

HOW DEFENCE SPENDING IS DRIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

CRITICAL MINERALS for **DEFENCE**

JUNE 9-10 2026, TORONTO

ORGANISED BY **ENERGYANDMINES**

CONNECTING MINING, DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT AND FINANCE EXPERTS



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of High-Level
Content**



**A unique platform
for mining and
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High-Caliber
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EVENT BACKGROUND

Rising geopolitical risk, NATO commitments, and supply-chain vulnerability are accelerating defence-aligned demand for critical minerals with strategic applications, elevating their role as essential inputs to secure and resilient allied supply chains. This is a structural, long-term shift which is becoming a dominant driver of policy, capital and procurement for critical minerals.

Critical Minerals for Defence, June 9–10 at the Marriott Downtown CF Toronto Eaton Centre, will provide a unique Forum for mining leaders, investors, defence suppliers, and government to explore how defence demand is unlocking new opportunities for critical minerals and redefining Canada's role in allied defence supply chains.

This two-day conference will deliver key policy updates and actionable insights on how projects can be financed, qualified, and connected to long-term offtake with defence and industrial buyers. It will also examine the strategic, commercial, and industrial forces reshaping demand for defence-critical minerals — from geopolitics and government policy to processing, financing, and procurement.

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

KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- ✔ **Defence Driving Demand for Critical Minerals**
- ✔ **Allied Cooperation and Investment**
- ✔ **Progressing Canada's Defence-Critical Minerals Strategy**
- ✔ **Defence Supply Chain Resilience and OEM Strategies**
- ✔ **Financing Defence-Critical Minerals**
- ✔ **Mobilizing Public-Private Capital for Defence-Critical Minerals**
- ✔ **Defence as a Market Maker for Critical Minerals**
- ✔ **The Defence Shift: Opportunities and Challenges for Mining**
- ✔ **First Nations Partnerships and Defence-Aligned Critical Minerals**
- ✔ **Processing Critical Minerals for Defence Supply Chains**
- ✔ **Recycling, Refining and By-Product Recovery for Defence Supply Chains**
- ✔ **Next Steps for Critical Minerals Miners in the Defence Supply Chain**

CRITICAL MINERALS for DEFENCE

JUNE 9-10 TORONTO



DEFENCE DEMAND SIGNALS FOR CRITICAL MINERALS
 Defence rearmament, NATO targets, and allied security commitments



ALLIED COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT
 How are allied defence strategies translating into direct investment for critical minerals?



CANADA'S DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY
 The Defence Industrial Strategy, critical minerals and industrial policy updates



DEFENCE PRIMES AND MIDSTREAM SUPPLIERS
 How are defence suppliers thinking about supply chain resilience and critical minerals?



DEFENCE CHANGING MINE FINANCE AND COMMERCIALIZATION
 Government guarantees, stockpiling, strategic investments, public-private partnerships



THE DEFENCE SHIFT: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MINING?
 Accessing and qualifying for defence; strategic opportunities; funding; risks



THE PROCESSING GAP
 Building trusted processing capacity for critical minerals with defence applications



RECYCLING, REFINING & BY-PRODUCT RECOVERY
 Building circularity into defence critical-minerals supply chains



FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIPS
 Partnering across the defence supply chain: critical minerals, infrastructure and processing

From Security Demand to Bankable Critical Mineral Supply Chains

EVENT SPONSORS

THOUGHT LEADER SPONSOR:



SESSION LEADER:



EXHIBITORS:



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:



AGENDA-AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1: JUNE 9, 2026	DAY 2: JUNE 10, 2026
DEFENCE DEMAND SIGNALS FOR CRITICAL MINERALS	GEOPOLITICS, INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY, AND THE DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS SHIFT
ALLIED COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT	FROM EFFICIENCY TO ENDURANCE: WASHINGTON'S RECALIBRATION OF SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE
CANADA'S DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY	EU CRITICAL MINERALS PRIORITIES FOR MILITARY APPLICATIONS
DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND OEM STRATEGIES	HOW DEFENCE IS RESHAPING THE CRITICAL MINERALS LANDSCAPE
FINANCING DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS	THE DEFENCE SHIFT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR MINING
MOBILIZING PUBLIC-PRIVATE CAPITAL FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS	FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIPS AND DEFENCE-ALIGNED CRITICAL MINERALS
DEFENCE AS A MARKET MAKER FOR CRITICAL MINERALS	PROCESSING CRITICAL MINERALS FOR DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS
NETWORKING DRINKS	RECYCLING, REFINING & BY-PRODUCT RECOVERY FOR DEFENCE
	WRAP-UP DRINKS

HEAR FROM DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT, FINANCE AND MINING LEADERS INCLUDING:



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



Kendal Hembroff
Associate Assistant
Deputy Minister,
Industry Sector,
**Innovation, Science
and Economic
Development
Canada (ISED)**



Eric Desaulniers
Founder,
President & Chief
Executive Officer
**Nouveau Monde
Graphite**



Stefano La Terra
Bella Terra
First Secretary,
Defence Industry and
Space
**European Union
Delegation to the
United States**



Erik
Eschen
CEO
VAC



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



Hon. Victor
Fedeli, Minister
of Economic
Development,
Job Creation
and Trade,
**Government of
Ontario**



Andrew Ghattas
Director Critical
Minerals Centre
of Excellence,
Lands and Minerals
Sector
**Natural Resources
Canada**



Istvan Zollei
Managing Partner
Chief Investment
Officer
**Orion Resource
Partners**



Soon-Won Kan
Chief Representative
Officer
**Korea Mine
Rehabilitation and
Mineral Resources
Corp.(KOMIR) Canada**



Christopher
Hernandez-Roy
Deputy Director
and Senior Fellow,
Americas Program
**Centre for Strategic
& International
Studies (CSIS)**



Abigail Hunter
Executive
Director
**Center for
Critical Minerals
Strategy, SAFE**



Dr. Jesse Humpal
Assistant Professor
and Former Direc-
tor for Resilience
on the National
Security Council
staff
**United States Air
Force**



Eric Miller
CEO
**Global Battery
Materials**



Peter Suma
Managing Partner,
StrongNorth Fund
BDC Capital



Ian Gibbs
President and CEO
Fireweed Metals



Robin Goad
CEO
**Fortune
Minerals**



Dawn Wellman
Senior Fellow,
Critical Minerals
and Materials,
**Savannah River
National
Laboratory**



Jeff Gaulin
Vice President of
Corporate Affairs
Vale Base Metals



Christine Burow
Chief Marketing
Officer
Torgat Metals



Lorraine Whitehead
Chief
Webequie First Nation



Richard Rocha
Principal
**Azimuth Capital
Management**



Michael Gullo
Vice President of
Policy
**Business Council
of Canada**



Richard Arbeiter
Political Director
and Assistant
Deputy Minister
for International
Security and
Political Affairs
**Global Affairs
Canada**



John Kwarta
Strategic Account
Executive
Schneider Electric



Robert Dimitrieff
CEO
Patriot Forge



Michael Fox
Founder
**Indigenous
Community
Engagement (ICE)**



Bruce Archibald
Chief
**Taykwa Tagamou
Nation**



Dan Blondal
CEO
**Nano One
Materials Corp.**

HEAR FROM DEFENCE, GOVERNMENT, FINANCE AND MINING LEADERS INCLUDING:



Margaret Sault
Chief
**Mississaugas
of the Credit
First Nation**



Brian Gabriel
EVP, Partnerships and
Market Strategy
Principal Mineral



David Anonychuk
Senior Vice
President - Advisory
and Growth, North
America
DRA Global



Darby Stacey,
CEO
Talon Metals



Jan Klasen
First Vice President
KfW



Nicolas Todd
Head of the Canadian
delegation, NATO
Industrial Advisory
Group and Vice-
President, Government
Relations and
Communications
CADSI



