



MINISTRY OF MINING and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

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Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

Estimates Spring 2025

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**MINISTRY OF MINING
and CRITICAL MINERALS**

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

**SECTION A:
CROSS-MINISTRY /
OVERARCHING ISSUES**

Section A Contents:

- Tariffs and Retaliatory Tariffs
- Regulatory and Permitting Efficiency
- Ministry Reorganization
- International Joint Commission for the Kootenay Watershed
- Southeast Coal
- Transboundary Relations

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Tariffs and Retaliatory Tariffs

KEY MESSAGES:

- In 2024, 15 percent of British Columbia's (B.C.) mineral exports were to the United States (US), representing over \$2.4 billion in export value, making the US the fourth largest export market for B.C. minerals.
- Since 2021, the majority of minerals exported to the US from B.C. have been zinc and aluminum which are produced at B.C. smelters.
- On March 12, 2025, the US started applying a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum products from other countries, including Canada.
- These tariffs, and Canadian counter tariffs, could significantly disrupt B.C.'s aluminum, zinc, and lead exports and have potential impacts to the cost environment for other commodities mined in B.C.
- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) will continue to evaluate the impact of proposed tariffs on B.C.'s economy as information becomes available and will continue to work closely with industry and provincial and federal counterparts to ensure a unified front, including the consideration of retaliatory measures.
- Even as B.C. (and all of Canada) takes action to respond to the US tariffs, B.C. is focused on strengthening our provincial economy through actions like speeding up permitting, reducing trade barriers between provinces and diversifying our trade to other foreign markets.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In 2018 the US introduced tariffs on Canadian aluminum (10 percent) and steel (25 percent). The export value of aluminum from B.C. to the US declined by 10 percent in 2019, and retaliatory tariffs from Canada on US steel products further impacted the mining sector, specifically the higher costs of materials used for construction of upcoming mines.
- As of March 12, 2025 a 25 percent tariff has been imposed by the US on all steel and aluminum imports from Canada. Canadian energy resources that do not satisfy the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement, which includes oil and gas as well as coal and critical minerals, are subject to a 10 percent tariff. No specific identified Harmonized Tariff Schedule has currently been provided for these energy product sectors.
 - President Trump and the US Cabinet have been inconsistent in their communication on the specifics of tariffs, including ongoing reprieves from tariffs, and MCM staff are monitoring developments to examine any mining sector impacts as they evolve.

- Canada responded to US tariffs with 25% counter tariffs on \$59.8 billion in US goods in March, with 50% of these tariffs being in direct response to the steel and aluminum tariffs imposed by the US. Canada has a third round of tariffs planned for an additional \$125 billion in US goods, pending further US actions signaled for April 2, 2025.
- B.C.'s mining sector is heavily reliant on exporting raw minerals to international markets. In 2024, B.C.'s exports of metallic mineral products and steelmaking coal were valued at approximately \$16 billion.
- Mining represents roughly 30 percent of B.C.'s exports, with China (\$4.7 billion), Japan (\$3.3 billion), South Korea (\$2.7 billion) being the top 3 destinations for B.C.'s metallic mineral and coal products. The US represents the next largest export market, at \$2.4 billion in 2024 (breakdown by commodity provided in Appendix 1).
- Existing copper/gold mines are not expected to be significantly disrupted by US tariffs, as B.C. exports very few these minerals to the US. However, upcoming copper/gold mines, and to a lesser extent existing mines, may be impacted through higher input costs from potential retaliatory tariffs on imported goods.
- Aluminum and zinc are most dependant on the US export market and are primarily produced at the Rio Tinto Alcan smelter in Kitimat (aluminium) and the Teck Resources smelter in Trail (zinc). The Teck Trail facility also produces the critical mineral germanium, the majority of which is exported to the US.
- Teck Resources has stated that they will be able to find other trade partners for the metals it refines in B.C., and that tariffs shouldn't have a material impact on their operations.
- In late 2024, China banned the export of multiple critical minerals, including germanium, to the US. Since then, the Teck smelter in Trail has been the sole provider of germanium to the US, which is used primarily for defense purposes. Premier Eby has suggested that this germanium may be used as a retaliatory tool in the event of a trade war with the US.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1 - BC's Mineral Exports to the US in 2024
- Appendix 2 – Total BC Mineral Exports 2024

ADM/EL(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tejindar Parhar	250-216-4716

Appendix 1 – BC's Mineral Exports to the US in 2024

Commodity	Value Exported (2024)	% of BC Mineral Exports by Commodity
Copper	\$128,998	0%
Molybdenum	\$0	0%
Zinc	\$966,856,313	87%
Aluminum	\$1,082,923,472	83%
Coal	\$176,385,153	2%
Precious Metals and other metallic minerals	\$188,653,788	40%
Total	\$2,414,947,724	15%

Appendix 2 – Total BC Mineral Exports 2024

Commodity	Value Exported (2024)	% of BC Mineral Exports by Commodity
Copper	\$4,414,559,552	27.7%
Molybdenum	\$96,658,324	0.6%
Zinc	\$1,010,815,107	6.3%
Aluminum	\$1,299,450,622	8.2%
Coal	\$8,630,309,888	54.2%
Precious Metals and other metallic minerals	\$471,037,782	3.0%
Total	\$15,922,831,275	100%

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Regulatory & Permitting Efficiency

KEY MESSAGES:

- Ensuring permitting approval times are competitive with other jurisdictions and are dramatically reduced from current wait times is a key focus of this government.
- This includes convening senior Deputy Ministers from across critical sectors with a clear mandate to clear obstacles, drive decisions, and move projects forward quickly.
- Our focus is on continued robust review, while getting to permit decisions as quickly as possible in consultation with First Nations, including for the four mining projects designated as priorities by Premier Eby – Highland Valley Copper (HVC), Red Chris, Eskay Creek, and Mount Milligan.
- The HVC combined Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and permitting process is nearly complete and is anticipated to be referred for decisions shortly.
- The Eskay Creek EAC amendment is well underway, and the permitting process is set to begin in May 2025. The typical average regulatory timeline for this scale of project would be 5.5 years; we expect to reduce this by 30 percent through our deep collaborative approach with Nations and the proponent. This was the first project in to have a consent agreement with a First Nation.
- The Red Chris EAC amendment is well underway, and the permitting process is set to begin in June 2025. The typical average regulatory timeline for this scale of project would be 3.5 years, we expect to reduce this by 30 percent through our deep collaborative approach with Nations and the proponent.
- The Mount Milligan combined EAC and permitting process will start at the end of March 2025. The typical average regulatory timeline for this scale of project would be 3.5 years, we expect to reduce this by 60 percent through our tailor-made approach to managing the EA and permitting review as a combined process.
- These four mining projects are subject to decisions under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, as well as statutory decisions under the *Mines Act* and *Environmental Management Act*.
- Regional Operations Branch is prioritizing the review of high value mineral exploration and aggregate files to increase the number of decisions made prior to the upcoming field season and to support economic development potential

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Two Deputy Minister (DM) Boards have been stood up with a clear mandate to advance projects and streamline processes:
 - **The Major Project Implementation Board** will be focused on strategic implementation and delivery of priority projects in the mining, electrification and energy sector as well as resolution of strategic/policy matters in the Southeast and Northeast.
 - **The Regulatory Efficiency Board** is mandated to tangibly reduce regulatory complexity within a specific timeframe, with prioritization on regulatory reforms to assist in accelerating the decision process on specific major projects. We will look to expand and broaden the application of these solutions across the natural resource sector. The DM Solutions Project Board that focused on housing, connectivity and incremental improvements will be repurposed to this new board.
- In February 2025, Premier Eby announced the fast-tracking of 18 Provincial Priority Projects including four mining projects critical to strengthening BC's economy: HVC, Red Chris, Eskay Creek, and Mount Milligan.
 - [See separate Estimate Notes for each of these projects for more details]
- Budget 2024 provided approximately \$20 million over three years and for the foreseeable future, to continue the Regulatory Excellence in Mining strategy and support robust and efficient decision-making processes across regulatory agencies.
 - Through this funding, the Province is able to permanently secure 38 staff across the four natural resource agencies integral to mine permitting processes in British Columbia (B.C.).
- Regional Operations Branch:
 - Continues to make steady progress on reducing the backlog of files and aims to eliminate the backlog of mineral exploration files prior to the summer field season.
 - Works closely with the aggregate sector to develop better guidance for application submissions and explores strategies to improve the regulatory framework for the sector.
- The Major Mines Office (MMO):
 - Works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to develop more efficient and durable authorizations processes and to continuously improve on these efforts.
 - Has decreased permitting timelines for significant major mine amendments by 35 percent between 2019 and 2023.

- The Province has established the Southeast Secretariat (SE Secretariat) as a dedicated cross-agency team that acts as a single point of contact to manage the major mines regulatory process in southeast B.C.
- The four operating mines in this area account for 83 percent (\$8.8B) of total coal production in B.C. and contribute \$5.4B to B.C.'s nominal GDP.
- MCM has established the Critical Minerals Office (CMO) which is a key action of the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy.
 - The CMO works with industry, First Nations and across government through concierge services tailored to assist projects at different stages of development, reduce barriers and support efficient entry into permitting processes.
 - The CMO also pursues promotional opportunities to raise B.C.'s critical minerals profile nationally and internationally and aggressively engages with capital markets and others to attract investment.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

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Ministry Reorganization

KEY MESSAGES:

- On November 18, 2024, the Ministries of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) and Energy and Climate Solutions (ECS) were established and replaced the former Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI).
- Creating a standalone Mining and Critical Minerals ministry reflects government's commitment to leveraging BC's strong mineral and critical mineral resources to diversify BC's economy and develop a wider range of export markets for BC's mineral products. Global demand is increasing for minerals and critical minerals.
- This strategic reorganization enables an increased focus on exploring, advancing, and developing energy and mineral resources that support the transition to a low carbon economy.
- The Ministry is focused on taking opportunities to bolster the economy while ensuring mineral exploration and development protects the environment and advances reconciliation with First Nations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- MCM has three divisions to support the delivery of key responsibilities, priorities and programs as outlined in the 2025 Mandate Letter.
- These divisions are: Responsible Mining and Competitiveness (RMCD), Mines Health, Enforcement and Safety (MHSED), and Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships (SIPD).
 - RMCD includes the Mineral Tenure Act Modernization Office (MTAMO), the Major Mines Office (MMO) and Critical Minerals Office (CMO). RMCD is responsible for mine permitting and timeline improvements (major and rural); legislative policy, research and development; managing mineral titles and registration; and the Geological Survey of B.C..
 - MTAMO: this office is responsible for reforming the *Mineral Tenure Act* (MTA) in alignment with the UN Declaration. In addition to a legislative reform of the *Mineral Tenure Act*, MTAMO will deliver a Mineral Claims Consultation Framework. MTAMO's core business areas include Policy and Legislation, Engagement and Communication, and Systems Transformation related to the Mineral Titles Online system.
 - MMO: develops and manages multi-agency major mine authorization processes, conducts detailed application reviews, makes permit decisions recommendations, and supports compliance and enforcement related to permit requirements. MMO also develops, implements, and

updates permitting-related operational policies, procedures, and regulatory tools to create efficiencies in permitting processes.

- CMO: As part of the first phase of the Critical Minerals Strategy, CMO was created to advance critical minerals projects in B.C. through engagement with industry, the federal government, and capital markets; development of a framework to prioritize and manage critical mineral projects; coordination of B.C. processes for proponents through a concierge service; and addressing pre-permitting barriers for efficient project advancement.
- MHSED is responsible for compliance and enforcement on mine sites, mine worker health and safety, mine investigations and audits, mines digital transformation, abandoned mines, and the code review secretariat.
- SIPD works in a shared services model to support both MCM and ECS. SIPD is responsible for corporate services and supports for initiatives that cut across multiple business lines such as strategic and corporate planning and reporting, intergovernmental relations, employee engagement and communications, and strategic Indigenous Relations, including corporate implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. SIPD also leads the work on the North Coast Transmission Line, Land Use Planning, and Northeast Initiatives including the Ministry's role in implementing the Blueberry River First Nations Implementation Agreement and Treaty 8 Consensus Document.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- As published in Budget 2025: Standing Strong for B.C., 2024/25 updated financial forecast (third quarterly report):
 - MCM's budget for year-to-date to December 31, 2024 for fiscal year (FY)2024/25 was budgeted for \$43M and actual expenditures were \$44M resulting in a variance of \$1M.
 - MCM's budget for the full year for FY2024/25 was budgeted for \$60M, forecasted at \$66M resulting in a variance of \$6M.

Suggested Response to Ministry Budget:

- Budget 2025 reflects an increase of \$1.4M to the ministry base budget from \$59.6M in 2024/25 to \$61M in 2025/26.
- With regard to the claim the budget has been reduced by \$5M, this is a misunderstanding of the ministry's base budget.
- The discrepancy refers to \$5.5 million in additional spending to manage high risk mitigation work at the Quinsam mine site in fiscal 24/25 under section 17 of the Mines

Act, which resulted in a forecast total expenditure of \$66M (\$6M over the budgeted amount of \$60M rounded).

- The high-risk mitigation work includes ongoing work at Quinsam to close the underground workings and to prevent acid generation in waste materials located on the mine site. Elsewhere, work has been completed to close open mine shafts and to maintain and repair tailings storage facilities located on crown land.
- The increase in budget 2025/26 includes continued funding for Critical Minerals and shared recovery mandate and other corporate resources.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1 - Three Year Fiscal Plan
- Appendix 2 - OCG's Workbook

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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THREE YEAR FISCAL PLAN

Table 1.3 Expense by Ministry, Program and Agency

(\$ millions)	Updated Forecast 2024/25 ¹	Budget Estimate 2025/26	Plan 2026/27	Plan 2027/28
Office of the Premier	17	18	18	18
Agriculture and Food	229	143	130	133
Attorney General	877	900	903	903
Children and Family Development	2,121	2,443	2,472	2,472
Citizens' Services	705	705	705	705
Education and Child Care	9,588	9,828	9,855	9,855
Emergency Management and Climate Readiness	467	125	125	125
Energy and Climate Solutions	110	112	109	109
Environment and Parks	225	221	221	221
Finance	2,741	1,534	1,483	1,483
Forests	1,390	891	909	888
Health	32,885	35,144	35,906	36,877
Housing and Municipal Affairs	1,292	1,542	1,514	1,456
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	160	187	189	201
Infrastructure	46	55	55	55
Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation	116	117	117	117
Labour	25	26	26	26
Mining and Critical Minerals	66	61	61	61
Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills	3,404	3,516	3,516	3,516
Public Safety and Solicitor General	1,083	1,137	1,139	1,139
Social Development and Poverty Reduction	5,176	5,747	5,921	6,103
Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	189	192	192	192
Transportation and Transit	1,136	1,192	1,199	1,199
Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	219	221	221	221
Total ministries and Office of the Premier	64,267	66,057	66,986	68,075
Management of public funds and debt	2,346	2,762	3,351	4,148
Contingencies Vote	3,885	4,000	4,000	4,000
Funding for capital expenditures	5,158	7,259	7,932	7,909
Refundable tax credit transfers	3,069	3,408	3,498	3,764
Legislative Assembly and other appropriations	314	243	254	264
Total appropriations	79,039	83,729	86,021	88,160
Elimination of transactions between appropriations ²	(31)	(24)	(23)	(23)
Prior year liability adjustments	(24)	-	-	-
Consolidated revenue fund expense	78,984	83,705	85,998	88,137
Expenses recovered from external entities	5,994	6,221	5,498	5,043
Funding provided to service delivery agencies	(48,879)	(52,755)	(53,818)	(54,517)
Total direct program spending	36,099	37,171	37,678	38,663
Service delivery agency expense ³				
School districts	9,286	9,361	9,405	9,429
Universities	7,080	7,333	7,487	7,656
Colleges and institutes	1,913	1,849	1,847	1,884
Health authorities and hospital societies	29,011	30,509	30,772	31,586
Other service delivery agencies	8,614	8,992	9,329	9,410
Total service delivery agency expense	55,904	58,044	58,840	59,965
Subtotal expense	92,003	95,215	96,518	98,628
Expenditure management	-	(300)	(600)	(600)
Total expense	92,003	94,915	95,918	98,028

¹ Restated to reflect government's organization and accounting policies as of April 1, 2025.

² Reflects payments made under an agreement where an expense from a voted appropriation is recorded as revenue by a special account.

³ The 2024/25 spending for service delivery agencies includes funding that was provided during the year from ministries' budget and contingencies. Similarly, spending forecasts for 2025/26 and future years may also be revised as ministry funding amounts are updated in-year.

2024/25 UPDATED FINANCIAL FORECAST (THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT)

Table 4.6 2024/25 Expense by Ministry, Program and Agency

(\$ millions)	Year-to-Date to December 31				Full Year			
	2024/25			Actual 2023/24 ¹	2024/25			Actual 2023/24 ¹
	Budget ¹	Actual ¹	Variance		Budget ¹	Forecast	Variance	
Office of the Premier	12	12	-	11	17	17	-	17
Agriculture and Food	91	225	134	128	130	229	99	259
Attorney General	626	688	62	673	877	877	-	1,069
Children and Family Development	1,752	1,815	63	1,624	2,121	2,121	-	2,152
Citizens' Services	524	580	56	552	705	705	-	733
Education and Child Care	7,257	7,198	(59)	6,812	9,588	9,588	-	9,145
Emergency Management and Climate Readiness	82	113	31	147	116	467	351	593
Energy and Climate Solutions	62	130	68	261	110	110	-	812
Environment and Parks	162	221	59	201	216	224	8	269
Finance	1,205	651	(554)	869	1,671	2,741	1,070	3,154
Forests	613	1,140	527	1,420	851	1,396	545	1,750
Health	24,448	25,110	662	22,943	32,885	32,885	-	30,577
Housing and Municipal Affairs	1,017	1,116	99	874	1,292	1,292	-	1,191
Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	84	264	180	118	160	160	-	361
Infrastructure	32	32	-	34	46	46	-	47
Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation	71	121	50	89	116	116	-	209
Labour	18	26	8	29	25	25	-	46
Mining and Critical Minerals	43	44	1	43	60	66	6	63
Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills	2,591	2,681	90	2,546	3,404	3,404	-	3,347
Public Safety and Solicitor General	812	903	91	778	1,083	1,083	-	1,088
Social Development and Poverty Reduction	3,947	4,017	70	3,699	5,176	5,176	-	4,745
Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	145	156	11	155	189	189	-	254
Transportation and Transit	845	820	(25)	759	1,136	1,136	-	1,073
Water, Land and Resource Stewardship	158	210	52	327	214	214	-	440
Total ministries and Office of the Premier	46,597	48,273	1,676	45,092	62,188	64,267	2,079	63,394
Management of public funds and debt	1,486	1,725	239	1,098	1,976	2,346	370	1,588
Contingencies - General programs and CleanBC	-	-	-	-	3,885	3,885	-	11
Funding for capital expenditures	3,591	2,728	(863)	1,984	6,665	5,157	(1,508)	3,551
Refundable tax credit transfers	2,568	2,600	32	2,231	3,492	3,089	(423)	2,885
Legislative Assembly and other appropriations	238	212	(26)	148	313	315	2	215
Total appropriations	54,480	55,538	1,058	50,553	78,519	79,039	520	71,644
Elimination of transactions between appropriations ² ..	(24)	(23)	1	-	(32)	(31)	1	(32)
Prior year liability adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	(24)	(24)	(75)
Consolidated revenue fund expense	54,456	55,515	1,059	50,553	78,487	78,984	497	71,537
Expenses recovered from external entities	3,893	3,854	(39)	3,057	5,841	5,994	153	5,819
Elimination of funding provided to service delivery agencies	(35,542)	(34,169)	1,373	(31,067)	(48,056)	(48,879)	(823)	(44,172)
Total direct program spending	22,807	25,200	2,393	22,543	36,272	36,099	(173)	33,184
Service delivery agency expense								
School districts	6,507	6,604	97	6,092	9,111	9,286	175	8,659
Universities	4,958	5,020	62	4,737	6,906	7,080	174	6,630
Colleges and institutes	1,352	1,378	26	1,259	1,816	1,913	97	1,792
Health authorities and hospital societies	21,469	21,077	(392)	18,922	26,639	29,011	2,372	26,272
Other service delivery agencies	5,909	5,585	(324)	5,476	8,690	8,614	(76)	8,121
Total service delivery agency expense	40,195	39,664	(531)	36,486	53,162	55,904	2,742	51,474
Total expense	63,002	64,864	1,862	59,029	89,434	92,003	2,569	84,658

¹ Restated to reflect government's organization and accounting policies as at December 31, 2024.² Reflects payments made under an agreement where an expense from a voted appropriation is recorded as revenue by a special account.

MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

The mission of the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals is to align regulatory frameworks and policy to support the advancement of mining opportunities and facilitate a safe, environmentally responsible, and competitive mining sector for the benefit of all peoples in British Columbia, now and in the future.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2024/25 ¹	Estimates 2025/26
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 40 — Ministry Operations.....	59,596	61,012
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>59,596</u>	<u>61,012</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	545	548
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2024/25 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 Estimates. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

² A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

³ A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

⁴ A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

Appendix 2:

From OCG's workbook:

	YTD Budget from CAS	Q3 Actuals	
Consolidated Revenue Fund:			
Mining and Critical Minerals	43	44	MCM

From Q3 OCG variance report:

	Annual	Calendarized		YTD	CAS		YTD	Variances
	Budget	Budget	Transfer	Budget	Expends	Adjustments	Actuals	YTD Actuals to YTD Budget
Salaries and Benefits.....	44,132,000	31,722,585	0	31,722,585	633,115	0	33,318,681	1,596,096
Operating Costs.....	16,205,000	11,046,730	0	11,046,730	12,067,214	3,297	12,448,542	1,401,812
Government Transfers.....	275,000	182,600	0	182,600	1,124,040	0	1,124,040	941,440
Other Expenses.....	2,047,000	1,512,747	0	1,512,747	755,282	0	770,304	-742,443
Recoveries.....	-4,000	0	0	0	-565,711	0	-619,476	-619,476
Recoveries External.....	-3,059,000	-2,635,000	0	-2,635,000	-2,320,436	0	-2,320,436	314,564
	-59,596,000	41,829,662	0	41,829,662	11,693,504	3,297	44,721,655	2,891,993

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International Joint Commission for the Kootenay Watershed

KEY MESSAGES:

- B.C. is fully engaged in the International Joint Commission (IJC) process for the Elk-Kootenay watershed. We see this as an opportunity to build trust and understanding between B.C., Canada, the U.S., and Ktunaxa governments.
- B.C. is committed to a competitive mining sector that grows the economy and creates good jobs, supports environmental stewardship, and advances reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- We want to ensure that B.C. remains a leader in mining regulation and oversight, while enhancing responsible resource development and strengthening First Nations involvement in the mining sector.
- The IJC process will respect the legal responsibilities and jurisdictions of each Government, including the role that B.C. plays as the primary regulator of the mining sector. B.C. has been assured the IJC Governance Body will not seek to replace or override existing regulatory processes.
- The IJC reference is specific to unique circumstances in the Kootenay watershed.
Advice/Recommendations

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Canada and the United States, in partnership with the transboundary Ktunaxa Nation, have initiated the IJC through a joint reference. The objective of the IJC reference is to reduce and mitigate the impacts of water pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed, as committed to in the Joint Statement of President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau on March 24, 2023. The reference was transmitted to the IJC on March 11, 2024.
- The reference instructs the IJC to assist governments in the establishment of a formal governance structure (Governance Body) to support information sharing and co-development of options for future action. The Governance Body is composed of 18 members, six each from Canada, the United States, and the Ktunaxa governments.
- Canada's delegation is split evenly between federal and provincial representatives. B.C.'s Governance Body members are the Deputy Ministers of ENV, Mining and Critical Minerals, and the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat.

- The reference also instructs the IJC to establish a two-year Study Board to convene experts and knowledge holders, with the aim to support a common understanding of pollution in the Kootenai/y watershed. The purpose is to review existing science, identify gaps, assumptions and uncertainties, and present recommendations to the Governance Body.
- The Study Board will provide the IJC with a plan of study, an interim report in September 2025, and a final report September 2026. These reports will provide an analysis of the current available science and identify data and research gaps to improve understanding of water quality issues in the watershed.
- The Elk-Kootenai/y IJC reference is specific to the history and complexity of water quality influences, historical and ongoing water quality exceedances, and unique relationships of the region. With respect to requests for an IJC reference in Alaska, no exceedances of Alaska Water Quality Standards have been observed in water samples downstream of B.C. mines near the B.C.-Alaska border.

Next Steps/Intergovernmental Considerations

- The Study Board released a draft Plan of Study that is currently under IJC review. The plan includes a budget and financing request to the federal governments of Canada and the United States for a total of \$4.9M.
- All engaged governments including B.C. are expected to participate in the process by making provincial staff available to support the process.
- B.C. and the IJC have an MOU in place to provide funding for B.C. to hold a Study Board Manager position and support B.C. participation in other Study Board related work. This funding covers the salary and costs of one full-time employee equivalent to a BIO 30 pay scale.
- B.C. also has a representative on the Government Advisory Committee to the Study Board, and staff may be asked to participate in the technical working groups at the discretion of the IJC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
George Warnock, MHSED	778-675-5228

Southeast Coal

KEY MESSAGES:

- British Columbia (B.C.) recognizes the significant economic contribution of southeast steelmaking (metallurgical) coal operations.
- Steelmaking coal mining in the southeast sustains more than 12,000 family-supporting jobs in BC with 3,600 direct and 7,200 indirect jobs.
- *Economic and Community Development Agreements* (ECDAs) negotiated between BC and the Ktunaxa Nations transfer of significant mineral tax revenue to the Nations.
- Given tariffs levied by the USA, southeast coal operations and their associated jobs and economic activity are of even greater importance. Coal mined in the southeast is exported to markets in Asia with only a small portion directed to the USA.
- B.C. recognizes that over 100 years of mining have impacted the waters and lands of the Elk Valley which is why the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) and partner Ministries are working in collaboration with First Nations to improve environmental outcomes.
- In July 2024 B.C. established the Southeast Initiatives Secretariat (SEIS), a multi agency team led by a dedicated Assistant Deputy Minister. SEIS supports strong cross-ministry governance, establishes clear accountabilities and is tasked with developing specific actions to resolve challenging issues.
- B.C. is committed to fair, robust and durable permitting processes that includes consultation with First Nations and that reflects BC's economic, social, environmental and reconciliation interests.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine Overview

- Southeast steelmaking coal deposits are a strategic resource and an important contributor to the economies of local communities, the Province and Canada.
- Elk Valley Resources Limited (EVR) operates four coal mines (Fording River Operations, Greenhills Operations, Line Creek Operations and Elkview Operations) and one mine (Coal Mountain Mine) in care and maintenance since 2019.
- The mines are located in the Elk Valley region of Southeast B.C. in the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation Council made up of four First Nation governments: ʔaᑭam, ʔAkisq'nuk, Yaᑭan nuʔkiy and Yaᑭit ʔa-knuᑭi'it. The Shuswap band also assert rights and title in the Elk Valley.
- Over 100 years of coal mining in the Elk Valley have resulted in impacts to water quality and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Given the current environmental concerns, the Elk Valley is a challenging regulatory environment.

