



**SCIENCE** FOR THE **PEOPLE**

**MCGILL**

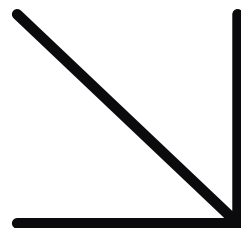
**TECH**



**UNFAIR**

**NEW REZ HALL (3625 PARK AVE)**  
**OCT 4-5 (10AM-3PM)**

**FALL 2023**

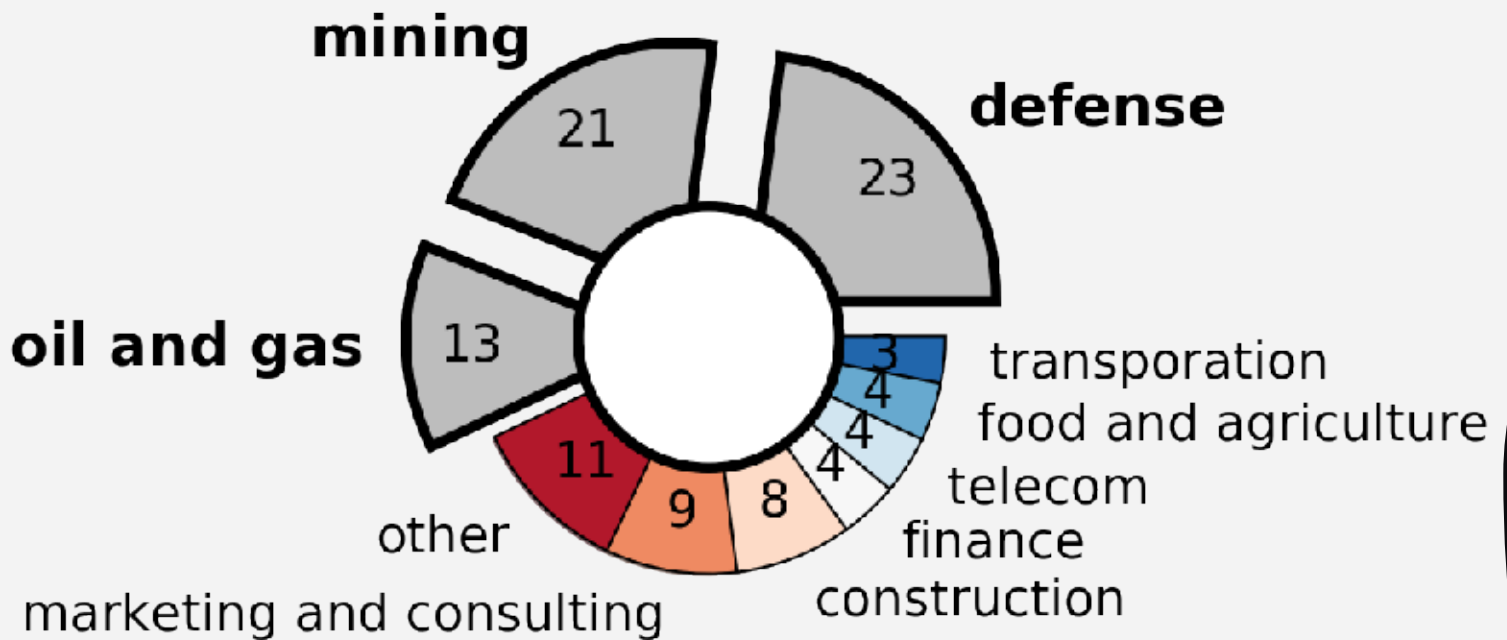


# WHO'S AT THE MCGILL TECH FAIR?

Every year, 100 “tech” companies participate in the McGill Tech Fair. This year, 57% are defence, oil and gas, and mining contractors, featuring some of the dirtiest and most exploitative corporations in the world.

Many of the companies recruiting to fill tech and management positions at McGill are built on an exploitative business model of subjugating communities — both within Canada and abroad — to violence, dispossession, displacement, pollution, and illness. These resource extraction companies are the backbone of Canadian colonialism and imperialism, and the *raison d'être* of the Canadian state itself. An extractivism fuelled by capitalist growth and imperial expansion will simply never be “sustainable.” These oil and mining projects are designed to benefit a few to the detriment of the many, and will never be able to respond to the real material and health needs of communities. At the tech fair, corporations hide and greenwash their dirty practices to new graduates and prospective employees. Our goal is to provide the other side of the story.

Career fairs are an opportunity to study the harmful roles that science, technology, and engineering play under capitalism. They are also an opportunity to imagine a world where science — rather than serving the capitalist class, its military, its mining companies, and its toxic multinationals — is put to the service of anti-colonial struggles, land and water defence, and the real health and wellbeing of communities. What role could science and engineering play in a world outside of capitalism?



GET THE FACTS ON  
ALL 100 COMPANIES

[linktr.ee/techunfair](https://linktr.ee/techunfair)



## WHAT ABOUT THE "LESS BAD" ONES?

This is not meant to be a consumer guide to help you “shop around” for the least evil employer. Under capitalism, there’s not much use in moralizing about “good” companies vs. “bad” companies — the problem is structural. This pamphlet and spreadsheet was produced by and for scientists to point out the ways that Canadian capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism put us to work, greasing the wheels of an exploitative and ecocidal system that cannot possibly continue.