Alex Forstner
Chief Technology
Officer (CTO)
Cyclic Material



Nathan Cardinell
Senior Staff
Materials Engineer
Lockheed Martin



Joseph Sopcisak
Senior Policy Advisor
Holland & Knight



Jeff Tasseron
Director Strategy
& Innovation
CAE



Gordana Slepcev
CEO and Director
Lomiko Metals



Drew Horn
CEO
GreenMet



Justin Reid
President and CEO
Troilus Mining



Trent Mell
CEO
**Electra Battery
Materials**



Gillian Holcroft
CEO and Co-Founder
**Green Graphite
Technologies**



Scott Monteith
President and
CEO
**Avalon
Advanced
Materials**



Max Yerrill
Vice President
BMO Capital Markets



Christopher Baker
Senior Director
**Canada Growth
Fund Investment
Management
(CGFIM)**



Hon. Arif Virani
Former Minister
of Justice and
Attorney General,
Current Senior
Counsel
Torys LLP



Bill Hawkins
Head, Trade and
Investment
**Sussex Strategy
Group**



Anton Sestritysny
Principal
VOSAVIS



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



Dirk Harbecke
Chairman
**Rock Tech
Lithium**



Patrick Friedrichs
Senior Scientist
**Geological Survey
of Finland (GTK)**



Bruce
Achneepineskum
Chief
**Marten Falls
First Nation**



Marcella Munro
Head, Government &
Regulatory Affairs
Teck Resources



Jocelyn Douh ret
Director of Mining
Policies, Ministry of
Natural Resources and
Forests
Government of Quebec



John Passalacqua
CEO
First Phosphate



Marc Dupuis
Senior Defence
Advisor
**Arctech
Accelerate**



Jacqueline Murray
Partner, Head of
Fund,
**Resource Capital
Funds**



Kimberley Van Vliet
Founder & CEO, W&W
and Co-Chair
**NATO
Industrial Advisory
Group's (NIAG)**



David Timm
Partner, Energy Practice
Lead
Sussex Strategy Group



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



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



Heather Smiles
Vice President, IR &
Corporate
Development
**Electra Battery
Materials**

DAY 1: JUNE 9, 2026

8:30-8:40 **WELCOME TO 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**
Defence rearmament, NATO production targets, and allied security commitments are now directly influencing where capital, industrial capacity, and supply chains are being built. This panel brings together defence, mining, and industrial-security experts to explain how military readiness goals are being translated into real investments, funding programs, and strategic sourcing decisions for critical minerals — and what that means for Canadian and allied producers.



- How are NATO and allied defence targets reshaping demand for critical minerals, and which materials are now most strategically critical?
- How are defence readiness goals being converted into funding programs, stockpiling strategies, and long-term procurement commitments?
- Which parts of the defence value chain—defence platforms, aerospace, electronics, and energy systems—are driving the strongest new demand signals for specific minerals?
- What types of projects and jurisdictions are allied governments actively seeking to accelerate to secure supply?
- How does secure access to critical minerals underpin military readiness, essential defence technologies, and broader strategic resilience?
- How is Canada positioning itself to supply NATO and allied defence partners with strategic minerals—and which materials are emerging as the highest priority?

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)**

DAY 1: JUNE 9, 2026

ALLIED COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT

9:35-9:55

EUROPE'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS

- How Europe is co-investing in upstream and midstream
- How Canadian projects fit into European defence and industrial strategies
- What European buyers and funds are actively looking for

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

- What KOMIR Canada looks for in allied mining and processing projects — jurisdiction, processing pathways, by-product recovery, and security of supply
- Where Canadian projects fit into the Republic of Korea's long-term critical minerals and defence-aligned supply strategy

Soon-Won Kang, Chief Representative Officer, **Korea Mine Rehabilitation and Mineral Resources Corp.(KOMIR) Canada**

CANADA'S DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY

11:25-12:05

ALIGNING DEFENCE, INDUSTRIAL POLICY, AND CRITICAL MINERALS

As allied governments elevate critical minerals to defence and industrial priorities, Canada is rapidly aligning its defence, industrial, and critical minerals strategies to support allied supply chains. This session brings together the leaders shaping defence procurement, minerals policy, and industrial strategy to provide an update on key policy developments to support critical minerals for allied defence supply chains.

