclusion](#) - Canada, whose interests include humanitarian disarmament. Internationally, MAC is:

- the Canadian partner and Governance Board member of the [International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition](#) (ICBL-CMC), which has member organizations in over 100 countries;
- a founding member and Steering Committee member of [Stop Killer Robots](#), a global coalition of international, regional and national non-governmental organizations in 71 countries calling for a pre-emptive ban on fully autonomous weapons;
- a founding member of the [International Network for Explosive Weapons](#) (INEW), an international partnership of NGOs working to reduce human suffering as a result of explosive weapons use in populated areas; and
- a member of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) (ICAN), a Noble Prize winning coalition of several hundred NGOs, that is supporting the international treaty with the goal of prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons.

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 the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) in 2003¹ and Campaign to Stop Killer Robots in 2013. MAC also participates in the disarmament efforts of INEW and ICAN.

The period covered by this biennial report is April 2023-March 2025. In this two-year span, MAC hosted eight in-person youth capacity building sessions. The Mine Action Fellows Program grew to almost double its 2022 size and trainings for youth who were not yet part of the Mine Action Fellows program were also conducted. As a result, the bulk of this report focuses on MAC's

¹ Mines Action Canada led the process that merged the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition.

youth programming. Additional priorities over the past two years have included preparations for the 5th Review Conference of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and work to counter efforts to weaken international humanitarian law.

Mine Action Fellows Program



The [Mine Action Fellows](#) are network of dedicated and experienced youth leaders who Mines Action Canada (MAC) supports in various capacities. By the end of March 2025, the Mine Action Fellows comprised of over 150 youth from 50 countries. The program is open to any youth aged 18 to 30 who are working, volunteering, or interested in mine action with a particular focus on young women from affected countries. The Fellows receive monthly capacity building emails which keep them engaged and learning about disarmament, diplomacy, and leadership. Beyond these emails, the youth can join a pen-pal matching program, participate in quarterly network meetings, apply for small grants when funding is available and participate in Forums which MAC organizes alongside relevant international meetings.

Mine Action Fellows Forums:

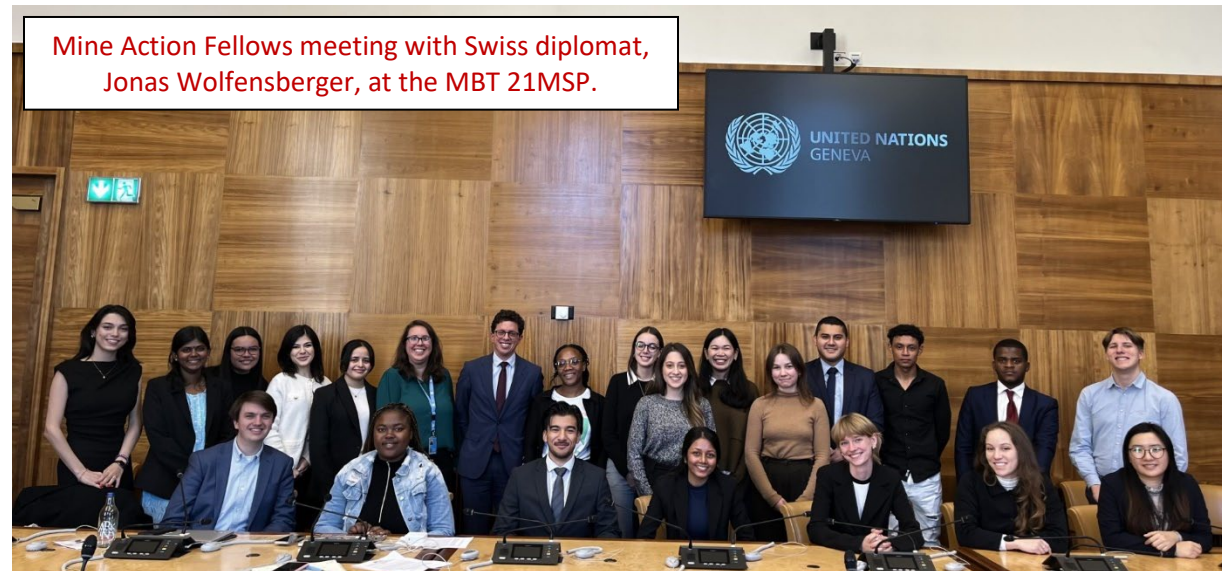
September Mine Action Fellows 2023 Forum

From September 10-15, 2023, eleven² of the Mine Action Fellows participated in a Forum held alongside the 11 MSP of the Cluster Munition Convention. During this week, the Fellows met with the Iraqi Presidency, the Swiss Ambassador, the UK Ambassador, the Director of the Convention's Implementation Support Unit, participated in leadership training sessions

² The eleven Fellows were from Cambodia (F), Iraq (1 M, 1 F), Uganda (F), United States/Laos (F), Brazil (F), Ghana (M), Argentina (F), Colombia (1 M, 1 F), Denmark/United States (F).

convened by MAC, observed in Plenary sessions, and learned from civil society experts in clearance and victim assistance. These activities gave the Fellows the opportunity to gain confidence and knowledge, as well as to share their valuable on-the-ground experience with State delegates.

