

CRITICAL MINERALS for DEFENCE

JUNE 9-10, 2026, TORONTO

ORGANISED BY ENERGYANDMINES

Day 1: June 9, 2026

8:30-8:40 **WELCOME TO THE TERRITORY**
Margaret Sault, Chief, **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation**

8:40-8:45 **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**
Adrienne Baker, Director, **Energy and Mines**

DEFENCE DEMAND SIGNALS FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

8:45-9:35 **KEYNOTE PANEL: DEFENCE DRIVING DEMAND FOR CRITICAL MINERALS**
Chair: **Bill Hawkins**, Head, Trade and Investment, **Sussex Strategy Group**
Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Former Minister of National Defence and Chairman, **Juno Industries**
Jody Thomas, Former National Security and Intelligence Advisor and Senior Advisor, **Counsel Public Affairs**
Scott Monteith, President and CEO, **Avalon Advanced Materials**
Nicolas Todd, Head of the Canadian delegation, **NATO Industrial Advisory Group** and Vice-President,
Government Relations and Communications, **Canadian Association of Defence and Security Industries (CADSI)**

ALLIED COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT

9:35-9:55 **EUROPE'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS**
Stefano La Terra Bella, First Secretary, Defence Industry and Space, **European Union Delegation to the United States**

9:55-10:15 **STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE GERMAN RAW MATERIALS FUND**
Jan Klasen, First Vice President, **KfW**

10:15-10:45 **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:45-11:05 **U.S. DEFENCE POLICY SIGNALS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS FOR CRITICAL MINERALS**
Joseph Sopcisak, Senior Policy Advisor, **Holland & Knight**

11:05-11:25 **STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN DEFENCE AND CRITICAL MINERALS**
Soon-Won Kang, Chief Representative Officer, **KOMIR Canada**

CANADA'S DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY

11:25-12:05 **ALIGNING DEFENCE, INDUSTRIAL POLICY, AND CRITICAL MINERALS**
Chair: **Marcella Munro**, Head, Government & Regulatory Affairs, **Teck Resources**
Kendal Hembroff, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry Sector,
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)
Andrew Ghattas, Director Critical Minerals Centre of Excellence, Lands and Minerals Sector,
Natural Resources Canada
Wendy Hadwen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy-Industry, **Department of National Defence**

12:05-1:05 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND OEM STRATEGIES

1:05-1:25 **OPERATIONALIZING CANADA'S MINERAL ADVANTAGE IN NATO SUPPLY CHAINS**
Christopher Hernandez-Roy, Deputy Director and Senior Fellow, Americas Program,
Centre for Strategic & International Studies

1:25-1:45 **BUILDING RESILIENT, DEFENCE-READY CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY CHAINS**
John Kwarta, Strategic Account Executive, **Schneider Electric**

1:45-2:35 Panel: **DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND OEM STRATEGIES**
Chair: **Anton Sestritys**, Principal, **VOSAVIS**
Jeff Tasser, Director Strategy & Innovation, **CAE**
Nathan Cardinell, Senior Staff Materials Engineer, **Lockheed Martin**
Robert Dimitrieff, CEO, **Patriot Forge**
Kimberley Van Vliet, Founder & CEO, **WāVv** and Co-Chair, **NATO Industrial Advisory Group's (NIAG)**

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FINANCING DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS

- 2:35-2:50** **HOW DEFENCE DEMAND IS CHANGING MINING FINANCE**
Drew Horn, CEO, **GreenMet**
- 2:50-3:20** **FIRESIDE CHAT: DEFENCE DEMAND DRIVING MINE COMMERCIALIZATION**
Chair: **David Timm**, Partner, Energy Practice Lead, **Sussex Strategy Group**
Eric Desaulniers, Founder, President & Chief Executive Officer, **Nouveau Monde Graphite**
Sven List, Senior Vice-President, Canadian Corporate Business, **Export Development Canada (EDC)**
Divya Shah, Managing Director, Investments, **Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB)**
- 3:20-3:40** **FIRESIDE CHAT: FROM MINE TO MARKET: A DEFENCE-ALIGNED RARE EARTH PARTNERSHIP**
Chair: **Adrienne Baker**, Director, **Energy and Mines**
Christine Burow, Chief Marketing Officer, **Torngat Metals**
Erik Eschen, CEO, **VAC**
- 3:40-4:10** **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 4:10-4:55** **MOBILIZING PUBLIC-PRIVATE CAPITAL FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS**
Chair: **Jeff Gaulin**, Vice President of Corporate Affairs, **Vale Base Metals**
Peter Suma, Managing Partner, StrongNorth Fund, **BDC Capital**
Istvan Zollei, Managing Partner, Chief Investment Officer, **Orion Resource Partners**
Christopher Baker, Senior Director, **Canada Growth Fund Investment Management (CGFIM)**
Jacqueline Murray, Partner, Head of Fund, **Resource Capital Funds**
- 4:55-5:45** Panel: **DEFENCE AS A MARKET MAKER FOR CRITICAL MINERALS**
Chair: **Michael Gullo**, Vice President of Policy, **Business Council of Canada**
Brian Gabriel, EVP, Partnerships and Market Strategy, **Principal Mineral**
Eric Miller, CEO, **Global Battery Materials**
Max Yerrill, Vice President, **BMO Capital Markets**
Marc Dupuis, Senior Defence Advisor, **Arcotech Accelerate**
Jocelyn Douh ret, Director of Mining Policies, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, **Government of Quebec**
- 5:45-7:00** **NETWORKING DRINKS**