- What are the latest updates on the implementation of Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS)?
- How are DND, NRCan, and ISED working together to ensure Canada's critical minerals strategy aligns with allied defence and industrial needs?
- How are defence procurement and industrial policy shaping which minerals, projects, and regions get prioritized?
- Where will government policy most directly affect project timelines, approvals, and offtake opportunities?
- What should miners and investors be doing now to align with Canada's defence-aligned supply chain priorities?

DAY 1: JUNE 9, 2026

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

As allied defence production accelerates, critical minerals are among several key inputs and industrial capabilities moving from a background input to a strategic constraint shaping procurement, production timelines, and industrial policy. This panel brings together defence and aerospace primes to discuss evolving approaches to supply chain resilience and how critical minerals, alloys, and specific intermediate goods such as microprocessors, memory, and storage chips must be subjects for long-term defence sourcing strategies.



- Where do these critical raw and intermediate materials and goods actually sit within today's defence supply chains — and what is changing inside OEM sourcing, qualification, and long-term planning as defence demand accelerates?
- As defence demand accelerates, the constraint is increasingly not just access to raw materials, but the ability to process, qualify, and deliver them in defence-ready form. Where are the most critical bottlenecks in this midstream layer today, and how are OEMs adapting their sourcing and supply chain strategies in response?
- How is the conversation inside defence and aerospace OEMs evolving around critical materials sourcing?
- What role do defence primes expect to play in catalyzing secure supply — through partnerships, long-term commitments, or closer engagement with mining and processing?
- How are OEM sourcing strategies, government policy tools, and capital deployment evolving to address these midstream constraints — particularly in processing, refining, and component-level manufacturing — and what more is needed to ensure materials can reliably move from mine to defence system?
- What policy signals, procurement frameworks, or government tools would make it easier for OEMs to engage directly in defence-aligned mineral and materiel supply chains?
- What practical steps can Canadian producers and processors take to qualify as “trusted suppliers” — not just at the raw material level, but in delivering defence-ready materials and components into allied manufacturing systems?

DAY 1: JUNE 9, 2026

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)**

FINANCING DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS

2:35-3:40

FINANCING DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS

As defence demands begin to play a larger role in critical minerals markets, new forms of credit support, offtake, and public-private risk sharing are starting to shape how projects are financed. This session explores how emerging defence-linked procurement, government guarantees, stockpiling and strategic investment is impacting mine finance, commercializing, midstream developments and public-private partnerships.

2:35-2:50

HOW DEFENCE DEMAND IS CHANGING MINING FINANCE

- How defence-linked offtake, government guarantees, and stockpiling are reducing credit risk and lowering the cost of capital
- Why midstream and defence-qualified materials are enabling new financing structures and long-term contracts
- How defence-aligned projects are being priced differently from EV or battery metals projects

Drew Horn, CEO, **GreenMet**

2:50-3:20

FIRESIDE CHAT: DEFENCE DEMAND DRIVING MINE COMMERCIALIZATION

- From NMG's perspective, what were the key factors that helped move the project from development toward commercialization, and how important were long-term customer demand and strategic partnerships in reducing project risk?
- For EDC and CIB, what made this project financeable, and how are public finance institutions adapting their approach to support defence-critical minerals and processing infrastructure?
- How are defence priorities, supply chain resilience concerns, and allied industrial policies changing the way governments and lenders evaluate critical minerals projects?
- What does this deal signal about the future of financing for strategic critical minerals projects in Canada and the development of secure North American supply chains?