November Mine Action Fellows 2023 Forum



From November 20-24, 2023, 22 of the Mine Action Fellows³ participated in a Forum held alongside the Mine Ban Treaty's 21st Meeting of States Parties (MBT 21MSP). With such a large group, the Fellows were extremely visible, and their presence was felt in the Plenary room. During this week, the Fellows met with the German Presidency and other diplomats, delivered a statement, assisted MAC with hosting a side event at which a Fellow was a speaker, participated in leadership training sessions convened by MAC, observed in Plenary sessions, and attended a reception hosted by Germany and Switzerland. A small number of Fellows also met with Cambodia, the incoming presidency of the 5th Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. The Fellows were the main advocates from civil society during the meeting, speaking with diplomats from over 40 countries about their Article 7 transparency reports, the need to condemn use of landmines in Ukraine, and the importance of progress with clearance and victim assistance.

November Mine Action Fellows 2024 Forum

From November 23-29, 2024, 42⁴ of the Mine Action Fellows participated in a Forum held

³ The 22 Fellows were from Argentina (F), Azerbaijan (F), Belgium (M), Brazil (F), Canada (F), Colombia (2 F, 2 M), Democratic Republic of Congo (M), Lebanon (F), Myanmar (F), Sri Lanka (2 F), Sweden (F), Thailand (F), United States (1 F, 2 M, 1 NB), Zimbabwe (F).

⁴ The 42 Fellows were from Argentina (F), Azerbaijan (F), Brazil (F), Cambodia (7 F, 2 M), Canada (2 F), Colombia (3 F, 1 M), Denmark (F), Democratic Republic of Congo (M), Ghana (M), Iraq (2 F), Lebanon (F),

alongside the Fifth Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in Siem Reap Cambodia. During this week, the Fellows met with survivors, the Swiss Ambassador, the UK delegation, the Canadian delegation, participated in leadership training sessions convened by MAC, observed in Plenary sessions, and learned from civil society experts in clearance and victim assistance. The Fellows also participated in internal planning sessions with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the March for a Mine Free World, and other field visits organized by the Cambodian presidency. These activities gave the Fellows the opportunity to gain confidence and knowledge, as well as to share their valuable on-the-ground experience with State delegates. The Fellows were very visible in the Review Conference through their participation in a campaign stunt calling out the transfer of landmines to a State Party, lobbying states to endorse a joint statement on compliance with the treaty, and delivering a statement as part of the closing ceremonies.



Other Mine Action Fellows Activities:

Mine Action Fellows Online Learning

In addition to forums, all Mine Action Fellows (MAF) receive a monthly email from MAC that will either provide information on relevant mine action news, improve professional skills and leadership development, and/or give updates on the MAF program. The emails are divided into cohorts, to ensure that as new Fellows are added to the program, they are receiving the same capacity building emails, and Fellows who have been in the program for longer are receiving new content. Fellows who joined the program in 2023, 2024, and 2025 received their first welcome email in March, and in the following months they received

Nigeria (2 F), Norway (F), Pakistan (1 F, 1 M), Rwanda (1 F, 1 M), Senegal (1 F, 1 M), Sri Lanka (F), Sweden (F), Syria (M), the United States (4 F, 1 M), Uganda (M), and Zimbabwe (M).



basic training emails such as learning about the importance of gender in mine action and cross-cultural communication. The Fellows are given the chance to have input on the type of content they would like to see in the emails, ensuring that the emails stay relevant and interesting to them.

See below for what the different cohorts learned about starting in April, 2023:

- **April:** The older cohorts learned about how to approach Landmine Free 2025 since this goal was only two years away. The newest cohort learned about gender mainstreaming.
- **May:** An update on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, specifically the G7 Summit that took place in Hiroshima and the Youth Summit that took place before the G7 Summit. The newest cohort learned about the pillars of mine action.
- **July:** 2018-2020 Cohorts had a deep dive into stockpile destruction, how to lobby for stockpile destruction and a progress update. 2021-2023 Cohorts learned about email and letter writing.
- **August:** Each cohort had a self-assessment based on how long they have been a Fellow for (i.e. 2018 Cohort 5-year assessment, 2019 Cohort 4-year assessment, etc.), except for the newest cohort who learned about cross-cultural communication.
- **September:** MAC highlighted the UNIDIR Youth Disarmament Orientation Course and discussed the importance of continued learning. The newest cohort learned about graphic design.
- **October:** All Cohorts were updated on cluster munition use in 2022/2023.
- **November:** All Cohorts had a Lausanne Action Plan check-up, where we looked at the progress made since the action plan was created.
- **December:** All Cohorts received some tips to stay motivated.

See below for what the different cohorts learned about each month in 2024:

- **January:** How to set annual goals and the Cambodian Presidency's priorities for the year.
- **February:** An analysis on how sustainable development is connected to mine action.
- **March:** An opportunity to contribute joint feedback to the new Mine Ban Treaty Action plan called the "Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan". The newest cohort of Mine Action Fellows were welcomed this month.
- **April:** An email which shared the stories of small grant recipients and how they implemented their small grants from MAC in their community.
- **May:** An email which provided tips on how to be good story-tellers, connecting this skill to campaigning and advocacy.
- **June:** A deep dive into Review Conferences, how they function, and why they are important.
- **July:** Learning about long-term career planning, and a call for applications to attend the Review Conference Forum.
- **August:** A deep dive on victim assistance.
- **September:** A look at how disinvestment can be used as a campaigning tool, using the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons as an example. The newest

cohort learned about the importance of gender and feminism in mine action.

- **October:** A check-up on the Oslo Action Plan, where we looked at the progress made since the action plan was created. MAC also asked for more feedback on the new Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan.
- **November:** An update on how the Review Conference for the Mine Ban Treaty went, largely speaking on the issue of the United States transferring landmines to Ukraine.
- **December:** A reminder to read the Landmine and Cluster Munition monitors, and a look at some key information from the newest edition of each monitor. The newest cohort learned about cross cultural communication.

See below for what the different cohorts learned about in the first quarter of 2025:

- **January:** How to face eroding norms, in light of States discussing withdrawal from the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions and the transfer of landmines from the United States to Ukraine.
- **February:** Discussing the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including the issues its facing and an opportunity to contribute towards an art contest.
- **March:** An analysis of how Women, Peace, and Security is connected to mine action.

Small Grants

The small grant program provides an opportunity for Mine Action Fellows to design and implement a project within their community using funding from Mines Action Canada. This program is useful because even if their application is not accepted, it is still a good training opportunity for Fellows to create a workplan, describe the impact of this plan, and develop a working budget. If their application is accepted, then they have the chance to take the lead on implementation. Fellows are already working or volunteering in their communities, so they have a great understanding of what activities are needed. It is a great opportunity for Fellows to develop their leadership skills and make a difference in their community.



Ayaa's small grant where she provided adaptive sport sessions for Ugandan survivors with lower limb amputation.

In 2023, MAC funded eight small grants. Below is a chart that provides a brief description of the activities that were funded.



Name of Mine Action Fellow	Country	Brief Description of Activities
Ayaa	Uganda	Risk education exercise carried out in school, dissemination of knowledge about Victim Assistance in the context of the MBT and CCM conventions to survivors, and participation in adaptive sports by survivors with lower limb amputation.
Abdullah	Iraq	Local artists executed 11 street murals expressing awareness messages about the importance of caution in areas contaminated with unexploded or dangerous ordnance.
Christine	Senegal	A panel where 15 young landmine survivors were made aware of their rights under the Mine Ban Treaty and convening local development committees on measures to speed up mine clearance and provide assistance to mine victims.
Constance	Zimbabwe	A landmine victim survey in Zimbabwe in partnership with mine action operators where data collection and documentation of stories took place.

