

UNLOCKING BC'S CRITICAL MINERALS VALUE CHAIN

THE **BC** **CRITICAL MINERALS** **FORUM**

14-15 APRIL 2026, VANCOUVER

Organised by **ENERGYANDMINES**



FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE and INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS



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Speakers

<https://bc.energyandmines.com/>

EVENT BACKGROUND

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 TOPIC COVERED:

- ✓ 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

SPEAKER SELECTION

The conference agenda is developed through primary research. We undertake quality, in-depth conversations to build a high-caliber agenda that is reflective of the real challenges facing the critical minerals ecosystem with topics suggested by key stakeholders.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND AND WHY?

MINING COMPANIES (PRODUCERS & JUNIORS)

- Gain clarity on permitting reforms, timelines, and approvals critical to advancing projects.
- Build partnerships with Indigenous Nations, governments, and financiers to secure investment and social licence.
- Explore midstream processing, byproduct recovery, and recycling opportunities to boost competitiveness.

GOVERNMENT & POLICY MAKERS

- Present and discuss policy tools supporting permitting reform, infrastructure, and midstream capacity.
- Align BC's role with national security, defence supply chains, and allied market needs.
- Collaborate with miners and Indigenous leaders to drive growth, reconciliation, and sustainability.

INDIGENOUS NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Influence the discussion on equity ownership, governance, and consent frameworks.
- Share successful models of Indigenous-led infrastructure and financing.
- Showcase leadership in projects like Stewart Bulk Terminals and Selkirk First Nation mine ownership.

INVESTORS, BANKS, & FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

Access insights on market trends, pricing volatility, and global financing shifts.

- Evaluate how permitting clarity, infrastructure, and Indigenous partnerships de-risk projects.
- Connect with miners and governments to identify investment-ready opportunities and co-financing models.

ENGINEERING, INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY PROVIDERS

- Position solutions for roads, power, ports, and processing facilities enabling project development.
- Learn about energy allocation plans (e.g., BC Hydro's North Coast Line) and adapt infrastructure strategies.
- Partner with Indigenous Nations and miners to develop co-owned infrastructure models.

TECHNOLOGY & DOWNSTREAM MANUFACTURERS

Secure early access to critical minerals supply for EVs, batteries, defence, and clean energy technologies.

- Build offtake agreements and partnerships that de-risk projects and guarantee material flows.
- Understand how BC's midstream and recycling capacity can support domestic and allied supply chains.



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1: APRIL 14, 2026	DAY 2: APRIL 15, 2026
Next Steps for BC's Critical Minerals Strategy	Derisking Critical Minerals: Offtake Partnerships and Strategic Investments
Progressing Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy	Key Developments in Project Permitting and Approvals
An Update on Defence Measures to Support Mining and Critical Minerals	Advancing Western Canada's Midstream Capacity
Indigenous Leadership in Critical Minerals and Nation-Building Projects	Lithium Case Study – Toward Domestic Conversion Capacity
The Role of BC's Critical Minerals in Security of Supply and Resilience	Rare Earths Case Study – Next Steps for Processing in Canada
Powering BC's Critical Minerals	Building Midstream Capacity for Strategic Metals in Canada
Permits, Partnerships, and Pathways: Realizing BC's Critical Minerals Opportunity	Opportunities and Challenges for BC's Junior Critical Minerals Miners
Unlocking the Northwest: Energy Infrastructure and Critical Minerals Development	Models for Critical Minerals Financing, Permitting, and Offtake
Indigenous Partnerships in BC's Critical Minerals Sector	International Perspectives: Building a Competitive Critical Minerals Sector in BC
Attracting Investment for BC's Critical Minerals	
Networking Drinks	Wrap-up Drinks

EARLY CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



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



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



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



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



Keith Anderson
Senior Vice-President,
Customer and Corpo-
rate Affairs
BC Hydro



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



Ryan Hoel
President and COO
Seabridge Gold



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



Andy Robinson
Chief Executive
Officer
**Nisga'a Lisims
Government**



M Colin Joudrie
President & CEO
Selkirk Copper



Yannick Beaudoin
President and Chief
Executive Officer
**Canada Growth Fund
Investment Manage-
ment**