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)**



DAY 1: JUNE 9, 2026

3:20–3:40

FIRESIDE CHAT: FROM MINE TO MARKET: A DEFENCE-ALIGNED RARE EARTH PARTNERSHIP

- How is Torngat Metals advancing the Strange Lake project and positioning it within emerging allied defence supply chains?
- How is demand from defence and strategic industries changing the way VAC evaluates future supply partners and long-term sourcing relationships?
- What are the biggest challenges in building secure permanent magnet value chains outside China — and where is meaningful progress actually being made?
- Where does Canada realistically fit within emerging allied rare earth and permanent magnet supply chains?
- Why is magnet manufacturing increasingly viewed as one of the most strategic bottlenecks in defence-critical supply chains?

Chair: **Adrienne Baker**, Director, **Energy and Mines**
Christine Burow, Chief Marketing Officer, **Torngat Metals**
Erik Eschen, CEO, **VAC**

3:40-4:10

NETWORKING BREAK

MOBILIZING PUBLIC-PRIVATE CAPITAL FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS

4:10–4:55

MOBILIZING PUBLIC-PRIVATE CAPITAL FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS



Canada and its allies are increasingly treating critical minerals projects as strategic infrastructure tied to defence readiness, industrial resilience, and secure supply chains. Governments are introducing new financing tools, mandates, and partnerships to accelerate projects — but private capital remains essential to scaling the sector. This panel brings together leaders from public and private capital to discuss how defence priorities are changing mining finance, what investors are looking for in this new environment, and how projects can position themselves to attract long-term strategic capital.

- How are defence and allied industrial priorities changing the way capital is being allocated into critical minerals projects?
- What signals are giving investors greater confidence in defence-critical minerals — and where do the biggest financing gaps still remain?
- From a private capital perspective, what differentiates projects that are attracting investment today from those that are struggling to secure funding?
- How are public investment vehicles like Canada Growth Fund and BDC helping de-risk projects and crowd in institutional and private capital?
- Are we seeing a shift from traditional commodity-cycle investing toward longer-term strategic supply chain investing tied to defence and industrial policy?
- What role do downstream partnerships, offtake agreements, processing strategies, and allied cooperation now play in investment decisions?
- How should mining companies position themselves if they want to access strategic or defence-aligned pools of capital over the next 3–5 years?

DAY 2: JUNE 10, 2026

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**

DEFENCE AS A MARKET MAKER FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

4:55–5:45

PANEL: DEFENCE AS A MARKET MAKER FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

As defence and allied governments shift from open markets to strategically managed supply chains, security demand is becoming a powerful new market signal for critical minerals. This panel will examine how defence-driven offtake, public capital, and industrial policy are reshaping project risk, investment decisions, and commercial pathways for critical minerals.

- How is defence-driven demand changing how banks, investors, and OEMs evaluate mining projects compared with traditional commodity or EV-focused markets?
- What defence-aligned signals (offtake commitments, stockpiling, loan guarantees, qualification requirements) are most influential in determining which projects can raise capital?
- How does defence demand change project risk, timelines, and development decisions for miners and their financial partners?
- Is security the new ESG? How might investors quantify geopolitical and supply-chain risk—and how could that reshape project valuation and cost of capital?
- Where are defence OEMs and allied buyers most likely to engage — upstream mining, midstream processing, or materials qualification and integration?
- What role should government tools (offtake, price floors, guarantees, strategic investment) play in making projects bankable — and are there any risks to over-reliance on public backing?

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, **Arctech Accelerate**
Jocelyn Douh ret, Director of Mining Policies, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, **Government of Quebec**