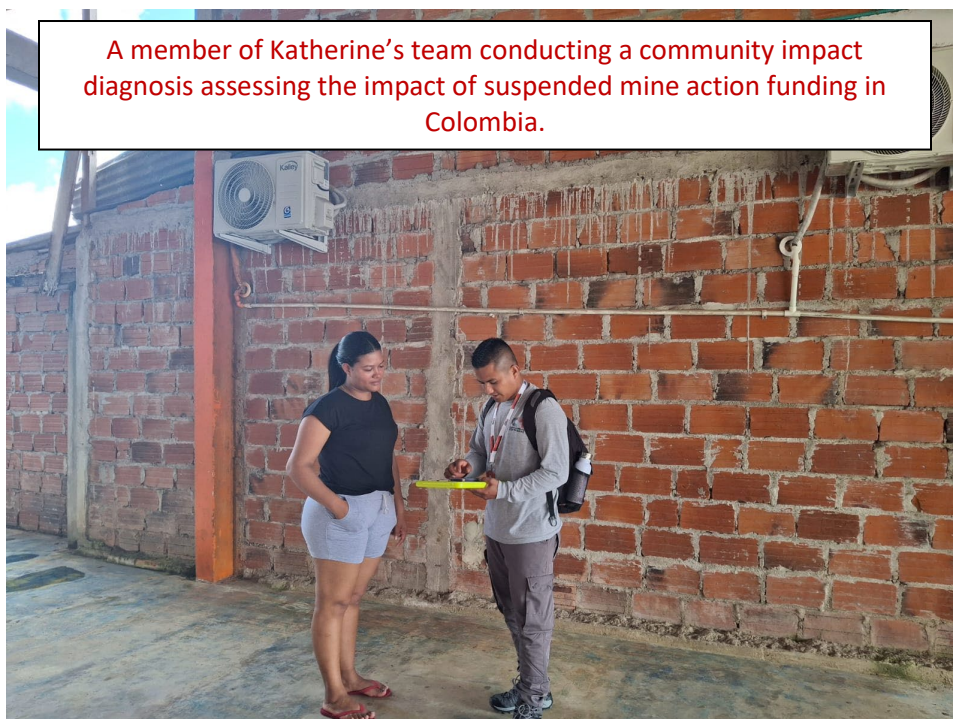
Jefferson	Ghana	School to school campaign for prevention and advocacy against landmines and cluster munitions where 100 students were engaged.
Mariam	Western Sahara	More than 682 travelers of different genders, including women, men and children, across the areas east of the wall were given more than 400 brochures and providing instructions for adopting exemplary behavior and taking safe routes to avoid the danger of drones.
Noor	Iraq	Produced a short documentary film highlighting the presence of cluster munitions and explosives for communities in Iraq, which was then used to raise public awareness.
Plamedi and Ruth	Democratic Republic of Congo	A dialogue between local NGOs, mine victims, persons living with disabilities and the DR Congo Red Cross discussing the need for DRC to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In 2024/2025, MAC received the most small grant applications since the beginning of the program with 18 Fellows applying for a small grant. Mines Action Canada funded 16 small grants in 2024/2025. Below is a chart that provides a brief description of the activities that were funded.

Name of Mine Action Fellow	Country	Brief Description of Activities
Ayaa	Uganda	Conducting community outreach to 112 households to enhance survivors understanding of their rights under MBT, CCM; sporting activities; lobby Ugandan government on survivor rights.
Cheikh	Senegal	Produced a short documentary on the promotion and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty across Senegal, and hosted a local event to broadcast the film.
Christine	Senegal	Hosted a focus group in a landmine affected community to inform 30 community members on their rights under the Mine Ban Treaty.
Donathille	Rwanda	Created the “No Landmines Club” at a school to increase the awareness of landmines, foster community engagement and promote advocacy for landmine related-policies.
Fadumo	Somalia	Provided victim assistance to four victims through data collection, medical support, livelihood support, and psychological support.
Hevelyn	Brazil	Hosted awareness raising sessions about cluster

		munitions two high school classes, reaching over 80 people.
Hiba and Dawood	Pakistan	Organized a youth training session with 22 participants in which a mine action strategy was developed.
Jean Marie	Rwanda	Created the “Kigali Anti-mines Club” where 20 students from one University came together to fight landmines.
Jefferson	Ghana	Conducted school-to-school campaigns in border communities where over 100 youth were educated on landmines and cluster munitions.
Katherine	Colombia	Conducted a community impact diagnosis to assess affects of suspended mine action activities, analyzed results and presented them at a public event.
Lawin	Iraq	Designed notebook covers with risk education messages, then went to schools to deliver risk education sessions and handed out these notebooks.
Mariam	Western Sahara	Provided products to 10 landmine and explosive remnant of war survivors to help them through the winter season.
Noor	Iraq	Designed tote bags displaying risk education messages and handed them out to shepherds in rural areas.
Paul	Uganda	Conducted outreach to youth and women with disabilities; sensitized communities; and hosted community dialogue forums through two workshops in different areas.
Tanaka	Kenya/Zimbabwe	Hosted a webinar highlighting the nexus of climate change and disarmament, and produced a policy brief as a result of the dialogue.

A member of Katherine’s team conducting a community impact diagnosis assessing the impact of suspended mine action funding in Colombia.