• Advice/Recommendations

Economic Importance

- EVR's mines sustain more than 12,000 jobs in B.C. including 3,600 direct and 7,200 indirect jobs and account for 83 percent (\$8.8B) of total coal production in B.C. contributing \$5.4B to B.C.'s GDP/
- The EVR mins generate significant mineral tax revenue which is shared with Ktunaxa Nations through ECDAs.
- The coal mined by EVR is exported from B.C. to markets primarily in Asia with a small portion directed to the USA and Europe.

Permitting Overview

- In July 2024 B.C., recognizing the importance of steelmaking coal mining in the southeast and the current challenges, established the Southeast Initiatives Secretariat (SEIS) led by a dedicated Assistant Deputy Minister (Laurel Nash). SEIS includes representation and participation from MCM and supports strong cross-ministry governance and clear accountabilities to resolve challenging issues.
- In 2025, EVR expects to advance 168 applications (57 to MCM) for 103 projects to B.C. regulatory agencies including:
 - 20 water quality mitigation projects;
 - 12 mine development projects for continued or expanded mining; and
 - 70 operational or administrative projects required for the day-to-day operations of the mines.

• Advice/Recommendations

•

- Advice/Recommendations

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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George Warnock, ADM MHSE, MCM	778 675-5228
Laurel Nash, ADM SEIS, WLRS	250-508-1670

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B.C. – Alaska Transboundary Relations

KEY MESSAGES:

- British Columbia (B.C., the Province) takes compliance and enforcement of environmental protection requirements in the natural resource sector seriously – and monitors for compliance through dedicated inspectors in the Ministries of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), Environment and Parks (ENV), Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).
 - Advice/Recommendations: Intergovernmental Communications
-
- Engagement and transparency between B.C. and Alaska have been discussed as priorities at previous Bilateral Working Group (BWG) meetings.
 - In June 2024, a delegation of B.C. executives attended an in-person BWG meeting in Juneau, Alaska and participated in a joint B.C.-Alaska public open house to discuss key transboundary mining and environmental protection topics.
 - Engagement and transparency are also supported by the January 2025 release of new B.C. mining webpages that take a natural resource sector approach to help the domestic and international public better understand how responsible mining is done in B.C., and the significant improvements that have been made in the past decade.
 - B.C., Teck Resources (Teck) and the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) are working collaboratively to ensure the reclamation and clean-up of the Tulsequah site is done sustainably, without unnecessary delay, and is completed according to the laws and traditions of B.C. and the TRTFN.
 - B.C. maintains the position that an International Joint Commission (IJC) reference is not needed at this time. Alaskan counterparts have expressed agreement with this position. Both parties appreciate and acknowledge the strong working relationship between the two governments and agree the BWG provides a platform to navigate challenges constructively.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Province and Alaska signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation (MOU) in 2015. The MOU is being implemented through a Statement of Cooperation (SoC) on the Protection of Transboundary Waters. B.C.'s relationship with its Alaskan counterparts (Commissioners) is strong, transparent, and cooperative.

- B.C.'s Deputy Ministers and Alaska Commissioners meet formally on a bi-annual basis to discuss transboundary mining and water quality at a BWG meeting. The most recent BWG meeting was held virtually on March 10, 2025. The previous meeting was held in person in Juneau, Alaska, in June 2024.
 - These BWG meetings are supported by a cross-ministry (ENV, MCM, and EAO) staff-level group that meets monthly with Alaska representatives from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Fish and Game, and Department of Natural Resources.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
-
- Concerned groups and United States (US) Tribes have called for an IJC reference for the B.C.-Alaska border and are pressuring the Alaska State government to also support an IJC reference.
 - On August 13, 2024, in a letter to the US Government, Alaskan state Legislators expressed concerns about abandoned, developing, and operating mine projects in B.C. The letter requested the administration publicly and immediately support two calls for action: 1) for Canada to clean up the Tulsequah mine site, and 2) a renewed call for an IJC in the Northwest.
 - From 2017-2019, a joint B.C.-Alaska technical working group completed water monitoring of four transboundary watersheds and found that:
 - No exceedances of Alaska Water Quality Standards were observed in water samples downstream of the B.C.-Alaska border; and
 - Given the existence of other sampling programs planned by state, federal or provincial agencies throughout the transboundary region, B.C. and Alaska agreed there was no need to continue the joint sampling program.
 - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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Chris Trumpy, EAO	250 415-7754
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MINISTRY OF MINING
and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

SECTION B:
MINERAL TENURE ACT (MTA)
MODERNIZATION

Section B Contents:

- Mineral Tenure Act Modernization
- Mineral Claims Consultation Framework
- Mineral Tenure Compensation Regime

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Mineral Tenure Act Modernization

KEY MESSAGES:

- My mandate letter from Premier David Eby outlines his expectation that I make progress on updating the *Mineral Tenure Act* (MTA) in a manner that engages directly with and is respectful of First Nations rights and interests and also protects mineral resource development opportunities in the province to deliver prosperity for all British Columbians.
- Modernizing the MTA is a longstanding priority for First Nations and First Nations Organizations and is also a commitment identified in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan.
- The outcome of this work will be a new mineral exploration legislative framework that is respectful of First Nations rights and interests, in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and supports a healthy and competitive mineral exploration and mining sector.
- We will accomplish this by working in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and engaging with industry and other interested groups.
- (If needed) The work to update the MTA is separate from the Mineral Claims Consultation Framework launched in March 2025 in response to a court order that required the province to introduce First Nations consultation prior to registration of mineral and placer claims.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The MTA and related regulations set out British Columbia's (B.C.) laws for registering and maintaining mineral title (namely, mineral and placer claims and leases).
- As of March 26, 2025, consultation with First Nations is required before mineral and placer claims are registered as part of the Province implementing the court-ordered mineral claims consultation framework (MCCF), resulting from a B.C. Supreme Court ruling (from September 2023).
- Developing the MCCF has been a separate track of work than work to modernize the MTA (as described below).
- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan commits the ministry to working in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations Organizations to modernize the MTA – the outcome of this work will be a new mineral exploration legislative framework that aligns with UNDRIP.
- In addition to alignment with the UNDRIP, MTA reform creates an opportunity to address important issues such as:

- Ensuring clarity to mineral tenure decision-making processes;
- Changing economics and realities, including responsible mining; and
- Approaches to environmental stewardship and management.
- Aligning the MTA with UNDRIP is an initiative that has a significant scope and involves complex and multi-faceted policy and legislative work, with an important focus anticipated to be on developing shared decision-making models (for example, decision-making models based on free, prior and informed consent, or FPIC).
- First Nations and First Nations Organizations are highly interested in the work on MTA modernization. As per Section 3 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* the ministry is taking a distinctions-based approach to consultation and cooperation and pathways include:
 - Direct bilateral engagement with rights holders and First Nations Organizations,
 - All-Nations information sessions,
 - A First Nation Technical Advisory Group (FNTAG), and
 - A working group that consists of representatives from the ministry, Declaration Act Secretariat, the Ministry of Attorney General, the First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Energy and Mining Council.
- Initial conversations with rights holder and First Nations representatives (August 2024) indicated interest in topics related to ownership of subsurface minerals and decision-making models.
- Engagement with the mineral and placer exploration industry, local governments, ENGOs, and other interested groups will be critical in shaping the scope and focus of MTA reform.
- Industry has a high level of interest in MTA modernization and have expressed some concern about aligning the MTA with UNDRIP, particularly the application of FPIC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
A/EL, Leslie Payette, RMCD	250-668-5255

Mineral Claims Consultation Framework

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals has recently implemented the mineral claims consultation framework (MCCF) to comply with a B.C. Supreme Court ruling that the Province must consult First Nations before registering mineral claims.
- This framework is a significant change to the mineral exploration process and will help ensure the Province meets its duty to consult and, as appropriate, accommodate First Nations' concerns about registering claims.
- The MCCF will apply to both mineral claims and placer claims.
- By fulfilling the Crown's duty to consult, there may be less chance of future court challenges, which can create uncertainty for the mining industry in the Province.
- While the ministry will be responsible for consulting with First Nations, claim applicants are encouraged to plan, discuss and develop mineral exploration projects with First Nations in the area where they are planning for exploration to take place.
- Relationships are built on trust, and transparency. If relationships between applicants and First Nations are built early, this may provide opportunities to collaborate on the development of applications that may be mutually beneficial, while mitigating impacts to First Nations.
- Building relationships will also help applicants understand First Nations' concerns before making large investments in their project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Mineral Tenure Act (MTA) and related regulations set out B.C.'s laws for registering and maintaining mineral title (namely, mineral and placer claims and leases).
- On September 26, 2023, the B.C. Supreme Court (BCSC) released an order which found that the Province is currently in breach of its constitutional duty to consult with First Nations before claims are registered because of the potential impact that claims can have on First Nations rights and title (the order was in response to legal challenges brought forward by the Gitxaala and Ehattesaht and First Nations (in 2021 and 2022 respectively)).
- On March 26, 2025, the Province implemented the MCCF to address the court order, which ensures that First Nations are consulted before claims are registered. The Mineral Titles Online system, which is used to register claims, has been updated to enable implementation of the MCCF.

- The MCCF represents a significant shift to the mineral exploration framework, as consultation with First Nations has not been undertaken on claims before this date.
- Consultation was undertaken with First Nations to inform initial policy work to develop the MCCF (late spring/summer 2024), and a draft MCCF (released in January 2025) and bilateral sessions with First Nations and Indigenous Government Organizations have been taking place since January 2025.
- Concerns include that the MCCF is not based on obtaining free, prior and informed consent (an expectation that has been set by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA); there is continued advocacy for MTA modernization.
- First Nations also raised concerns about capacity to support their participation in the MCCF to review claims applications and indicate concerns about potential impacts; the Ministry has secured initial funding and is exploring further capacity funding options to continue supporting First Nations participation.
- Engagement with industry and business associations, Free Miner Certificate (FMC) holders, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and the general public (collectively referred to as “Interested Groups”) also took place on the initial policy development and draft MCCF.
- Engagement resulted in receiving written submissions (90+), meetings with industry associations, webinars for FMC holders, discussions with AME’s policy committee on MTA reform, attendance at several industry events, and other bilateral meetings.
- Concerns include dissatisfaction with the court’s findings, sharing their identity with Nations, and the potential that claim registrations may face long delays or be denied.
- Ministry staff continue to explore approaches to address concerns, and will continue to consult and engage with First Nations and industry after the MCCF is in place
- The Ministry will take a continuous improvement approach to the implementation of the MCCF including additional consultation with First Nations and engagement with industry.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Funding required to implement changes to the Mineral Titles Online system is captured as part of MCM’s expenses outlined in the budget.
- The ministry recently received \$0.5M from the Indigenous Funding Program to support First Nations in participating in MCCF processes.
- MCCF will currently be implemented using existing budget allocations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
A/EL Leslie Payette, RMCD	250-668-5255

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Mineral Tenure Compensation Regime

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Province is committed to responsible use of public funds, including those in relation to mineral tenure compensation.
- Provincial commitments to protect and conserve of 30 percent of provincial lands and waters by 2030 are expected to include, where appropriate, the provision of associated compensation for impacted mineral tenures.
- Legal requirements related to mineral tenure compensation are enshrined in the *Mineral Tenure Act* (MTA) and associated regulations. Within the current regime, mineral tenure expropriation can only be triggered through the establishment or expansion of a protected area under section 11 of the *Parks Act*. The Mining Rights Compensation Regulation would guide this process.
- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) has identified challenges associated with mineral tenure compensation in relation to land use initiatives, that can be addressed through the MTA reform process.
- The Province has committed to modernizing the MTA in consultation and cooperation with First Nations and First Nations organizations.
- The Mineral Tenure Compensation Framework (Framework) involves the development of a suite of proposed policies and process guidance to support increased utility and effectiveness of regulatory tools. The Framework is intended to guide and clarify existing processes, develop regulatory recommendations, and ultimately align with legislative amendments that will come by way of the MTA reform process.
- Policy and process guidance developed as part of the Framework are intended to balance multiple Provincial interests and priorities. These include maintaining mining competitiveness and investment certainty, supporting land conservation in appropriate areas, supporting critical mineral development in appropriate areas, ensuring administrative fairness, and responsible use of public funds.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Province has limited legislative, regulatory and policy tools to address mineral tenure expropriation¹ and compensation² in response to increasing land protection initiatives.

¹ 'Expropriation' refers to an action taken by the Province to take property or rights from their owner through the use of legislative tools, including potentially without that owner's consent.

² 'Compensation' refers to provision of something – often money – to counterbalance or make recompense for the loss of (or injury to) something of value. It can be provided on a willing basis.

