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CLIFF: 120610

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

ISSUE: Critical Minerals Advisory Committee membership updates

KEY MESSAGES/SUMMARY:

- British Columbia (BC) released Phase 1 of its Critical Minerals Strategy (the Strategy) in January 2024. Phase 2 of the Strategy is being developed over the coming months.
- Strategy development was informed by a Critical Minerals Advisory Committee (the Committee) that is comprised of 12 members and co-Chaired by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) and the First Nations Leadership Council.
- Committee representatives have been updated for the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME) and the Battery Metals Association of Canada (BMAC) due to staffing changes and time constraints, respectively.
- The Committee representative for Organizing for Change remains the same, however the individual is now self employed and reporting to Organizing for Change on this topic.
- The Committee's first meeting of 2024 was held on April 16, with an anticipated monthly meeting schedule for the next several months.

DISCUSSION:

In April 2023, Treasury Board resourced the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) with \$6 million over three years to develop a BC Critical Minerals Strategy, including establishing an Advisory Committee to help inform the work.

In July 2023, the Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) endorsed the organizations comprising a 12-person Advisory Committee, co-chaired by EMLI and the First Nations Leadership Council. Advisory Committee members represent: First Nations; mining and exploration and critical minerals industries; environmental non-governmental organizations; research and academia; organized labour; government; and innovation and financial sectors. While ELUC approved the membership structure of the Committee, they did not approve the individual representatives.

There have been three changes to the Committee since its inception.

- (i) **s. 16, s. 17**

(ii) s. 16, s. 17

(iii)

The Committee met from September to November 2023 to discuss and inform the goals and actions set out in the Strategy and prepare Key Messages for Cabinet that were reflected in the Phase 1 release. EMLI has resumed meetings of the Committee to seek guidance on further development of the Strategy. Most recently, the Committee met on April 16, 2024, with monthly recurring meetings expected to be held over the next several months.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Members

Appendix B: Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix C: Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Welcome Email

DRAFTED BY:

Jennifer Walsh

Senior Policy Analyst

s. 17

APPROVED BY:

Matthew Woods, Director, RMCD ✓

Peter Wijtkamp, ED, RMCD ✓

Tania Demchuk, ADM, RMCD ✓

Shannon Baskerville, DM, EMLI ✓

Appendix A – Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Welcome Email from Co-chairs

From: Walsh, Jennifer D EMLI:EX <Jennifer.D.Walsh@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 11:58 AM

To: s. 17
s. 16, s. 17

Demchuk, Tania EMLI:EX <Tania.Demchuk@gov.bc.ca>;

Walsh, Jennifer D EMLI:EX <Jennifer.D.Walsh@gov.bc.ca>;

Wijtkamp, Peter EMLI:EX <Peter.Wijtkamp@gov.bc.ca>; s. 16, s. 17

Cc: s. 17

Subject: Welcome Critical Minerals Advisory Committee

Dear Members of the Critical Minerals Advisory Committee,

We would like to welcome you and thank you for agreeing to take part in the Critical Minerals Advisory Committee. We are your Co-Chairs s. 16 Tania Demchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Responsible Mining and Competitiveness Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI). We are excited to begin this work with you as we explore the opportunities before us.

This Committee will play an important role in the development of a Critical Minerals Strategy for British Columbia. The Strategy aims to position the province as an active contributor to the emerging clean global economy while ensuring consistency with BC's commitments to reconciliation and the Declaration Act.

The first Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023, from 12:00-1:30 Pacific Time. A meeting agenda and the Terms of Reference are attached to this email. We anticipate that this first meeting will focus on setting the stage for our work together, including a number of longer sessions to be scheduled for October.

To make the most of our time together in the coming months, we have engaged s. 17 Elevate Consulting as facilitators. The Elevate team will be reaching out to each of you to schedule a 1:1 interview. The purpose of these informational interviews is to hear your perspectives on the critical success factors, key considerations, and current-state challenges we will want to explore as part of this work of the Advisory Committee.

In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, Elevate s. 17 or Peter Wijtkamp, Executive Director and head of the Critical Minerals Secretariat in EMLI (peter.wijtkamp@gov.bc.ca).

We are looking forward to our upcoming discussions and to seeing you virtually on September 29th.

Thank you,
s. 16 and Tania Demchuk

September 25, 2023

Background

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) is responsible for the British Columbia (B.C.) mining and mineral exploration sectors. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation's 2023 mandate letter includes a commitment to "...expedite a provincial Critical Minerals Strategy (Strategy) that positions B.C. to take advantage of the emerging clean global economy".

B.C. is Canada's largest producer of copper and only producer of molybdenum and has potential for nickel, cobalt, graphite, rare earth elements, niobium, platinum group minerals, tantalum, vanadium, and zinc. B.C.'s low carbon mining sector has significant potential to attract global investment and a fair share of the \$3.8 billion in federal funds earmarked for a critical minerals strategy. The Strategy seeks to capitalize on the critical mineral-intensive global transition to a clean economy while ensuring consistency with B.C.'s commitments to reconciliation. Driven by B.C.'s strong geological potential and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance, there is an opportunity to expand and strengthen the B.C. critical mineral value chain for the benefit of all British Columbians.

The Ministry is taking a phased, data-driven, collaborative approach to developing the BC Critical Minerals Strategy. The first phase of strategy development will focus on three simultaneous workstreams, including foundational geoscience to understand B.C.'s critical minerals potential, a socio-economic and value-chain opportunity assessment, and the convening of a Critical Minerals Strategy Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). First Nations and public engagement processes will also be undertaken to inform the Strategy.

