



June 25th, 2026

150714

Via email: mmagnusson@penticton.org

Attn: Jordan Knox, President
Michael Magnusson, Executive Director
Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce

Dear Mr. Knox and Mr. Magnusson:

Re: Garnet Valley Gravel Pit Permit Reconsideration

Dear Mr. Knox and Mr. Magnusson,

On behalf of Minister Brar, I write in response to your letter of May 11, 2026, in which you set out your concerns over the *Mines Act* permit application for the proposed gravel operation at 27600 Garnet Valley Road.

The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals acknowledges the views expressed by the Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce and the economic, environmental, and community interests identified in your letter.

As you know, in the *Garnet Valley Agri-Tourism Association v. British Columbia (Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals)* decision, the British Columbia Supreme Court ordered that the July 9, 2024, permit for the Garnet Valley Road operation be set aside and the permit application remitted to the Chief Permitting Officer for reconsideration.

As a result of the Court's order, the Chief Permitting Officer's legal obligation is to carry out a reconsideration of the permit application that is informed by the Court's reasons for decision and the governing statutory framework of the *Mines Act* and the *Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia*.

As the Court noted, decisions under the *Mines Act* framework require the Chief Permitting Officer, or their delegate, to balance a range of relevant considerations, including environmental protection, public safety, Indigenous interests, and public

submissions. Needless to say, the legislation also expressly allows for the authorization of mining activity, and it falls to the decision-maker to assess and weigh any competing considerations.

On reconsideration, the statutory decision maker must ensure that submissions are meaningfully considered and that the resulting decision, whatever its outcome, is supported by clear and reasoned analysis linking the evidence, the legislative framework, and the conclusions reached.

The Ministry remains committed to carrying out its statutory responsibilities in a fair, transparent, and lawful manner, and appreciates the Chamber's engagement on matters of regional and community interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nini Long', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Nini Long, P.Eng.
Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch
Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals