

THE BC CRITICAL MINERALS FORUM

APRIL 14-15 2026, VANCOUVER
ORGANISED BY ENERGY AND MINES

As global demand for critical minerals accelerates, British Columbia is emerging as a pivotal jurisdiction in Canada's supply chain strategy. With 16 of Canada's 31 identified critical minerals — including the nation's largest copper production and its only molybdenum output — BC combines rich resources with a stable regulatory and market environment, strengthened by long-term partnerships with Indigenous Nations.

The BC Critical Minerals Forum, taking place April 14-15 in Vancouver, will convene senior mining executives, Indigenous leaders, investors, and government officials to explore the practical strategies and partnerships needed to unlock BC's critical minerals potential. With a timely focus on financing, Indigenous-led models, infrastructure, permitting reform, and midstream opportunities, the Forum will deliver practical insight for key stakeholders advancing BC's critical minerals value chain.

Organized by Energy and Mines, this Forum is part of a Canadian series that also includes the Ontario Critical Minerals Forum and Critical Minerals for Defence, addressing the opportunities, barriers and urgency shaping Canada's role in global supply chains.

Key topics for the BC Critical Minerals Forum include:

- BC's role in national security, defence supply chains, and allied markets
- Indigenous-led partnerships, equity ownership, and infrastructure development
- Unlocking the Northwest's critical minerals potential
- Financing models and investor certainty for new projects
- Solving the commodity price challenge with midstream capacity
- Permitting reforms, regulatory clarity, and Section 7 consent frameworks
- Market outlook, pricing volatility, and global financing trends
- Strategic opportunities for BC critical minerals miners - byproduct recovery, recycling
- Lessons from international permitting, financing, and offtake models

Day 1, April 14, 2026

8:30-8:40 **Welcome to the Territory**
Elder Syexwaliya, **Squamish Nation** *

8:40-8:45 **Chair's Remarks:**
Adrienne Baker, Director, **Energy and Mines**

8:45-8:50 **Opening Welcome:**
Fazil Mihtar, Deputy Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth, **Government of British Columbia**

8:50-9:05 **Next Steps for Critical Mineral Advancement in BC**

Kendra Johnston, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals,
Government of British Columbia

9:05-9:20 **Progressing Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy**

Isabella Chan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, **Natural Resources Canada**

9:20-9:35 **An Update on Defence Measures to Support Mining and Critical Minerals**

Wendy Hadwen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy-Industry, **Department of National Defence**

9:35-9:50 **Indigenous Leadership in Critical Minerals and Nation-Building Projects**

Crystal Smith, **Haisla Nation**, Member, **Indigenous Advisory Council**, **Major Projects Office**

9:50-10:20 **Networking Break**

10:20-10:35 **Updates on Critical Minerals Investments and Next Steps**

Yannick Beaudoin, President and Chief Executive Officer, **Canada Growth Fund Investment Management**

10:35-11:20 Panel: **The Role of BC's Critical Minerals in Security of Supply and Resilience**

As global demand grows, BC's critical minerals are not just economic assets but vital to Canada's national security, defence industrial policy, and allied supply chain resilience. This panel will explore how BC's mineral wealth fits into the evolving Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy and defence industrial policy.

Session Leader:



- What do you see as the biggest opportunities and constraints in realizing BC's role as a reliable supplier of critical minerals for global markets?
- From the perspective of Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy, how is the Department of National Defence beginning to think about secure supply of the minerals required for defence technologies and platforms and what does this mean for Canadian and BC producers?
- What does it actually take to move a project from resource to production in today's environment? How do partnerships, infrastructure, and regulatory and demand certainty influence whether projects move forward?
- How do BC's critical minerals fit into the broader supply chains for allied economies — particularly the U.S., Europe, and other defence partners? Where does BC have the strongest opportunity to contribute to secure supply?
- How is the defence perspective on securing access to these materials evolving, and what could that mean for mining jurisdictions like BC?
- How does BC's strategy for First Nations partnerships, clean energy, and infrastructure align with Canada's national security and defence industrial priorities?
- What will it take for BC to translate its mineral potential into a secure and resilient supply of critical minerals for Canada and its allies over the next decade?