**CAREERS AT A  
GLANCE...**

# Rio Tinto



## COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT CANADA

- Spies on Brazilian mines and energy ministry to help ensure favourable conditions for Canadian mining investments <sup>6</sup>

## SNC LAVALIN

- Accused of \$48 million in bribes to Libyan officials, bankrolling yachts and sex workers for the son of Muammar Gaddafi to win lucrative contracts in the country <sup>7</sup>
- Employees charged with bribery of public servants to win the contract to design and build McGill's MUHC <sup>8</sup>
- Lobbied the Trudeau government on 60 different occasions to defer prosecutions and relax penalties for corporations convicted of foreign bribery <sup>7,9</sup>

## RIO TINTO

- Long history of collusion with fascist and racist regimes <sup>1</sup>
- Operated the Panguna mine in Papua New Guinea, which sparked a civil war in which 20,000 people were killed <sup>2</sup>
- Blew up an archaeological site in Australia containing evidence of continuous human habitation for 46,000 years, despite local Indigenous opposition <sup>3</sup>

## SCHLUMBERGER (SLB)

- The world's largest offshore drilling contractor by revenue <sup>4</sup>
- 2020 class action lawsuit revealed a rampant culture of sexual harassment and retaliation against survivors (94.6% of field employees are men) <sup>5</sup>

# Canada



Government  
of Capitalists

Gouvernement  
des Capitalistes

## ELDORADO GOLD

- Constructing a giant open-pit gold and copper mine in Skouries forest (Greece) which will release 2000+ tons of toxic dust per hour, relying on the Greek state's repression of locals opposed to the mine <sup>10</sup>



# SNC • LIEAGIN

# IAM\$OLD

CORPORATION

## CATERPILLAR

- CAT's website boasts: "Virtually every U.S. military engagement since World War I has relied, in some way, on CAT equipment."<sup>11</sup>
- Zionist partner of settler-colonialism: the Israeli Defense Forces use CAT's D9 bulldozers to demolish Palestinian homes, often killing those inside<sup>12</sup>

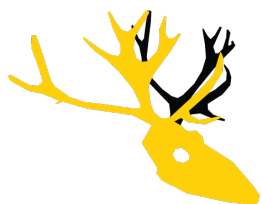
W r ~~T~~ Teck

## GLENCORE CUIVRE

- One of the world's largest producers and exporters of coal, and suppliers of crude oil
- Crude oil refinery in Cape Town produces 100,000 barrels per day<sup>13</sup>

## ARCELORMITTAL MINES

- Subsidiary in Kazakhstan operates a coal mine that has been on fire for a month (August-September 2023), having killed at least five people so far<sup>14</sup>



## AGNICO EAGLE

see footnotes + more info:  
[linktr.ee/techunfair](https://linktr.ee/techunfair)

## IAMGOLD



- IAMGOLD'S Essakane gold mine demolished 5 villages and displaced over 16,000 people in Burkina Fasso<sup>15</sup>



## TECK

- Among Teck's destructive mining projects in Canada, the U.S., and Latin America, Teck's Elk River open-pit coal mine is the largest coal mine in BC, polluting the river with selenium, which leads to birth defects in fish<sup>16</sup>
- Teck pleaded guilty to polluting BC's Columbia River, the 4th largest in North America, which many communities depend on both culturally and economically<sup>17</sup>
- Proposed the largest ever open-pit tarsands project, which was withdrawn after mass resistance from Indigenous communities and allies<sup>18</sup>

## AGNICO EAGLE

- Yamana Gold & Agnico Eagle own Canada's largest open-pit gold mine (Canadian Malartic Mine, Quebec)<sup>19</sup>
- Found to have broken existing laws and regulations over 4000 times between 2011 and 2016<sup>20</sup>
- Agnico Eagle's mining infrastructure disrupts the migration of caribou, which are central to the livelihood of Kivalliq Inuit communities<sup>21</sup>

# WHAT CAN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS DO?

## GET ORGANIZED!

We're all too familiar with the array of proposed tech solutions to our current crisis — from carbon capture, to ecologically destructive hydroelectric dams, to radiation-blocking aerosols, to cold fusion, and a host of other fantastical methods for generating carbon-free energy. Greenwashed capitalism has most recently adopted the strategy of “critical minerals” for a green transition, which we know to be a lie. Mining the metals and minerals deemed “essential” for electric vehicles and batteries means more of the status quo: irreversible pollution, Indigenous dispossession, and unending colonial violence — particularly in northern Ontario, Québec, and all throughout Africa and South America.

The fundamental causes of the crisis are not carbon emissions and rising temperatures, but our set of social relations, and our broken relationship to the land. “Green tech” can't save us: the root cause of the climate crisis is capitalism itself.