5:45-7:00

NETWORKING DRINKS

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the EU is identifying priority critical minerals for defence and security applications• What value-chain analysis shows about supply, demand, deposits, pricing, and key bottlenecks shaping the availability of defence-critical minerals for military and strategic industries Patrick Friedrichs , Senior Scientist, Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)
9:30-9:50	MOBILIZING UK EXPORT FINANCE FOR DEFENCE-CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY CHAINS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How UK Export Finance is supporting critical minerals and defence supply chains• What the UKEF-EDC MOU signals for Canadian projects and allied cooperation• What export credit agencies are looking for in strategic mining and processing projects Ozgur Kutay , Country Head, North America, UK Export Finance
9:50-10:20	NETWORKING BREAK
THE DEFENCE SHIFT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR MINING	
10:20-11:30	THE DEFENCE SHIFT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR MINING <p>As defence spending and allied procurement accelerate, critical minerals are moving from long-term strategic ambitions into bankable projects. This session examines how defence and security demand is already underpinning critical minerals mining through offtake agreements, government support, and defence-linked financing.</p>
10:20-10:40	HOW DEFENCE IS RESHAPING THE CRITICAL MINERALS LANDSCAPE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why NATO, G7, and allied governments are shifting from energy-driven minerals policy to defence-led industrial strategy• How stockpiling, sovereign offtake, and security-driven procurement are changing project economics and investment risk• What this shift means for miners, processors, and investors seeking to qualify for allied defence supply chains David Anonychuk , Senior Vice President - Advisory and Growth, North America, DRA Global

DAY 2: JUNE 10, 2026

10:40-11:00

CASE STUDY: THE DEFENCE SHIFT AND STRATEGIC COPPER SUPPLY

- Positioning the Troilus project in Québec's Frotet-Evans Greenstone Belt as a secure, responsible supply of copper and gold for allied defence and industrial markets

Justin Reid, President and CEO, **Troilus Mining**

11:00-11:50



PANEL: STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS FOR MINING IN THE DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAIN

As defence demand begins to open new pathways to market, critical minerals producers are assessing the opportunities and challenges for defence offtakes, funding and partnerships. This panel provides insight into key considerations for critical minerals miners as the defence-critical minerals shift opens up new possibilities and risks.

- What are miners trying to understand about accessing defence markets and qualifying for defence end customers?
- What do early signals or interactions (with governments, OEMs, processors) indicate about defence as a potential market?
- What are the strategic opportunities and risks for becoming part of the defence value chain - and how does this differ from traditional industrial, EV, or commodity markets?
- How are global trade dynamics, tariffs, and geopolitical shifts influencing the opportunities for critical minerals in the defence sector?
- How are current regulatory and funding mechanisms supporting defence-critical minerals projects — and where are they falling short?

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, CEO, **Talon Metals**

Dirk Harbecke, Chairman, **Rock Tech Lithium**

John Passalacqua, CEO, **First Phosphate**

FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIPS AND DEFENCE-ALIGNED CRITICAL MINERALS

11:50-12:35

Session Leader:

TORYS
LLP

PANEL: FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIPS AND DEFENCE-ALIGNED CRITICAL MINERALS

As critical minerals increasingly support defence supply chains, First Nations are being asked to engage with new types of projects across mining, infrastructure, and processing. This panel explores what opportunities First Nations see emerging from this shift, where concerns or challenges may exist, and what conditions are needed for Nations to partner in ways that align with community priorities and long-term stewardship.

- As critical minerals become increasingly tied to defence and allied industrial strategy, how do First Nations want to shape — not just participate in — the future of these projects and supply chains?
- What distinguishes a meaningful long-term partnership from a transactional approach when governments and industry engage First Nations on critical minerals projects tied to strategic or defence priorities?

DAY 2: JUNE 10, 2026

- As governments push to accelerate critical minerals development, how can project timelines and strategic objectives be balanced with Indigenous consent, stewardship, and community-led decision-making?
- Beyond mining itself, where do First Nations see the greatest opportunities to participate across the broader value chain — including infrastructure, processing, energy, logistics, procurement, and ownership?
- What conditions need to be in place for critical minerals projects to create lasting economic and community value for First Nations — particularly in areas such as equity participation, training, environmental protection, and long-term governance?
- How should governments and industry think differently about “secure” or “trusted” critical minerals supply chains when Indigenous partnership and stewardship are essential to project success?

