

## 1 Safety is First

- Safety must be the guiding principle for the entire life cycle of the mine with zero tolerance for human fatalities. #1\*
- Tailings facilities must never be built where communities and mineworkers cannot be safely evacuated during a failure, and/or where public water supplies, critical habitats, or protected ecosystems would be at risk. #3
- Construction methods, like upstream dams, that are too risky must not be allowed. #4
- When lives are at risk, tailings facilities must be designed to withstand the most extreme floods and earthquakes, and all designs must account for climate change. #5
- The stability of tailings facilities must not be compromised, and tailings facilities must eliminate or reduce the amount of water in and on the tailings. #6

## 2 Participation and Democracy

- Companies must ensure meaningful engagement, participation and consent of affected communities over the entire life of the mine. This includes the right of communities to say no to tailings facilities. #2
- Emergency preparedness and response plans must be prepared in advance with all potentially affected communities, downstream agricultural producers and businesses, mine workers, first responders, and relevant authorities. Plans must be based on worst case failure scenarios. #14

## 3 Corporate Accountability

- Companies must be able to pay for the safest technologies and practices, provide funding upfront for mine closure (as bonds), and have sufficient insurance to cover off-site damages in the event of a failure. #12
- Companies must protect whistleblowers and have independent grievance procedures with adequate, effective, and prompt solutions for anyone harmed by the mine including Indigenous Peoples and community members. #13
- The board of directors must be held accountable for the safety of tailings facilities (or lack thereof) and must make decisions that prioritize safety over cost. #17

## 4 Transparency and Access to Information

- The design criteria for tailing facilities must be strong enough to protect against human error and circumstances not accounted for in the initial design. #7
- Companies must understand the chemical and geological characteristics of the tailings and the soil underneath the dam to prevent possible dam failures. #8
- Facilities must have appropriate and comprehensive monitoring systems to identify, disclose and address risks. #9
- A tailings facility must not be built in a location where the consequences of failure in the future are unacceptable. Companies are responsible for a tailings facility until it requires only routine monitoring, inspection and maintenance or until modeling predicts that the risk of failure is negligible. #11
- There must be independent reviews of dam safety. Reviewers must be chosen through a transparent public process, and not have financial ties to or dependency on the company they are reviewing. #10
- Companies must publicly release all safety information free of charge and in all relevant languages. #15
- Companies must provide independent technical experts that are trusted and chosen by the affected communities and/or Indigenous Peoples. These experts must be accountable to the communities, not the operating companies. #16



The safest tailings facility is the one that is never built, and permanent above ground tailings facility must be a last resort.

*We must find ways to reduce the amount of tailings produced and the overall demand for mined materials to avoid the long term liability of mine waste sites, and their social and environmental impacts.*

\* Numbers indicate the corresponding guideline in *Safety First*.