- Preliminary policy and process guidance development for the Framework was initiated in Spring 2023. Progress is ongoing, with the development of materials aimed at supporting staff by providing clarity on the use and relevance of existing tools, ensuring consistent process guidance, and enhancing the predictability for decision-making. While these materials are intended to support multi-agency land use planning discussions, they remain internal.
- Framework updates will include consideration of both land base-wide factors (with the intent of limiting future expropriation and compensation exposure at a macro level) and factors relevant to individual tenure transactions (which may inform or affect the approach to, and cost of, compensation for individual tenure transactions).
- The Framework deliverables are specifically intended to operate within the current regulatory regime, with no legislative amendments.
- MCM is working on a new mineral exploration legislative framework, which will provide opportunity for legislative changes to the provincial compensation and expropriation regime. This is expected to include the identification of proposed regulatory changes to key MTA regulations related to compensation, such as the Mining Rights Compensation Regulation and MTA Regulation.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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MINISTRY OF MINING and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

SECTION C: CRITICAL MINERALS

Section C Contents:

- Mining Sector Competitiveness
- Critical Mineral Strategy & Opportunity
- Land Use Planning, Northern B.C.
- Critical Minerals Office
- Coal Exports

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Mining Sector Competitiveness

KEY MESSAGES:

- The mining industry is a global sector, and the competitiveness of British Columbia's (B.C.; the Province) mining sector is key to attracting investment to mineral exploration and mine development.
- The Province's fiscal incentives, rich mineral deposits, world-class infrastructure and clean and affordable energy continue to make B.C. an attractive jurisdiction for investors with approximately \$15.3 billion invested in B.C. companies and assets in 2024.
- Glencore's (Elk Valley Resources) acquisition of Teck Resources' steelmaking coal business, completed in July 2024, represents nearly \$10 billion in direct investment, reinforcing the province's status as a globally competitive mining jurisdiction.
- Recent milestones demonstrate the strength of the province's mineral development potential, including:
 - Skeena Resources' Eskay Creek Revitalization Project securing full project financing in June 2024;
 - Osisko Development's Cariboo Gold Project receiving its *Mines Act* Permit in November 2024 with Environmental Assessment and Permitting processes taking just five years;
 - Seabridge Gold's Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) project receiving its "substantially started" designation in July 2024 providing increased certainty for investors; and,
 - Premier Eby identifying four mining projects to be 'fast-tracked', as part of a list of 18 resource projects that the Province will expedite to reduce reliance on trade with the United States.
- MCM is actively engaged with stakeholders and rightsholders, and is continuing to work with industry and First Nations to provide clarity and certainty on the land base and find efficiency's to support more efficient permitting timelines.
 - Examples that highlight this work to encourage growth and competitiveness are provided in Attachment 1.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- MCM's mandate letter and service plan highlights government's commitment to position B.C. as an attractive, responsible, and competitive jurisdiction for investment in the mining sector.
- Budget 2025 announced a 5-year extension to the New Mine Allowance, which provides mineral tax relief on newly built mines and mine expansions. The extension

will provide investors with increased certainty in the construction of upcoming mines, as capital costs made until 2030 will now be eligible for this allowance.

- In 2024, exploration expenditures in B.C. totaled an estimated \$552.1M which was down from \$643.5M in 2023. However, this is the fifth highest amount on record for the Province.
- In January 2024, Premier Eby announced B.C.'s Critical Minerals Strategy (CMS) and identified 11 actions that support the development and growth of the critical minerals sector, attract investment, and ensure a stable workforce. Key CMS actions include:
 - Creation of a Critical Minerals Office (CMO), a group within MCM dedicated to supporting the advancement of B.C. critical minerals projects and attracting new investment to B.C. projects.
 - Undertaking a fiscal environment assessment to assess our competitive position and examine the need for new fiscal policy to drive investment, incentivize production and maintain competitiveness.
- In early 2025, Premier Eby announced 18 major resource projects underway that were to be fast-tracked, including four mining projects (Eskay Creek, Highland Valley Copper, Mount Milligan and Red Chris), as well as the North Coast Transmission Line project, which will support the ongoing development of additional critical mineral projects in BC's Northwest region.
- The Province is advancing initiatives to drive B.C.'s high Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) performance, including investing in infrastructure to deliver clean power to industry, funding innovative clean energy solutions and furthering reconciliation through agreements with First Nations and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – Initiatives Supporting BC's Mining Sector

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Attachment 1 – Initiatives Supporting BC’s Mining Sector

Critical Minerals Strategy

- On January 22, 2024, the Premier announced the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy (CMS). The CMS includes eleven actions that are impactful first steps to support the development and growth of the critical minerals sector, attract investment, and ensure a stable workforce in a competitive jurisdiction.
- These actions address the barriers to critical mineral project development which enable project advancement. They also align with the Province’s commitments to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and BC’s Declaration Act (UNDRIP), and other government priorities such as land use planning, conservation commitments, CleanBC and StrongerBC.
- Government is making progress, or has delivered, on all of the eleven actions within the CMS. One of the key actions is the creation of a Critical Minerals Office (CMO). The CMO will identify and support near-term critical minerals mining and value chain projects and help advance projects that support the low carbon energy transition. The CMO will facilitate investment in critical minerals projects through outreach and collaboration with capital markets and the federal government.

Fiscal Measures

- Budget 2019 made the Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit and the BC Mining Exploration Tax Credit permanent incentives. B.C. has the most favourable flow-through share tax credits in Canada.
- Budget 2024 announced the intention to create a First Nations Equity Financing Framework. The framework includes a special account with a cumulative loan guarantee limit of \$1 billion, with an initial balance of \$10 million earmarked for First Nations considering equity participation in priority projects.
- Budget 2025 extended the New Mines Allowance for five years. The allowance provides mineral tax relief on newly built mines and mine expansions, thereby supporting final investment decision in these projects.

Permitting

- Resources were secured through Budget 2022 and made permanent in Budget 2024 to add 38 new full time Equivalents (FTEs) across mining regulatory agencies to ensure thorough, timely reviews of major mine projects and address backlogs in regional permitting.
- Budget 2023 provided \$77 million over three years to help speed up natural-resource permitting and begin work to modernize the permitting service

delivery model. MCM was allocated \$3 million, providing the ministry with nine new FTEs focussed on strategic work to improve permitting timelines and certainty.

- Major project review timelines have reduced from an average of 259 business days to 164 business days since 2019.
 - The New Afton C-Zone Expansion review process took 206 business days from receipt of the final application to decision referral in 2022.
 - The Quintette Mine Restart review process was completed in just 88 business days from receipt of the final application to decision referral in 2024.
- Backlogs for review of Notice of Work applications for regional mines have been reduced by 52 percent since March 2022.
- Excluding backlog files, average turnaround times for mineral exploration decisions were reduced by 13 percent from 2022 to 2024, from 162 days to 141 days.

Carbon Tax

- On April 1, 2024 B.C. transitioned from its former industrial carbon pricing system, the CleanBC Program for Industry, to a made-in-B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS). These changes ensure that B.C.'s carbon pricing regime meets federal stringency requirements.
- The new B.C. OBPS includes specific supports for critical minerals mines and smelters to ensure competitiveness for these emissions intensive trade exposed sectors.
- The details of B.C.'s OBPS have been finalized and are supported by the Mining Association of BC.

Environmental Social Governance (ESG)

- MCM is working to position B.C. as a leading jurisdiction to attract ESG investment capital, which has been valued at over \$100 trillion globally, through branding efforts and a digital platform to surface relevant ESG data in a verifiable and transparent way.
 - The Mines Digital Trust project is underway in partnership with the Ministry of Citizens' Services and Mining Association of Canada. This initiative will provide mine operators with digital credentials that verify that their products originated in a jurisdiction that is internationally recognized for strong environmental, social and governance standards.
 - Through StrongerBC, the ESG Centre of Excellence was established in early 2024 to provide support to B.C. businesses to develop, promote and market the ESG advantages of their goods and services.