Sven List
Senior Vice President
of Canadian
Corporate Business
**Export Development
Canada (EDC)**



Martin Turenne
President and CEO
FPX Nickel



Michael Goehring
President & CEO
**Mining Association
of BC**



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



Claudia Tornquist
President and CEO
Kodiak Copper



Sean Magee
Vice President of
Corporate Affairs
Taseko Mines



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



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



Chris Grove
CEO
Capacitor Metals

EARLY CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



Sam Lee
President & CEO
Northisle Copper and Gold



Michael Gray
Partner
Agentis Capital



Kody Penner
VP Corporate Development
Nations Royalty



Anthony Huston
CEO
Graphite One



Sharon Singh
Partner, Environment/
Indigenous
McMillan



Brittney Kerr
Founding Partner
Framepoint Public Affairs



Charles Morven
Secretary-Treasurer
Nisga'a Nation



Roger Harris
Partner
Harris Palmer



Byng Giraud
President
Sedgwick Strategies



Stuart McNish
Host
ConversationsLIVE



Mark Tory
President & CEO
Defense Metals



Raman Randawa
Senior Vice President
and Chief Financial
Officer,
Capstone Copper



Brian Kynoch
President
Imperial Metals



April Hayward
Chief Sustainability
Officer **Li-FT**



Connor Pritty
Lands & Regulatory
Affairs Director
Tahltan Central Government



Annie Sismanian
CFO
Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation



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



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



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



Lisa Davis
CEO
PearTree Securities



Andrea Ross
Manager
Indigenous and
Regulatory Affairs
Galore Creek Mining Corporation



Chad Ulansky
President & Chief
Executive Officer
Cantex

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for Mineral
Exploration

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Sponsorship Opportunities: Energy and Mines is delighted to partner with organizations seeking to build profile and thought leadership in the critical minerals sector. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities and bespoke packages, contact Olivia Mendoza at events@energyandmines.com

DAY 1 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

- 8:30-8:40** **Welcome to the Territory**
- 8:40-8:45** **Chair's Remarks:**
Adrienne Baker, Director, **Energy and Mines**
- 8:45-8:50** **Ministerial Remarks:**
- 8:50-9:05** **Next Steps for BC's Critical Minerals Strategy**
- 9:05-9:20** **Progressing Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy**
Isabella Chan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, **Natural Resources Canada**
- 9:20-9:35** **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.
- How do BC's critical minerals contribute to Canada's broader national and economic security goals, and how does this align with federal priorities?
 - What role can BC play in securing resilient supply chains for Canada and its allies, particularly in the face of global competition and foreign market dominance?
 - How does BC's strategy for First Nations partnerships, ESG leadership, and infrastructure align with Canada's national security and defence industrial priorities?
 - What mechanisms are needed to accelerate BC's role in Canada's critical minerals strategy?
 - Looking ahead, how can BC's critical minerals sector ensure it is embedded in Canada's evolving defence industrial policy and contributes directly to North American security of supply?
- 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**

DAY 1 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

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

Keith Anderson, Senior Vice-President, Customer and Corporate Affairs, **BC Hydro**

11:35–12:20

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.

- 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**

12:20–1:20

Networking Lunch

1:20–2:45

SESSION: **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.

DAY 1 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

1:20-1:35

A Model for Co-Developing Critical Minerals

- Co-developing Eskay Creek: A fully collaborative approach where Tahltn rights, oversight, and environmental stewardship shape every stage of the project
- Expanding economic opportunities for Tahltn businesses
- Creating a partnership framework that delivers project certainty, advances regional infrastructure, and attracts investment in critical minerals

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

1:35-1:50

Case Study: **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

Ryan Hoel, President and COO, **Seabridge Gold**

1:50-2:00

Key Updates on the Northwest: Progress and Next Steps

2:00-2:40

Panel: **Indigenous-Led Infrastructure in the Northwest**

The recent acquisition of Stewart Bulk Terminals by the Nisga'a and Tahltn 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**

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

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

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

DAY 1 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

2:40-3:15 **Networking Break**

3:15-4:50 SESSION: **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.