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Day 2: June 10, 2026

7:45-8:25 **NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

8:25-8:30 **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
Adrienne Baker, Director, **Energy and Mines**

8:30-8:50 **GEOPOLITICS, INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY, AND THE DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS SHIFT**
Abigail Hunter, Executive Director, Center for Critical Minerals Strategy, **SAFE**

8:50-9:10 **FROM EFFICIENCY TO ENDURANCE: WASHINGTON'S RECALIBRATION OF SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE**
Dr. Jesse Humpal, Assistant Professor and Former Director for Resilience on the National Security Council staff, **United States Air Force**

9:10-9:30 **EU CRITICAL MINERALS PRIORITIES FOR MILITARY APPLICATIONS**
Patrick Friedrichs, Senior Scientist, **Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)**

9:30-9:50 **Mobilizing UK Export Finance for Defence - Critical Minerals Supply Chains**
Ozgur Kutay, Country Head, North America, **UK Export Finance**

9:50-10:20 **NETWORKING BREAK**

THE DEFENCE SHIFT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR MINING

10:20-10:40 **HOW DEFENCE IS RESHAPING THE CRITICAL MINERALS LANDSCAPE**
David Anonychuk, Senior Vice President - Advisory and Growth, North America, **DRA Global**

10:40-11:00 **CASE STUDY: THE DEFENCE SHIFT AND STRATEGIC COPPER SUPPLY**
Justin Reid, President and CEO, **Troilus Mining**

11:00-11:50 Panel: **STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS FOR MINING IN THE DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN**
Chair: **Todd Stone**, President and CEO, **Association for Mineral Exploration BC (AME)**
Gordana Slepcev, Chief Executive Officer, **Lomiko Metals**
Ian Gibbs, President and CEO, **Fireweed Metals**
Darby Stacey, Chairman, **Rock Tech Lithium**
John Passalacqua, CEO, **First Phosphate**
Dirk Harbecke, Chairman, **Rock Tech Lithium**

11:50-12:35 Panel: **FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIPS AND DEFENCE-ALIGNED CRITICAL MINERALS**

SESSION LEADER:

TORYS
LLP

Chair: **Hon. Arif Virani**, Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Current Senior Counsel, **Torys LLP**
Bruce Achneepineskum, Chief, **Marten Falls First Nation**
Bruce Archibald, Chief, **Taykwa Tagamou Nation**
Michael Fox, Founder, **Indigenous Community Engagement (ICE)**
Lorraine Whitehead, Chief, **Webequie First Nation**

12:35-1:35 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

PROCESSING CRITICAL MINERALS FOR DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS

1:35-1:55 Case Study: **BUILDING A DEFENCE-READY COBALT REFINERY**
Trent Mell, CEO, **Electra Battery Materials**

1:55-2:40 Panel: **SCALING AND FINANCING DEFENCE-READY PROCESSING CAPACITY**
Chair: **Heather Smiles**, Vice President, IR & Corporate Development, **Electra Battery Materials**
Richard Rocha, Principal, **Azimuth Capital Management**
Trent Mell, CEO, **Electra Battery Materials**
Dan Blondal, CEO, **Nano One Materials Corp.**

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PROCESSING CRITICAL MINERALS FOR DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS

- 2:40-3:00** **TURNING MINE WASTE INTO DEFENCE METALS**
Robin Goad, President & CEO, **Fortune Minerals**
Dawn Wellman, Senior Fellow, Critical Minerals and Materials, **Savannah River National Laboratory**
- 3:00-3:45** Panel: **RECYCLING, REFINING & BY-PRODUCT RECOVERY FOR DEFENCE**
Chair: **David Anonychuk**, Senior Vice President - Advisory and Growth, North America, **DRA Global**
Gillian Holcroft, CEO and Co-Founder, **Green Graphite Technologies**
Alex Forstner, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), **Cyclic Materials**
Dawn Wellman, Senior Fellow, Critical Minerals and Materials, **Savannah River National Laboratory**
Robin Goad, President & CEO, **Fortune Minerals**
- 3:45-3:50** **CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**
Adrienne Baker, Director, **Energy and Mines**
- 3:50-4:30** **WRAP-UP DRINKS**