Chair: **Roopa Davé**, Partner, National Leader for Sustainability Services, **KPMG**

John Mullally, Head of External Relations, **Newmont North America**
Wendy Hadwen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy-Industry, **Department of National Defence**
Michael Goehring, President & CEO, **Mining Association of BC**

11:20–11:35 **Powering BC's Critical Minerals**

- Updates on BC Hydro's allocation strategy and what it means for critical minerals projects across the province
- Progress and next steps for the North Coast Transmission Line to unlock potential in the Golden Triangle
- Expanding generation and efficiency programs to meet growing demand from mining and industry

Melissa Holland, Senior Vice-President of Capital Infrastructure Project Delivery, **BC Hydro**

11:35-12:25 Panel: **Permits, Partnerships, and Pathways: Realizing BC's Critical Minerals Opportunity**

This discussion will bring together leaders from First Nations, mining and finance to explore how the BC critical minerals sector can realize its potential in attracting investment, building midstream capacity, and ensuring responsible development in the global race for secure supply.

Session Leader:



- What are the biggest opportunities for BC to position itself as a global supplier of critical minerals, and what barriers must be overcome to realize them?
- What are the key challenges miners are facing in the region around permitting, financing, and development timelines?
- What should the government's role be in supporting the viability of these projects?
- What infrastructure investments—roads, energy, processing capacity—are most urgent to unlock critical mineral development in BC's Northwest and beyond?
- With shifting trade dynamics, tariffs, and buyer expectations, how can BC ensure its critical minerals remain competitive and attractive to global markets?

Chair: **Brittney Kerr**, Founding Partner, **Framepoint Public Affairs**

Charles Morven, Secretary-Treasurer, **Nisga'a Nation**

Brian Kynoch, President, **Imperial Metals**

Michael Gray, Partner, **Agentis Capital**

Brock Gill, Senior Vice President, Operations, North America, **Teck**

Keerit Jutla, CEO, **Invicta Metals**

12:25-1:20 **Networking Lunch**

1:20-2:40 **Unlocking the Northwest: Energy Infrastructure and Critical Minerals Development**

Northwest British Columbia's Golden Triangle—home to 75% of Canada's undeveloped copper potential—has become the focal point for critical-minerals development in BC and across Canada. With Indigenous Nations leading in ownership and governance, the region's progress depends on expanded and reliable energy infrastructure. This session will provide updates on key developments in transmission, Indigenous partnerships, and mine readiness that are critical

to unlocking the Northwest's potential—where new electricity infrastructure will provide the project certainty needed for more than 15 critical-mineral and precious-metal projects to move forward.

1:20-1:35 A Model for Co-Developing Critical Minerals

- Supporting major projects in Tahltan Territory by creating employment pathways and economic participation for Tahltan citizens
- Expanding opportunities for Tahltan-owned businesses through industry partnerships and procurement participation
- Demonstrating how strong partnerships between industry and Indigenous business organizations contribute to project certainty, workforce readiness, and responsible regional development

Todd den Engelsen, Chief Executive Officer, **Tahltan Nation Development Corporation**

1:35-1:50 Mining in the Northwest: Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Lessons from navigating through regulatory approvals, environmental reviews, and evolving Indigenous consultation requirements
- Why access to port, power, and transportation corridors is central to unlocking critical minerals opportunities in Northwest BC.
- Working with First Nations and government to align on shared benefits, advance reconciliation, and build the certainty needed for long-term investment

Brent Murphy, Senior Vice President, Environmental Affairs, **Seabridge Gold**

1:50-2:00 Key Updates on the Northwest: Progress and Next Steps

Fazil Mihar, Deputy Minister of Jobs and Economic Growth, **Government of British Columbia**

2:00-2:40 Panel: Indigenous-Led Infrastructure in the Northwest

The recent acquisition of Stewart Bulk Terminals by the Nisga'a and Tahltan Nations, in partnership with Arrow, marks a transformative moment for BC's Golden Triangle. Now rebranded as Portland Canal Holdings, this Indigenous-owned port is poised to expand capacity, provide investor certainty, and position Northwest BC as a critical minerals export hub built on Indigenous leadership, collaboration, and stewardship. This panel will explore how Indigenous leadership in infrastructure ownership is reshaping value chains, providing investor certainty, and positioning Northwest BC as a critical minerals export hub.

- How does Indigenous ownership of Stewart Bulk Terminals change the dynamics of certainty, investment, and governance for projects in the Golden Triangle?
- With capacity expansion from 50% to 75%, what role will the port play in unlocking mine development and securing BC's position in global critical minerals markets?
- How are Indigenous-led environmental assessment processes under modern treaties providing a model for responsible development and regulatory clarity?
- What is needed to ensure collaboration across Indigenous governments, miners, and provincial/federal stakeholders to maximize the value of this strategic asset?
- What can other regions learn from this acquisition about building sustainable, long-term infrastructure partnerships between Indigenous Nations, industry, and government?

Chair: **Roger Harris**, Partner, **Harris Palmer**

Andrew Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, **Nisga'a Lisims Government**

Todd den Engelsen, Chief Executive Officer, **Tahltan Nation Development Corporation**

John Mullally, Head of External Relations, **Newmont North America**

2:40-3:10 Networking Break

3:10-4:50 **Indigenous Partnerships in BC's Critical Minerals Sector**

Indigenous partnerships are reshaping BC's critical minerals landscape. With legislated rights, Section 7 consent-based decisions, and Indigenous-led ownership and financing models, Nations are creating new pathways to certainty, speed, and shared value. This session highlights how equity participation, governance, and Indigenous-led infrastructure are redefining project certainty while delivering long-term benefits for communities, governments, and investors.

3:10-3:25 **Indigenous Loan Guarantees: Enabling Investment and Leadership in Critical Minerals Mining**

Michael Bonshor, Chair, **Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation**

3:25-3:40 **A New Model for Indigenous Ownership in Critical Minerals**

M Colin Joudrie, President & CEO, **Selkirk Copper**

3:40-3:55 **Aligning BC's First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy**

Caleb Behn, CEO, **BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council**

3:55-4:50 Panel: **Indigenous-Led Models for Critical Minerals Project Certainty**

This panel explores how reconciliation-based approaches - including equity ownership, consent agreements, and Indigenous-led infrastructure - are central to critical minerals development in BC and what this means for First Nations, miners and investors.

Session Leader:



- How are consent-based agreements reshaping the pace and structure of projects in BC?
- What ownership and financing structures best balance Indigenous priorities with capital market needs?
- What opportunities exist for Nations to lead or co-own enabling infrastructure such as roads, power, and processing capacity?
- What does this shift mean for global investors comparing BC's critical minerals sector with other jurisdictions, and how can BC position itself as the most competitive option?
- How are Indigenous-led land use frameworks influencing ecological, cultural, and economic decision-making?
- What practical steps have proven effective in moving from decades of conflict to durable partnerships?

Chair: **Byng Giraud**, President, **Sedgwick Strategies**

Kody Penner, VP Corporate Development, **Nations Royalty**

Sean Magee, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, **Taseko Mines**

Valerie Helbronner, Partner, **Torys**

Dolleen Logan, Chief, **Lheidli T'enneh First Nation**

Booker Cornea, Associate Vice President Market and Shareholder Engagement, **First Nations Bank of Canada**

4:50-5:35 **Attracting Investment for BC's Critical Minerals**

Attracting the capital needed to advance BC's critical minerals projects requires certainty on permitting, infrastructure, and long-term demand. This panel will explore how regulatory clarity, infrastructure investment, and offtake agreements can unlock financing and improve project bankability in BC's critical minerals sector. This conversation will be streamed live on the

ConversationsLIVE website and the Vancouver Sun, with replay and podcast options available afterwards.

- Where are investors currently directing capital in critical minerals, and how does BC compare to other jurisdictions?
- How can permitting clarity and “one project, one process” approaches reduce investor risk and improve timelines?
- What role are federal and provincial funds (CMIF, Critical Minerals Sovereign Fund, CIB, provincial infrastructure programs etc.) play in catalyzing private capital?
- How important are offtake agreements with downstream buyers (EV, battery, defence) in unlocking debt and equity financing?
- What additional infrastructure — from roads to midstream processing — is most critical to making BC projects bankable?
- What role are G7 arrangements, including the emerging G7 buyers club, expected to play in shaping demand and offtake opportunities for BC projects in the absence of a formal U.S.–Canada critical minerals partnership?

