

Common Frontiers 2025 Annual Report | March 3, 2026



Participants at the Common Frontiers International Solidarity Educators' Exchange: Strengthening Internationalism to Counter Right-Wing Narratives, October 14-15, 2025, OSSTF conference room.

This annual report provides a snapshot of Common Frontiers' work between March 1, 2025, and February 1, 2026.

This period was important for the revitalization of the coalition and for planting the seeds for strengthened collective work.

As a national coalition with 35 years of experience, Common Frontiers builds upon our legacy of working to defend people and the environment throughout the Americas from the harms of neoliberal trade and the socio-economic and political policies and

practices that prioritize profits over all else. Through the years, we have shifted according to the context of our times, both here in Canada and throughout the region.

Today, we are uniquely positioned to build on this legacy and pivot in the ways that our current – and rapidly changing – context demands to promote and defend socio-economic rights, strong public services and the environment.

We build alliances here in Canada and across the Americas to deepen our collective analysis and understanding of how overarching socio-economic and political shifts in Latin America connect to struggles here in Canada; to strengthen our understanding of the implication of those shifts for workers, marginalized and racialized peoples, Indigenous people and the environment; and to formulate strategies for resistance, collective work and transnational solidarity. We provide critical analysis, bridge connections among struggles and build education, awareness and solidarity. We do this in cooperation with our member organizations and our national and international allies.

This report highlights key work from 2025 in four areas: coalition strengthening, addressing the rise of the right, free trade and investor-state dispute mechanisms and alliance building.

1. Strengthening our coalition:

On January 15, 2025, we held an online coalition meeting. It was an important opportunity to reconnect as a coalition and to prepare for the challenging times ahead of us in 2025 as we knew that the U.S had just voted in President Trump for a non-consecutive second term and that Prime Minister Trudeau had just stepped down, leaving increased uncertainty about who would replace him.

March 7 British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) international solidarity committee meeting | The Common Frontiers national coordinator was invited by Andrée Gacoin, the Director of the

Information, Research and International Solidarity Division at BCTF, to present to the BCTF international solidarity committee.

July 31 Unifor’s “Canada & the World” educational week | For the second year in a row, the Common Frontiers national coordinator was invited by Unifor’s International and Social Justice Fund Director, Navjeet Sidhu, to facilitate a participatory workshop during week three of Unifor’s annual leadership development program.

Zoom cafés | Zoom cafes, which are regular 1–2hour coalition meetings, were introduced in 2024 to provide opportunities to discuss updates on the work to date; create a space for members to bring forward any potential collaborative work; and to collectively discuss and analyze current events and socio-political and economic dynamics in the region. They may include an invited guest(s). In 2025, we held three zoom cafes. See below under the key work areas for more detail on each zoom cafe.

October 16 hybrid coalition meeting On October 16, we gathered as a coalition to regroup, report back on the year’s work and share news and analysis about concerning trends throughout the region. We held a panel focused on building relationships and cross-pollinating to share strategies of resistance and to think through how we can build internationalism and international solidarity here in Canada and with other coalitions and networks across the Americas. We also received an update on the ongoing and worsening crisis in Cuba from Christie Neufeldt, the Latin American Coordinator at the United Church of Canada and Jorge García Orgales shared news of his book, *Nadie sale entero available at: nadiesaleentero@gmail.com*.

2. Rise of new right-wing actors and influences throughout the Americas

Within the context of the rise of the right here on Turtle Island all the way down through South America, we are seeing patterns of increased attacks and scapegoating of Indigenous and racialized people, refugees, migrants, and gender nonconforming, queer, and trans folks and ‘leftists and progressives.’

These trends are particularly apparent in President Trump’s USA (see the [National Security Strategy](#)), serving as a powerful model for the right in Canada and to heads of state across the region, including Javier Milei (Argentina), Daniel Noboa (Ecuador), Nayib Bukele (El Salvador) and, previously, Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil), among others.