To meet Premier Eby's direction to expedite the Strategy, it is expected that the Advisory Committee will meet for a series of meetings and provide its comments to inform a draft Strategy by November 2023. The Ministry anticipates an announcement of the Strategy with a first package of foundational actions in early 2024.

Scope

The Strategy will aim to stimulate critical minerals value chain growth and support the low-carbon economy, while contemplating the intersection with other government priorities, such as Indigenous Reconciliation, the Clean BC Roadmap to 2030, the Nature Agreement, and Land Use Planning.

The Advisory Committee will consider the outputs of the socio-economic and value-chain opportunity assessment, and potentially other inputs. Based on these inputs and their individual expertise, relationships and perspectives of their constituencies, the Advisory Committee members will provide guidance on policy considerations and input on the Strategy that will be drafted by Ministry staff and contractors. Advisory

Appendix B – Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Committee members will work toward recommendations grounded in a consensus-based approach.

The areas of focus for Advisory Committee input are:

- enhancing public geoscience;
- reconciliation, and opportunities for First Nations in the critical minerals value chain;
- fiscal & regulatory framework;
- innovation, training & environmental stewardship;
- infrastructure & climate action; and,
- public & investor outreach.

Membership

The Advisory Committee will be co-chaired by an EMLI Assistant Deputy Minister and a representative nominated by the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) to ensure First Nations perspectives and opportunities for participation are front and centre as the Strategy is developed.

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of 12 experts on matters related to critical minerals development and natural resource stewardship. Members should be sufficiently empowered to make recommendations on behalf of the constituencies they represent.

Annex 1 has a list of Committee members with representation from:

- First Nations (two people)
- Mining and mineral exploration industry (three people)
- Critical minerals value chain actors (two people)
- Environmental, non-governmental organization (one person)
- Labour (one person)
- Post-secondary/research (one person)
- Financial and investment sector (one person)
- Innovation sector (one person)

Support

A Secretariat and contracted Facilitator will provide logistical support for the Advisory Committee. The Secretariat will be comprised of staff from EMLI. The Facilitator will have experience working with diverse groups, including Indigenous groups.

Roles & Responsibilities

Co-Chairs:

- Provide leadership and decision-making functions.
- Report on progress to EMLI leadership, First Nations leadership and FNLC leadership.

Appendix B – Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

- Report on progress to the Deputy Minister's Mining Project Delivery Board.

Advisory Committee members:

- Meet to build consensus around recommended areas for government action.
- Engage with their constituencies, and any technical experts, to inform input into the Strategy.
- Review and comment on draft BC Critical Minerals Strategy.

Facilitator:

- Guide Advisory Committee discussions, as a neutral party, toward consensus on outputs and review of the draft Strategy.
- Help organize meetings, prepare materials and record meeting summaries.

Secretariat:

- Coordinate meetings.
- Develop agendas in coordination with the Co-Chairs and Facilitator.
- Help prepare and deliver materials to the Advisory Committee.
- Other tasks to support the work of the Advisory Committee.
- Provide updates following meetings.

Governance

The EMLI Advisory Committee Co-Chair will provide updates to the Deputy Minister's Mining Project Delivery Board to ensure leadership is apprised of Advisory Committee progress and that developments align with government priorities.

The FNLC Advisory Committee Co-Chair will provide updates to First Nations leadership and FNLC leadership to ensure they are apprised of Advisory Committee progress.

Procedures

- **Meeting frequency:** It is expected that the Advisory Committee will meet three times from late September to November 2023. Further meetings may be scheduled if needed.
- **Quorum of meetings:** Each meeting should have attendance from all members; should a member be unable to attend, an alternate may be designated and approved by the Co-Chairs prior to the meeting. Should this not be achievable, the meeting will proceed at the Co-Chair's discretion and the Facilitator may contact the absent member(s) to seek their inputs.
- **Distribution of materials:** Where possible, agenda, and documents will be provided to the Advisory Committee at least 48 hours prior to meeting. EMLI will aim to provide the draft BC Strategy Critical Minerals Strategy document to the Committee at least one week prior to the meeting to provide feedback on the Strategy.

Appendix B – Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

- **Resources:** The Advisory Committee will have access to technical expertise and secretariat support from the Ministry and the Facilitator. Available background and analytical material will be provided to the Committee, including inputs from the socio-economic and value chain opportunities assessment. Committee members may also share materials with the Advisory Committee as appropriate.
- **Decision-making:** The Committee will make every effort to strive for consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, dissenting views will be documented, and a path forward identified by the Co-Chairs.
- **Communications:** All Advisory Committee meetings and communications will be held under the Chatham House Rule. External communications on Committee activities and outcomes will be released at the discretion of the Co-Chairs, and only after prior consultation with Committee members.

Deliverable

As part of the first phase of the Critical Minerals Strategy development, it is anticipated that the Advisory Committee will inform input and submit feedback on the draft Strategy for government consideration to EMLI by November 2023.

Appendix B – Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Annex 1 - Critical Minerals Strategy Advisory Committee Members

Constituency/sector	Name	Title/role
Co-Chairs	s. 16	
	Tania Demchuk	Assistant Deputy Minister, Responsible Mining and Competitiveness Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
First Nations	s. 16, s. 17	
Mining/exploration industry		
Critical minerals value chain		
Environmental non-government organization		
Labour		
Post-secondary/research		
Financial/investment		
Innovation		

Appendix C – Critical Minerals Advisory Committee Members

BC Critical Minerals Strategy Advisory Committee members

Member Name	Title
s. 16	
Tania Demchuk (co-chair)	Assistant Deputy Minister, Responsible Mining and Competitiveness Division, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
s. 16, s. 17	

Confidential