Chair: **Stuart McNish**, Host, **ConversationsLIVE**

Divya Shah, Managing Director, **Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB)**

Ashley Glen, Director of Structured and Project Finance, **Export Development Canada (EDC)**

Lisa Davis, CEO, **PearTree Securities**

Martin Turenne, President and CEO, **FPX Nickel**

5:35-6:30 **Networking Drinks**

Day 2: April 15, 2026

8:25-8:30 **Chair’s Remarks**

8:30–9:00 **Fireside Chat: Indigenous Consent and the Future of Critical Minerals in BC**

- Where do current approaches to Indigenous consent fall short, and what needs to change for critical minerals projects to earn real legitimacy and trust?
- Who needs to be “at the table” from the very beginning for development to be ethical, lawful, and economically viable?
- What distinguishes partnerships that genuinely accelerate projects from those that end up creating more friction and delay?
- What would it take for BC to become a global example of how Indigenous governance and critical minerals development can succeed together?

Chair: **Kody Penner**, VP Corporate Development, **Nations Royalty**

Linda Innes, Elected Chief Councillor, **Gitxaala Nation**

9:00-9:20 **Building BC’s Critical Minerals Future: Skilled Labour and Infrastructure Delivery**

- The role of skilled trades in mine construction, infrastructure development, and long-term operations in BC’s critical minerals sector
- How partnerships between unions, contractors, and project developers can ensure a reliable local workforce for multi-decade mining projects
- Expanding opportunities for Indigenous workers, women, and local communities

Doug Parton, Business Manager and Financial Secretary Treasurer, **Ironworkers Union Local 97**

Jesse Johnson, CEO, **Connect Group**

9:20–9:40 **Restructuring Supply Chains to Build Resilience**

David Willick, Vice President and Regional Leader Mining, Metals and Mineral North America, **Schneider Electric**

9:40-10:00 **Indigenous Consent in Practice: The Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension**

Christine Walkem, Chair, Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly, and Chief, **Cook's Ferry Indian Band (CFIB)**

10:00-10:30 **Networking Break**

10:30-10:50 **Mine Waste Reprocessing: Unlocking Critical Minerals from Legacy Assets**

- How federal support is advancing the Hedley Minerals Recovery and Restoration Project — recovering critical minerals from historic mine waste while accelerating environmental remediation and creating a new model for value creation from legacy sites

Mike McPhie, Managing Director, **Regeneration Enterprises**

10:50-12:10 **Key Developments in Project Permitting and Approvals**

Clear, predictable permitting is essential to advancing BC's critical minerals projects, yet some miners, investors, and First Nations continue to face challenges around timelines, coordination, and consultation. This session will provide updates on BC's permitting framework and explore practical steps to reduce delays, strengthen Indigenous engagement, and align with federal "one project, one process" reforms.

10:50-11:05: **Permitting Updates: Advancing BC's Critical Minerals Projects**

Kendra Johnston, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals, **Government of British Columbia**

11:05-11:20 **Navigating Permitting and Consultation for BC Critical Minerals Projects**

- BC's permitting system, consultation requirements, and regulatory shifts
- Key issues around timelines, ministry resourcing, and Indigenous engagement
- How is the process changing and what are the impacts for miners, First Nations and investors?

Sharon Singh, Partner, Environment/Indigenous, **McMillan**

11:20–12:10 Panel: **Key Developments in Project Permitting and Approvals**

Predictable, well-resourced permitting processes are essential to unlocking investment and building trust among Indigenous partners and mining proponents. This discussion will explore key developments in federal and provincial permitting reforms to accelerate permitting and approvals with insights from government, project leaders, and Indigenous partners.

- What are the most pressing permitting and approvals challenges facing BC's critical minerals projects today, and how do they impact investment and timelines?
- How effectively are permitting reforms balancing streamlined approvals with meaningful Indigenous consultation?
- How are governments improving coordination to avoid duplication in Indigenous consultation and reduce engagement fatigue?
- What reforms or new approaches are needed to differentiate between major amendments and smaller operational approvals to improve efficiency?
- What resources, policies, or partnerships are required to give miners, investors, and First Nations confidence that permitting can keep pace with global demand for critical minerals?

Chair: **Tim McEwan**, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, **Mining Association of British Columbia**

Kendra Johnston, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals, **Government of British Columbia**

Andrea Ross, Manger, Social, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, **Galore Creek Mining Corporation**

Sharon Singh, Partner, Environment/Indigenous, **McMillan**

Connor Pritty, Lands & Regulatory Affairs Director, **Tahltan Central Government**

12:10-1:10 **Networking Lunch**

1:10–2:00 **Opportunities and Challenges for BC’s Junior Critical Minerals Miners**

Junior miners are central to advancing BC’s critical minerals sector, yet they continue to face challenges in raising capital, securing approvals, and achieving fair valuations. This panel will explore the financial, regulatory, and partnership approaches needed to advance projects from exploration through to development.