Contribution to First Committee Monitor

One of MAC's civil society partners, [Reaching Critical Will](#), publishes a weekly summary on the different themes/weapons discussed at the United Nations First Committee Meeting, including landmines and cluster munitions. In 2023 and 2024, the Mine Action Fellows were asked to monitor what states were saying about landmines and cluster munitions and how they were voting. Their articles can be read at the First Committee Monitor [2023](#) and [2024](#) and reading the landmine and cluster munition articles throughout the weeks. This demonstrates that other civil society organizations recognize the Mine Action Fellows as a reliable source that contributes towards disarmament initiatives.

Youth in Disarmament Seminars

EWIPA Youth Seminar

In February 2024, MAC held a youth seminar on explosive weapons in populated areas in London, United Kingdom. This was the first international youth seminar on this important disarmament topic. This EWIPA Seminar brought together 16 youth working on this issue from affected communities and countries, including Syria, Ukraine and the Philippines, and non-affected countries including Sweden and Spain. Together, they learned about EWIPA and how they can campaign their governments to stop it. At the end of the week, they wrote and recorded a youth statement which was delivered at the [Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas Political Declaration](#) meeting in April 2024.



Victoria

In March 2024, MAC hosted the first "Youth in Disarmament Seminar" which was a pilot project that brought together six youth from Canada and the United States to learn about humanitarian disarmament specifically with EWIPA, landmines, and cluster munitions. This Seminar had a regional focus because later in 2024 MAC planned to host more regional youth seminars to overcome barriers to participation such as visas. This Seminar had many informational sessions on the weapons, their impacts, and the humanitarian initiatives to minimize their harm. They met with Member of Parliament Elizabeth May, Chris Kilford of the

Canadian International Council National Board, Susan Aboeid of Human Rights Watch, and Katherine Young of the Explosive Weapons Monitor.

St George

In June 2024, in partnership with the [Women's Institute for Alternative Development](#) based in Trinidad and Tobago, MAC hosted a [Youth in Disarmament Seminar for Caribbean youth in July](#). This Seminar brought together eight youth from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, as well as 11 youth joining online from Haiti. Like the first regional Seminar for North America, this Seminar aimed to build the participant's capacity to campaign against landmines, cluster munitions, and explosive weapons in populated areas. The Seminar also discussed the issue of small arms as it related to their regional context. MAC was pleased to have a representative from the Grenada Red Cross join us, as well as representatives from the British High Commission.

Johannesburg

In September 2024, in partnership with Disarmament and Arms Control South Africa, MAC [hosted a Youth in Disarmament Seminar for African youth in September](#). This Seminar brought together nine youth from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia as well as three virtual participants joining from Nigeria, Cameroon, and Rwanda. MAC was pleased to have a representative from the International Committee of the Red Cross Red Crescent join to talk about International Humanitarian Law, as well as a representative of the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation join to talk about government perspectives. While in Johannesburg, MAC and the Seminar participants also took the time to visit the Apartheid Museum and Mandela House to learn about activism in the South African context.



MAC staff, Joseph Dube from Disarmament and Arms Control South Africa, and participants from the African Youth in Disarmament Seminar at the Apartheid Museum.

Bangkok

In February 2025, MAC hosted a Youth in Disarmament Seminar for youth in the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on ASEAN youth. This Seminar brought together 20 youth from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Tajikistan, Philippines, Solomon Islands, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam as well as two virtual participants joining from Myanmar and Laos. It was important to hear valuable input and experience from the youth, as many of them come from landmine or cluster munition affected countries such as Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar. After participating in many informational and interactive sessions, the week ended with a visit to the Thai Mine Action Centre where participants had the chance to hear directly from officials working in mine action.



Youth Program Evaluation

In March 2025, MAC hosted a Youth Program Evaluation in Hurley, England to look at how MAC has done with these youth programs and to come up with ideas on how to improve upon youth engagement in the future. This evaluation brought together six youth participants; each participant had either attended a Youth in Disarmament Seminar, or a Mine Action Fellows Forum. There were two productive days of structured discussions to evaluate and plan for the future. The evaluation ended with a day in London where the participants met with the Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office of the United Kingdom and Amnesty International.



Partnership with University of Ottawa Internship Program

Mines Action Canada has been partnered with the [University of Ottawa](#) for over a decade offering in-person and virtual internships. These internships place a uOttawa student with a grassroots partner organization in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition. The internship program offers an opportunity for students to develop their professional skills and gain experience working for an NGO, and they also provide MAC's international partners with support. From April 2023-March 2025, MAC supported 11 interns, ten in person and one virtual, for 3-month internships in Colombia, Nepal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam. Interns all reported that they increased important professional skills including data management and communication, and an increased understanding of how international NGOs operate.

Engineering Design Course

MAC is partnered with a first-year engineering class with the aim of educating young engineers about the dangers of autonomous weapons, while also receiving an output at the end of the course that can be used in our advocacy. This partnership is available through uOttawa's [Canadian Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Ethical Design Lab](#), and Dr. Jason Millar who is the Canada Research Chair in Ethical Engineering of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.