3:15-3:30 **Indigenous Loan Guarantees: Enabling Investment and Leadership in BC's Critical Minerals Mining**
Annie Sismanian, CFO, **Canada Indigenous Loan Guarantee Corporation**

3:30-3:50 Case Study: **Selkirk First Nation – A New Model for Critical Minerals Ownership**
M Colin Joudrie, President & CEO, **Selkirk Copper**

4:05-4:50 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.

- How are consent-based agreements like Teztan Biny 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**

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.

- 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?

DAY 1 TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

- What role can federal and provincial funds (CMIF, CIB, provincial infrastructure programs) 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)**

Lisa Davis, CEO, **PearTree Securities**

Sven List, Senior Vice President of Canadian Corporate Business, **Export Development Canada (EDC)**

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

5:35-6:30

Networking Drinks



DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

8:25-8:30

Chair's Remarks

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

8:30-9:10

Fireside Chat: **Derisking Critical Minerals: Offtake Partnerships and Strategic Investments**

Offtake agreements and strategic investments play a key role in ensuring the financeability of critical minerals projects. This Fireside Chat will explore how commercial partnerships, strategic investments, and policy alignment can de-risk early-stage development, attract global buyers, and accelerate project timelines.

- How are offtake partnerships evolving, and what do buyers and investors need to see to commit capital in BC's critical minerals sector?
- What role are strategic investors playing in reducing risk and bridging the gap between exploration and construction?
- How can governments best enable private-public partnerships that catalyze offtake-backed financing without distorting market forces?
- What policy and market conditions would most help convert offtake interest into long-term investment in critical minerals in BC?

9:10-11:15

SESSION: **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.

9:10-9:25

Permitting Updates: Advancing BC's Critical Minerals Projects

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

9:25-9:40

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**

9:40-10:05

Case Study: **Lessons Learned from Permitting Critical Minerals Projects**

10:05-10:35

Networking Break

10:35-11:15

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?

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

- 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, Manager, Indigenous and Regulatory Affairs, **Galore Creek Mining Corporation**

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

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

11:15–12:45

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 feature case studies across lithium, rare earths, and byproducts, illustrating the spectrum of challenges and opportunities, followed by a panel exploring how Western Canada can build sustainable and allied-aligned midstream capacity.

11:15–11:30

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**

11:30–11:45

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**

11:45–12:00

Byproducts: Securing Critical Supply Chains

12:00–12:45

Panel: **Advancing Western Canada's Midstream Capacity**

- What are the takeaways from these case studies that could be scaled or replicated across other critical minerals to ensure long-term supply chain resilience?
- What are the most critical capabilities and infrastructure Western Canada needs to develop to support consistent, scalable midstream processing?
- What types of commercial structures (long-term contracts, strategic partnerships, shared facilities, etc.) would enable midstream development today?

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

- What opportunities are there for shared or regional processing hubs that can serve multiple projects or multiple minerals?
- What does industry need to move forward with midstream development in Western Canada?

April Hayward, Chief Sustainability Officer, **Li-FT**

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

12:45-1:45

Networking Lunch

1:45-2:45

SESSION: **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 session will highlight the unique role of juniors, the structural challenges they encounter, and the opportunities for innovative partnerships and policies to unlock their potential in ensuring security of supply for Canada's critical minerals value chain.

1:45-2:00

Navigating Financing and Market Challenges

- Key financing and market barriers facing junior critical minerals miners
- The role of junior miners in realizing Canada's critical minerals and defence supply chains
- Examples of practical solutions to accelerate project development

2:00-2:45

Panel: **Junior Mining Leaders: Advancing Critical Minerals Projects**

This panel will provide insight from junior mining leaders on the path forward for BC's critical minerals projects. The discussion 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)**

Chris Grove, CEO, **Capacitor Metals**

Sam Lee, President & CEO, **NorthIsle Copper and Gold**

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

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

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

2:45-3:15

Networking Break

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

3:15–3:30

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.

3:15–3:30

Lessons from Securing Investment and Offtake Agreements

3:30–3:45

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

Anthony Huston, CEO, **Graphite One**

3:45–4:00

Quebec’s Approach: Evolving a Provincial Critical Minerals Strategy

4:00–4:45

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, 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?

Anthony Huston, CEO, **Graphite One**

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

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

4:45–4:50

Chair’s Closing Remarks

4:50–5:30

Wrap-up Drinks

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