- What are the most critical funding gaps across exploration, development, and processing for juniors — and how can they be closed?
- What specific financing and market models from other jurisdictions could be adapted to BC’s context?
- How do permitting timelines and approval processes affect juniors, and what would support project success?
- What opportunities do junior miners see for partnering with First Nations on infrastructure and project development, and how could these partnerships create certainty and attract investment?
- What role should provincial and federal funds play in helping juniors accelerate critical minerals projects?

Chair: **Todd Stone**, President and CEO, **Association for Mineral Exploration BC (AME)**

Nicholas Van Dyk, EVP, CFO & Corporate Secretary, **Northisle Copper and Gold**

Chad Ulansky, President & Chief Executive Officer, **Cantex**

Mark Tory, President & CEO, **Defense Metals**

Claudia Tornquist, President and CEO, **Kodiak Copper**

2:00-2:15 **Powering BC’s Critical Minerals: Demand Forecasts, Grid Constraints and Investment Implications**

- Updated modelling of electricity demand from BC’s mining pipeline and regional load growth
- Where do the biggest constraints exist — and what does this mean for project timelines and permitting?
- Implications for infrastructure planning, grid investment, and Indigenous-led energy opportunities

Flyn McCarthy, Principal, **SysEne**

2:15–2:45 **Advancing Western Canada’s Midstream Capacity**

Canada’s ability to realize its critical minerals potential depends on solving the midstream gap. Without domestic or allied processing capacity, projects remain vulnerable to foreign-controlled pricing and struggle to attract investment. This session will provide industry perspectives on emerging processing initiatives, followed by a panel exploring how Western Canada can build sustainable and allied-aligned midstream capacity.

2:15–2:30 **Lithium Case Study – Toward Domestic Conversion Capacity**

- Addressing commodity price constraints and evaluating options for processing in Alberta
April Hayward, Chief Sustainability Officer, **Li-FT**

2:30–2:45 **Rare Earths Case Study – Next Steps for Processing in Canada**

- North America’s first rare earth processing facility, with capacity for 3,000 tons annually, demonstrating the economic viability of domestic processing and a new route-to-market for Canadian miners

Muhammad Imran, Vice President, Rare Earth Element Division, **Saskatchewan Research Council**

2:45–3:45 **Models for Critical Minerals Financing, Permitting, and Offtake**

As governments race to secure critical minerals supply chains, miners are navigating very different financing, permitting, and offtake environments across jurisdictions. This session will highlight lessons from international markets to provide insight on global approaches to investment, permitting reform, and securing long-term buyers.

2:45–3:00 **Fast-Tracking Permitting for Critical Minerals**

- How the U.S. “Coordinated Project Plan” is helping accelerate permitting
- Graphite One’s Alaska project and securing U.S. federal support
- Key takeaways and next steps for the project

Anthony Huston, CEO, **Graphite One**

3:00–3:45 **International Perspectives: Building a Competitive Critical Minerals Sector in BC**

This panel brings together international experts to explore how critical minerals strategies are being implemented around the world—and how those experiences can help guide BC’s approach. From investment models to policy frameworks, Indigenous engagement to infrastructure planning, this session will focus on the most transferable lessons for BC miners, policy makers, and project developers.

- How are critical minerals strategies evolving in key mining markets, and what major shifts are shaping the landscape for miners, offtakers, investors, Indigenous communities, and governments?
- What policy tools or public-private models have proven most effective in scaling critical minerals supply chains and attracting long-term investment?
- What common bottlenecks—such as permitting, infrastructure, or ESG frameworks—are you seeing, and how are they being addressed?
- What are the key lessons or cautionary tales that BC should consider as it builds a globally competitive and inclusive critical minerals sector?

Chair: **Monica Moretto**, Vice President of Sustainability, **Pan American Silver** and Board Member, **Lithium Argentina**

Raman Randhawa, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, **Capstone Copper**

Anthony Huston, CEO, **Graphite One**

Tom Whelan, Senior Vice President and CFO, **Coeur Mining**

Vick Singh, COO, **Dragonfly Energy**

3:45–3:50 **Chair’s Closing**

Adrienne Baker, Director, **Energy and Mines**

3:50–4:30 **Wrap-up Drinks Reception**