For the first and second semester of this partnership, students designed a virtual reality in which autonomous weapons existed and were commonly used. Students were very creative with coming up with a visual representation of how autonomous weapons would change warfare and policing for the worse. For the third semester of this partnership, their task was to create an unbeatable game using the RoboMaster S-1 (a small robot) that left the player with an understanding of concerns that we have with autonomous weapons. They did an excellent job, and came up with [really creative ideas](#) to demonstrate the [nine ethical concerns of autonomous weapons!](#)

Partnership with the MUNK School at the University of Toronto

Mines Action Canada has been partnered with the [Capstone Project](#) at [MUNK School](#) based in the University of Toronto since the beginning of 2023. For three semesters since then, Masters students have produced extensively researched documents that MAC uses for advocacy with the government and public engagement. The first semester (January-April 2023), students produced the first briefing document on incendiary weapons for Canadian government in over a decade. The following semester (January-April 2024), students built upon the previous research done on incendiary weapons by producing public facing and government documents regarding incendiary weapons and a plan to develop an international civil society campaign against incendiary weapons. The most recent semester (January-April 2025), students developed public facing and government documents regarding the intersection between humanitarian disarmament and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda as well as an advocacy strategy for MAC. This partnership is extremely useful for MAC as we receive well-researched documents that are useful to our advocacy, and the students also learn how to work with a client and put their research skills to use with an active NGO.

Peace Boat Visit

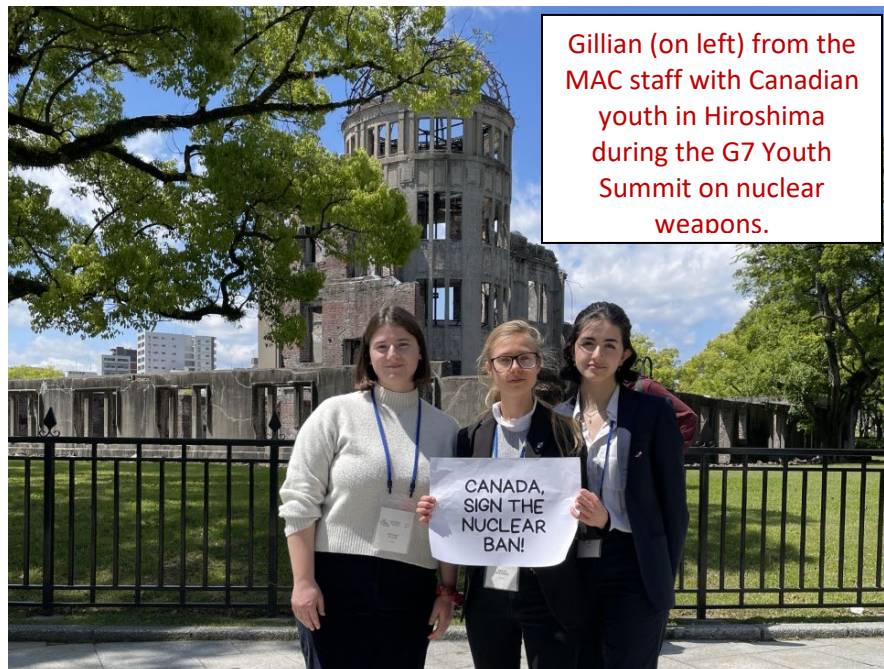
In July 2024, Japanese NGO and one of MAC's frequent collaborators, Peace Boat, visited Vancouver bringing their messages of sustainable development and disarmament to Canada's west coast. MAC partnered with Simon Fraser University's School of International Affairs to host two members of Peace Boat's Hibakusha project for a public event. Hibakusha is the Japanese word for the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During that event, the two survivors shared their experiences of living through the use of nuclear weapons and the importance of nuclear disarmament with a room full of students and local community members. The event took place just a few months before Nihon Hidankyo, the association of hibakusha, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their decades of advocacy.

International Engagement

Hiroshima

In April 2023, Gillian Flude, Project Officer at Mines Action Canada, travelled to Hiroshima, Japan for a three-day G7 Youth Summit on nuclear weapons. The [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) and [Peace Boat](#) organized this event which brought together 50 youth from 19 countries to put pressure on the G7 who gathered in Hiroshima one month later. The summit included hearing from Ms. Keiko Ogura who is a

nuclear weapon survivor, visiting the Peace Park and museum, learning from educational panels, and improving knowledge and campaigning skills through workshops. Gillian also had the opportunity to speak at a public event which represented a young person from each G7 country, giving each person a platform to share their reflections from the summit.