Activities that shaped our analysis and work in this area over 2025 included the following:



Our first zoom café of 2025, *Defending Public Education from the Far Right in Argentina*, took place on March 6 ([recording in Spanish](#)). This was a co-ordinated event with Confederation of Education Workers of Argentina (CTERA) and the IDEA Network, with whom we have been developing a strong relationship and building increased opportunities for collective work. Objectives were to provide information about educational policies, and subsequent resistance under far-right president Javier Milei and to prepare ourselves in other countries across the hemisphere

for what comes next, given that we are confronting an international right-wing system.

Workshop -
Countering the Rise of the Right: Building internationalisms in the environment & labour sectors

Saturday, May 17
 9:00 - 10:45
 Room: ACW 307

Participants:
 • Caren Weisbart, Common Frontiers
 • Anna Zalik, York University
 • Maria Ramos, UNAM, IDEA Network
 • Navjeet Sidhu, International Department and Social Justice Fund at Unifor.



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 COMMON FRONTIERS



On May 17, we organized and facilitated a **participatory workshop at the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Latin America and Caribbean Studies (CALACS)**. This workshop was a collaborative effort between members of the Common Frontiers coalition and the Initiative for democratic education in the Americas (the IDEA Network / Red Sepa) and formed an important part of our focus on building transnational solidarity to respond to the rise of the right throughout the region – from Canada to Argentina. It was inspired by the desire to cross pollinate by bringing together a Canadian environmental studies professor, a global justice fund union representative and a transnational coalition coordinator focused on the defense of public education, and to share strategies for resistance from these different perspectives.

On July 15th we held another zoom café focused on Argentina and Bolivia. This included a brief presentation from Common Frontiers member Jorge Garcia-Orgales on his analysis of the latest events in Argentina under President Javier Milei. The main segment of the zoom café was focused on the then upcoming elections in Bolivia (first round was August 17) with Carmen Aliaga, a Bolivian representative from the Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights and Vladimir Díaz-Cuéllar, a lecturer in Global Development Studies at Trent University and a PhD candidate in Geography and Political Economy.

On September 25 and 26, Common Frontiers was invited and participated in an international seminar “The New Right(s) and Public Education: Resistances and Alternatives,” in Mexico City. Organized by the Initiative for Democratic Education in the Americas (IDEA Network), researchers from organizations active within the IDEA Network shared the results of this research with participants who included public education defenders and researchers from across the Americas.



Common Frontiers’ International Solidarity Educators’ Exchange was held on October 14 and 15th The 1.5 day event, held in Toronto brought together 26 education leads of various unions and representatives of organizations across Canada who carry out international solidarity education with workers, provincially and across Canada.

On November 13, Common Frontiers and the Americas Policy Group sent a joint letter to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and National Defence urging them to publicly condemn and call for a halt to unlawful U.S. airstrikes on civilian boats in the Caribbean and to take immediate action to ensure Canada is not complicit in extrajudicial killings and violations of international law.

Art by Harmeet Rehal





Art by Rachel K. Lim

This work continues into 2026, including a [second letter](#) that was sent after the violent kidnapping of President Maduro and lawyer, politician and First Lady, Cilia Flores on January 3. We called on Canada to take strong, clear and immediate action.

3. Free trade, investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms and their threats to people and the environment

Common Frontiers participates in an international initiative to evaluate the possibility of building a global campaign against investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS). In 2025, Common Frontiers focused on strengthening linkages with the regional coalition [America Latina Mejor Sin TLC](#) (Latin America is better without Free Trade Agreements) and the Transnational Institute (TNI) through their Argentinian and European-based offices. Invited by Mining Watch Canada and the Institute for Policy Studies, we participate in country-focused ISDS case work with affected communities, environmental and human rights organizations and international allies. This includes Panama, Colombia and Ecuador (see below):

Colombia | We continue to engage with organizations including the Committee for the Defence of Water and the Santurbán Páramo, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR), and the Colombian Network for Environmental Justice, along with international allies¹ calling for a withdrawal from ISDS mechanisms.



On May 13, we held a zoom café on Canada's role in investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) cases in Latin America ([recording here](#)). A panel of experts discussed global and local efforts to address the impact of ISDS cases filed by Canadian companies against governments in Latin America when their investments are seen to be jeopardized by government policies aimed at protecting Indigenous rights and the environment.

Venezuela Migrant Justice Solidarity Panel | On September 12, the Common Frontiers national coordinator was invited to present on a Venezuelan migrant justice panel organized by the Louis Riel

¹ Alliance Sud (Switzerland); América Latina y el Caribe Mejor sin TLC; Argentina Mejor sin TLC; ATTAC Argentina; Global Justice Now (United Kingdom); Institute for Policy Studies – Global; Economy Program (United States); Public Services International; London Mining Network (United Kingdom); MiningWatch Canada; TerraJusta (Bolivia); Transnational Institute; War on Want (United Kingdom).

Bolivarian Circle and the Latin American Solidarity Network, in Toronto, Ontario. The presentation focused on the impact of investor-state dispute settlement cases filed by Canadian and other companies against the government of Venezuela.

St. Thomas University presentation | On November 7, Common Frontiers was invited to give a seminar on ISDS in Latin America in the Sustainability and Environmental Studies department at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement | We continue to actively participate, alongside the Americas Policy Group, Amnesty International, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Canadian Labour Congress and Mining Watch Canada in support of Ecuadoran Indigenous and environmental organizations' demands to say 'no' to the Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement. Within this reporting period, Indigenous communities in Ecuador have not been consulted and no human rights impact assessment has been conducted, despite negotiations being 'finalized.'

In early February, the Canadian and Ecuadoran governments [announced](#) the finalization of the Canada-Ecuador Free Trade Agreement negotiations. We shared [a statement from the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador \(CONAIE\)](#) denouncing the conclusion of those negotiations and calling the agreement a threat to Indigenous sovereignty and territories. On February 7, we participated in a [joint press release](#) calling for Canadian lawmakers to reject the agreement given the likelihood that it will bring increased human rights abuses against Indigenous communities.

On June 6, 29 Canadian civil society organizations, coalitions, and unions, including Common Frontiers, sent a letter (available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)) to Prime Minister Mark Carney calling for a reset on the Canada-Ecuador trade deal to ensure that it is consistent with his government's promises to prioritize protection of human rights and the environment.

In collaboration with other Canadian allies, on July 24, at the request of the Indigenous Ecuadoran women who had participated in the 2024 "This is why we say NO" delegation, we organized a zoom call between them and Indigenous women leaders in Canada to strengthen communication channels to share common struggles and discuss strategies.

[We helped to profile](#) a September 26 nationwide strike led by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), trade unions and other civil society organizations, which reiterated strong opposition to Canadian mining projects and to a recent presidential decree to end fuel subsidies and hike taxes, exasperating an already dire socio-economic and political crisis.

To echo a social media campaign organized by Ecuadoran civil society organizations at the end of December, we began to reach out to well-known Canadian voices to join a social media campaign which will amplify the demands being put forward by Indigenous and civil society organizations in Ecuador. That work is rolling out in 2026.

El Salvador | Common Frontiers continues to participate on weekly strategy and planning calls related to the ongoing case against five Salvadoran water defenders arrested on trumped up charges back in January 2023. The Canadian organizations and Common Frontiers members who spearhead that case work includes the United Church of Canada, Mining Watch Canada and PSAC-Social Justice Fund.

As part of the International Allies against Mining in El Salvador, [we amplified](#) calls for the Salvadoran Attorney General to abstain from further legal action and for all civil liabilities to be dropped. On December 1, 2025, [we amplified](#) a letter signed by 53 faith-based organizations from 25 countries who expressed their solidarity with Salvadorans' right to clean water. The letter was followed by a public webinar ([recording here](#)).