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

1:35-3:00

PROCESSING CRITICAL MINERALS FOR DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS



Defence supply chains are only as secure as their processing and refining capacity — and today, most of that capacity still sits in non-trusted jurisdictions. This session examines how allied governments and defence industries are beginning to confront the processing gap, and what types of funding, offtake and industrial policy tools are emerging to make defence-critical processing viable in allied jurisdictions. It will also explore how this shift is creating new commercial opportunities for miners and mid-stream developers and how advanced processing is enabling a shift from raw materials supply toward defence-ready manufacturing capability across allied jurisdictions.

1:35-1:55

CASE STUDY: BUILDING A DEFENCE-READY COBALT REFINERY

- Demonstrating how defence demand can accelerate midstream investment and qualification for battery, aerospace, and defence applications
- Linking mining, refining, and end-users across allied defence and industrial value chains

Trent Mell, CEO, **Electra Battery Materials**

DAY 2: JUNE 10, 2026

1:55-2:40



PANEL: SCALING AND FINANCING DEFENCE-READY PROCESSING CAPACITY

As defence demand moves from strategy into procurement, there is increasing pressure to build and scale processing and refining capacity outside non-trusted jurisdictions. This panel examines the challenges of building defence-ready midstream projects — including capital, energy, permitting, and offtake — where commercial and strategic opportunities are emerging and how advanced materials manufacturing is becoming the new strategic layer between processing and defence OEM procurement.

- Where are the biggest opportunities right now to build defence-critical processing and refining capacity — and which minerals are most attractive for new projects?
- What are the biggest barriers to building processing capacity — power, permitting, technology, or financing — and how are they being addressed?
- How are allied governments and defence OEMs using offtake, guarantees, and industrial policy to make midstream projects investable?
- How does defence demand change the economics of midstream projects compared to battery, EV, or commercial industrial markets?
- What new kinds of partnerships are emerging between miners, processors, and defence buyers to accelerate project development?

Chair: **Heather Smiles**, Vice President, IR & Corporate Development, **Electra Battery Materials**

Richard Rocha, Principal, **Azimuth Capital Management**

Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, **Government of Ontario**

Trent Mell, CEO, **Electra Battery Materials**

Dan Blondal, CEO, **Nano One Materials Corp.**

RECYCLING, REFINING & BY-PRODUCT RECOVERY

2:40-3:45



RECYCLING, REFINING & BY-PRODUCT RECOVERY FOR DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS

This session examines how recycling, by-product recovery, and secondary refining are becoming essential pillars of allied defence supply chains — reducing geopolitical risk, lowering environmental impact, and creating new sources of strategic metals alongside primary mining.

2:40-3:00

TURNING MINE WASTE INTO DEFENCE METALS

- Challenges and opportunities for critical mineral coproduction
- How downstream processing in Alberta can convert under-utilized material into strategic North American supply
- Why feedstock and refining partnerships are becoming essential to secure defence-grade metals

Robin Goad, President & CEO, **Fortune Minerals**

Dawn Wellman, Senior Fellow, Critical Minerals and Materials, **Savannah River National Laboratory**

DAY 2: JUNE 10, 2026

3:00-3:45



PANEL: RECYCLING, REFINING & BY-PRODUCT RECOVERY FOR DEFENCE

As defence demand grows and geopolitical risks persist, recycling, secondary refining, and by-product recovery will play an essential role in defence supply chains. This panel will explore how circular supply chains can enhance security, lower environmental impact, and create new commercial pathways for defence-critical minerals.

- Where are the most promising opportunities for recycling and by-product recovery to meaningfully contribute to defence-critical minerals supply in the near to medium term?
- What are the biggest technical, regulatory, and economic barriers to scaling recycling of defence-critical metals like gallium, niobium, tungsten, and rare earths?
- How should governments structure funding, procurement, or incentives to make recycling and by-product recovery commercially viable?
- What role should defence OEMs play in designing products and systems that make critical metals easier to recover at end-of-life?
- How can Canada position itself as a leader in circular defence supply chains — and what partnerships are needed between miners, refiners, recyclers, and government to get there?

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

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