Gillian (on left) from the MAC staff with Canadian youth in Hiroshima during the G7 Youth Summit on nuclear weapons.

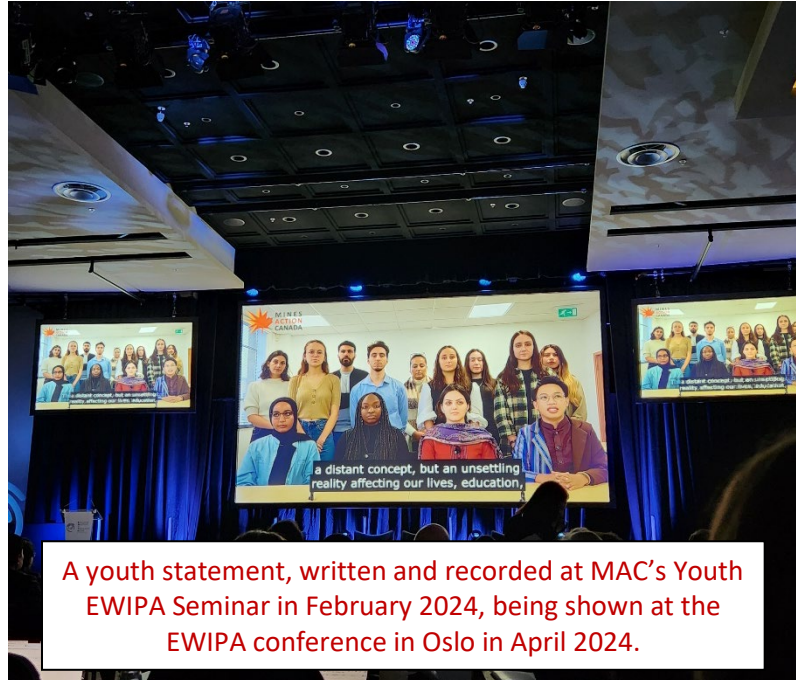
Oslo

In April 2024, Erin Hunt, Executive Director of Mines Action Canada, travelled to [Oslo, Norway for meetings regarding explosive weapons in populated areas](#). This was the first meeting for States who [signed onto the Political Declaration](#) on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas. With the entire room watching, the conference played [a video of EWIPA youth activists from MAC's Seminar](#) in

February 2024 delivering a statement on the importance of ending EWIPA use.

Vienna

Also in April 2024, Erin travelled to [Vienna, Austria to discuss autonomous weapons](#). The Humanity at the Crossroads Conference was the largest gathering of states and civil society to discuss autonomous weapons outside the UN and it might even have been larger than many UN meetings on the topic demonstrating the importance states place on this issue. It was a pleasure to see



multiple Mine Action Fellows be sponsored to attend this meeting as youth activists and further build their expertise including by speaking at a side event and [delivering a statement on behalf of Stop Killer Robots](#). In addition, the Civil Society Forum hosted by Stop Killer Robots allowed campaigners, advocates, and other experts to learn and plan before the meeting.

Geneva

In June 2024, Erin travelled to [Geneva, Switzerland to discuss landmines](#). The 2024 Intersessional meetings of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines was an opportunity for states and civil society to prepare for the Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World. Mines Action Canada hosted a Mine Action Fellows Forum at the meeting in November 2024 so the meeting was an excellent opportunity to plan for that exciting event with colleagues and states.

United Nations General Assembly

In October 2023 and 2024, MAC attended the United Nations First Committee Meeting in New York City. At the [First Committee Meeting](#), States gather to discuss disarmament and international security. In 2023, both Gillian and Erin attended to advocate for strong votes on resolutions that promote humanitarian disarmament values. Including MAC, there were many campaign members from Stop Killer Robots present in 2023. Together, we advocated for States to “Vote Against the Machine” by voting for Resolution L.56 which would be the first ever resolution on autonomous weapons. In the end, 164 states voted in favour for “the urgent need for the international community to address the challenges and concerns raised by autonomous weapon systems.”

In 2024, Erin attended along with Stop Killer Robots and focused advocacy efforts on passing Resolution L.77 on autonomous weapons. In the end, 161 states voted in favour of Resolution L.77 which is a big deal because as [Stop Killer Robots wrote](#) “the resolution mandates expanded

discussions and supports capacity building on the autonomous weapons topic, and will provide a platform for comprehensive and inclusive consideration of the issues raised in the report of the Secretary-General on autonomous weapons systems. These talks in May 2025 will give an opportunity to examine issues that aren't the main focus of current CCW talks – such as ethics and human rights – which states can and must use to build strong foundations for treaty negotiations that respond comprehensively to the problem of autonomous weapons.”