Wherever you end up working after graduation, you can be a part of a long tradition of radical, anticapitalist scientists who are **organizing**, politically— within private industry, academia, and all over the world— to oppose the use of science for colonialism, extractivism, and warfare, to oppose fake market solutions and liberal reforms, and to develop real, anticapitalist alternatives for a better world.

The first step is to connect with people who share your values, cultivate a community, build solidarity, and work together with clarity and purpose. Here are just a few such organizations:

[linktr.ee/techunfair](https://linktr.ee/techunfair)





## **SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE**

[scienceforthepeople.org](http://scienceforthepeople.org)

[sftp-canada.org](http://sftp-canada.org)

An international organization of anticapitalist activist-scientists, established in 1969 and revived in 2016, with Tiohtià:ke (Montréal) and Canada chapters.



## **TECH WORKERS COALITION**

[techworkerscoalition.org](http://techworkerscoalition.org)

An international coalition of tech industry workers, labour organizers, community organizers, and friends cultivating solidarity among workers in tech.



## **RESEARCH FOR THE FRONTLINES**

[researchforthefrontlines.ca](http://researchforthefrontlines.ca)

Connects grassroots communities on the front lines of the fight for environmental and climate justice in so-called Canada with researchers who have skills, time, and labour to offer.



## **MINING INJUSTICE SOLIDARITY NETWORK**

[mininginjustice.org](http://mininginjustice.org)

Toronto-based activist group that organizes to resist the extractive practices of Canadian mining companies.



## **CLIMATE JUSTICE MONTREAL**

[justiceclimatiquemontreal.ca](http://justiceclimatiquemontreal.ca)

Tiohtià:ke (Montréal)-based group pursuing environmental and climate justice through education, mobilization and collective action in solidarity with directly affected communities.



## **RAGE CLIMATIQUE**

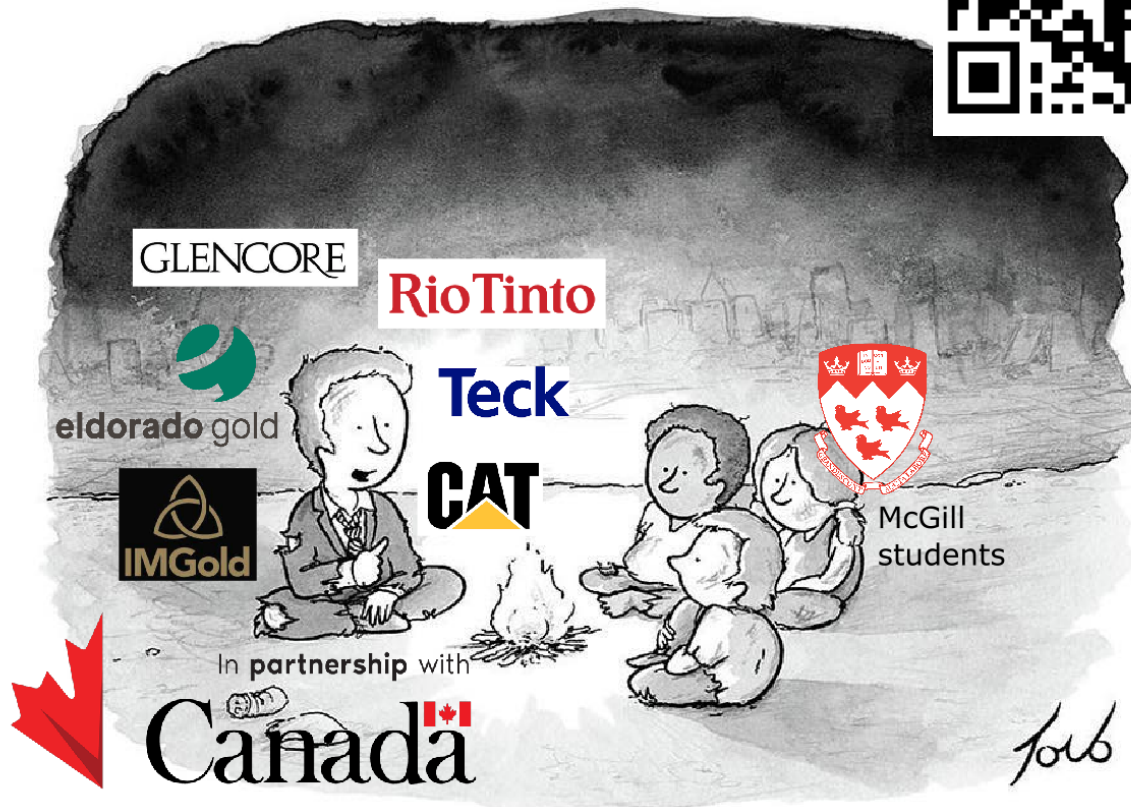
[rageclimatique.org](http://rageclimatique.org)

A Tiohtià:ke (Montréal)-based coalition of environmental groups and individuals organized on anti-capitalist basis.

# TECH WON'T SAVE US...

## GET ORGANIZED!

[linktr.ee/techunfair](http://linktr.ee/techunfair)



*"Yes, the planet got destroyed.  
But for a beautiful moment in time we  
created a lot of value for shareholders."*