We joined our colleagues in the International Allies [to applaud](#) the January 30, 2026 not guilty verdict and raise concern about the potential civil charges. Unfortunately, that verdict was also appealed. We remain vigilant in this case and continue to support the ongoing efforts to achieve justice.

Sanctions on Cuba | Common Frontiers is part of a coalition of Canadian churches, trade unions and other non-governmental organizations that meets regularly to share news and updates on the situation in Cuba, analysis and avenues for collective solidarity work. In 2025, following the heightened economic crisis in Cuba and in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, we revamped [an online email campaign](#) targeting several Canadian government officials.

2026 is already bringing grave new challenges to Cuba with the U.S. government's abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, subsequent cutting off of Venezuelan oil supplies to Cuba, and President Trump's threat to sanction any country that provides oil to Cuba. Discussions and plans on how to respond to these latest attacks and the heightened threats to Cuba's stability are ongoing.

Trade Justice Network | **We continue to participate in meetings of the [Trade Justice Network](#).** After the December Annual General Meeting, we confirmed that our status would remain as observer and we would continue to plug in particularly around Latin American trade issues, especially ISDS work and town halls.

4. Alliance Building

This period has been important for building our engagement with strategic partners and allies throughout the Americas to garner a deeper understanding of how social movements in the region are resisting these overarching trends and threats. Much of our alliance building takes place organically throughout our work, as outlined above. However, we are working to expand our alliances beyond our traditional echo chambers and find new ways to insert the importance of solidarity with the Americas into other cross-cutting work, such as climate and debt justice, migrant justice and peace movement work.

Fair Share Platform for Global Climate Equity | We were invited to join the [Fair Share Platform coalition](#) in early 2025 as they were ramping up efforts ahead of the June G7 in Alberta, and finalizing the details of the "fair shares platform" which calls on Canada "to enact policies to do and fund our fair share of the global effort to confront the climate crisis." We share input from the ISDS global discussions and the public facing Canada-Latin America case work we have been supporting and strategize ways to raise the profile within the climate justice movement of the negative impact of ISDS.



Draw the Line mobilization converges at Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario

September 20, Draw the Line | Common Frontiers endorsed and participated, along with Kairos and the United Church, in the Toronto- September Draw the Line cross-Canada mobilization spearheaded by the Migrant Justice Network, Climate Action Network, World Beyond War and other national organizations. Tens of thousands of people participated across the country in more than 70 communities.

The mobilization was an incredible moment of cross-pollination which brought together climate justice, migrant justice, economic justice, Indigenous rights, and anti-war movements.



We continue to look for ways to work with other organizations and coalitions across Canada and the Americas whose work runs parallel but complementary to our own work.

Examples include more regular communication and collaboration with the National Farmers Union International Program Committee; Project Ploughshares; and World Beyond War and the Council of Canadians,

with whom we put out a [January 28 joint solidarity statement](#) condemning the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency actions in Minneapolis–Saint Paul.

Finally, this collective work would not be possible without the dedication, commitment and contributions of the member organizations of the Common Frontiers coalition who hold long-term, deep-rooted partnerships with communities, grassroots movements and socio-economic and environmental justice, faith-based and labour and human rights organizations across the Americas:

[BC Government and Service Employees Union](#)

[\(BCGEU\)](#)

[BC Teachers' Federation \(BCTF\)](#)

[Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives \(CCPA\)](#)

[Canadian Labour Congress \(CLC\)](#)

[Canadian Union of Postal Workers \(CUPW\)](#)

[Canadian Union of Public Employees \(CUPE\)](#)

[Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

[\(CERLAC\)](#)

[Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine \(CDHAL\)](#)

[KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives](#)

[MiningWatch Canada](#)

[Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation](#)

[\(OSSTF/FEESO\)](#)

[Public Service Alliance of Canada \(PSAC\)](#)

[Unifor](#)

[United Church of Canada](#)

[United Steelworkers Canada](#)

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