Women's 7

Mines Action Canada was pleased to join the W7 Organizing Committee for Canada's 2025 Presidency of the G7. The W7 or Women's 7 is one of many 'engagement groups' that provides recommendations to G7 countries and holds governments accountable for commitments made. The W7 focuses on advancing women's rights and gender equality as both a standalone priority and a set of issues that requires attention and robust action in each ministerial meeting and theme discussion. Each year, the W7 is organized by civil society organizations from the host G7 country and MAC was pleased to be one of those organizations this year. Being part of the W7 allowed us to press G7 countries and governments to take concrete action on reducing harm to civilians during and after conflict and to reaffirm their commitment to the humanitarian disarmament treaties.

In one of MAC's first official duties as part of the W7 Organizing Committee, our Executive Director travelled from Geneva to the Canadian Embassy in Rome for an official handover event from the Italian W7. The W7 also released [briefing papers](#) on key topics of discussion for the G7 and additional documents throughout 2025. [For more on the W7 please see the website.](#)



Erin speaking at W7 Italy-Canada handover event in Rome.

New Resources

Myth-busting Gender and Mine Action Infographic

[This infographic debunks myths](#) that demining is too dangerous for women. The data shows that the number of deminer casualties compared to employment is very minimal. This suggests that demining is not a more dangerous occupation for women than other occupations.

Gender and Employment in Mine Action by the Numbers: An Update

This paper contains the results of a follow up study on employment of women by non-governmental organizations in landmine clearance and related fields. This new 2023 survey shows an increase in women's employment between 2019 and 2023. Bénédicte Santoire, a PhD Candidate from the University of Ottawa, carried out the research and analysis. [Gender and Employment in Mine Action by the Numbers: An Update](#) builds on the results of [short survey](#) carried out in the first quarter of 2019 and published in early 2020. MAC shared the results of this survey at the the 21st Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty held at the United Nations in Geneva.

Youth Campaigning Toolkit on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

MAC commissioned Canadian youth activist Magritte Gordaneer to author a [Youth Campaigning Toolkit on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas](#). The toolkit shares information and tips from how to build a campaign to how to lobby and engage government officials. There is also a chapter on how to engage with the military written by Lode Dewaegheneire, a disarmament expert from Belgium, and a chapter on how to engage with survivors written by Nujeen Mustafa, a youth activist from Syria who now lives in Germany. The toolkit has been translated into French, Arabic, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Dangerous Similarities

MAC published a new classroom activity called [Dangerous Similarities](#) which aims to show how similar explosive ordnance can look to toys. One of MAC's great volunteers, Winston, who has experience volunteering in schools, created this resource which is designed for classrooms but can be used in other contexts as well. The activity overview provides teachers with a background on the issue of landmines and cluster munitions, and clearly explains how to carry out the activity with a classroom. It provides an accessible and clear way for children and youth to learn about the issue, and understand why it is so important that we advocate for land to be cleared of these explosives.

Women, Peace, and Security and Mine Action

MAC commissioned Bénédicte Santoire to produce a [“Frequently Asked Questions” document](#) on how women, peace and security is related to mine action. The document is advocacy focused and aims to provide answers for young activists working in the mine action or WPS sector.

Financial Summary

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Investments	\$ 990,807	\$ 1,100,644
Accounts Receivable	107,858	56,637
Prepaid Expenses	20,516	64,130
	<u>1,119,181</u>	<u>1,221,411</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS		
	<u>2,377</u>	<u>432</u>
	<u>\$ 1,121,558</u>	<u>\$ 1,221,843</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	\$ 11,977	\$ 23,368
Deferred Contributions	825,221	712,196
	<u>837,198</u>	<u>735,564</u>
NET ASSETS		
Internally Restricted Reserve Funds	219,074	472,861
Unrestricted	65,286	13,418
	<u>284,360</u>	<u>486,279</u>
	<u>\$ 1,121,558</u>	<u>\$ 1,221,843</u>
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS		
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 6,480	\$ 4,805
Foundations	2,050,000	1,963,672
Grants	637,962	636,242
Interest & Other Income	70,174	68,748
	<u>2,764,616</u>	<u>2,673,467</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Advocacy	15,383	46,827
Personnel	203,006	214,665
Program Support	26,772	37,425
Public Engagement & Outreach	13,167	24,690
Research and Monitoring	50,123	59,825
Youth Programming	360,246	289,282
Stop Killer Robots	1,834,096	1,961,894
	<u>2,502,793</u>	<u>2,634,608</u>
NET REVENUE	<u>\$ 261,823</u>	<u>\$ 38,859</u>