Infrastructure

- In January 2024, BC Hydro released a 10-year capital plan called “Power Pathway: Building B.C.’s Energy Future”. The plan includes investing \$36 billion over the next 10 years on capital projects throughout the province to support CleanBC emissions reduction targets and meet future load growth factoring in areas with advanced stage mineral development projects.
- Phase 1 of the CMS includes an action to assess infrastructure and electrification gaps that hinder critical mineral development and to develop plans to address these barriers.
- Another key CMS action is to identify federal funding sources to support critical minerals growth in priority areas of the province.
- In July 2024, the federal government (NR-Can) and the Province announced that they will be investing \$195M in Northwest BC to upgrade the highway 37 corridor that is essential to support increased mining activity in the area. The federal contributed totals up to \$75 million through the Critical Mineral Investment Fund (CMIF), with the remaining \$120 million funded by B.C.’s Ministry of Transportation and Transit.
- Canada has since announced an additional \$29 million in CMIF funding to B.C. mining projects, including targeted funding to First Nations, academia and \$25 million to BC Hydro to plan an extension of the North Coast Transmission Line, to connect with key critical mineral projects in B.C.’s Northwest Golden Triangle.

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CM Strategy and Opportunities

KEY MESSAGES:

- Critical minerals are essential for modern technologies, defence and the low-carbon economy; they represent a generational opportunity for investment, jobs and innovation in British Columbia (B.C.).
- Geopolitical tensions, tariffs and demand for critical minerals highlight the importance to grow and diversify supply chains, particularly with responsible and stable jurisdictions like B.C.
- By 2040, new and expanded critical minerals projects in B.C. could represent approximately \$40 billion in capital investment, over \$900 million in annual mineral tax revenue, over 12,000 jobs during construction and 10,000 during operations.
- The B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy (Attachment 1) lays the foundation for strong partnerships between First Nations, government and industry with impactful actions. We have seen good progress, including:
 - Funding highway improvements and electrical infrastructure that will support project development in the Northwest.
 - The launch of the B.C. Critical Mineral Office that will provide support for the advancement of critical minerals projects across B.C.
- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) will work with industry, unions, stakeholders, and First Nations on a long-term outreach strategy to attract more investment and opportunities from mineral exploration to advanced processing.
- MCM will be working with provincial and territorial counterparts to advance a northwestern Canadian critical minerals strategy to leverage our respective jurisdictional strengths to attract greater and more diversified investment and partnerships.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Critical Minerals in B.C.:

- B.C. is focused on strengthening the mineral exploration and mining sector to ensure a stable and transparent environment for global partners and investors.

- B.C. produces and has good potential to produce at least 19¹ of the 34 critical minerals on Canada's critical minerals list and has advanced exploration and development projects with copper, nickel, molybdenum, zinc, rare earth elements and others.
- The province is a strong contributor to global critical mineral supply, representing 54 percent of Canada's copper production and is Canada's only producer of molybdenum.
- By 2040, new and expanded critical minerals projects could contribute \$11 billion annually to B.C.'s economy.

B.C. Critical Minerals

- MCM has made strong progress on action implementation (Attachment 1), including:
 - Securing a joint B.C./federal government investment of \$195 million for highway upgrades in Northwest B.C.
 - Standing up the Critical Minerals Office.
 - Releasing the B.C. Critical Minerals Atlas that catalogues critical mineral occurrences across the province.
 - Initiating a fiscal environment assessment to assess our competitive position and examine the need for new fiscal policy to drive investment, incentivize production and maintain competitiveness.
 - Launching the Mines Digital Trust which offers digital tools and credentials to enable mining operators to share verified ESG data to investors and customers.
- In 2023 and 2024, the Province engaged with over 30 First Nations on B.C.'s critical minerals opportunities. This engagement will continue in 2025, including work with the First Nations Energy and Mining Council to identify areas of alignment between B.C.'s Strategy and the First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy.

Northwest Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy

- As part of the Minister's mandate, the Ministry will work with provincial and territorial counterparts to advance a northwestern Canadian critical minerals strategy, building on existing regional tables and initiatives.
- Canada's western and northern provinces and territories have strong critical minerals resources and have integrated economies and infrastructure networks.
- In the face of US tariffs, close collaboration with neighboring provinces and territories on economic security is more important than ever.

¹ Comprised of mined commodities, smelter production and minerals with good potential. The Province's Critical Minerals Strategy, launched in January 2024, identified B.C. having 16 of Canada's 31 critical minerals. Since then, Canada's critical list was expanded and the Ministry has updated information on critical minerals potential and production at BC smelters.

Critical Minerals Value Chain

- B.C. seeks to strengthen its critical mineral value chain, from exploration to recycling, working with industry, investors, First Nations, the federal government and other partners.
- The province has two smelters, in Kitimat and Trail, that produce critical minerals important to Canada and our allied partners, such as aluminum and germanium, and have the potential to produce further minerals with defence applications.
- B.C. is also a hub of low carbon mining, critical minerals and battery innovation, with world-leading research and technology companies, and battery supply chain manufacturing projects (e.g. Mangrove Lithium, NORAM, Purus, Energy Plug).
- The Province continues to identify strategic projects to help advance B.C.'s value chain and will examine options to support key opportunities.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- BC Budget 2023 allocated \$6 million over three years to develop the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy and advance critical minerals activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: B.C.'s Critical Minerals Strategy action plan update

ADM/EL(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tejindar (TJ) Parhar, RMCD	250 216-4716

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Attachment 1: B.C.'s Critical Minerals Strategy action plan update

Status of the 11 impactful actions at March 31, 2025

Action	Description	Status
Critical Minerals Office	Dedicated staff to prioritize critical minerals project advancement.	Complete Established in 2024, the Critical Minerals Office supports projects to access B.C. processes and coordinates with industry, First Nations, the federal government and others to streamline permitting processes, advance projects, and engage with capital markets to attract investment.
Dedicated Permitting Resources	To ensure efficient permit processing to bolster business certainty, reduce development times and attract long-term investment.	Complete Budget 2024 reconfirmed \$24 million over 3 years to support permitting resources. Government is committed to ensuring B.C. mining decision approval timelines are competitive with high-standard international jurisdictions and are dramatically reduced from current wait times.
Critical Minerals Atlas	Evaluates B.C.'s critical mineral endowment and builds awareness about opportunities for industry, First Nations and the public.	Complete Published in 2024, B.C.'s Critical Minerals Atlas is the initial step in evaluating the Province's critical mineral resources and raising awareness of opportunities within the exploration and mining sectors. The BC Geological Survey continues to assess B.C.'s critical mineral opportunities through geological studies and has completed more

Action	Description	Status
		than 40 critical mineral related reports and other publications between 2023-2025.
Work with First Nations on Critical Minerals	Continue to engage with First Nations and align B.C.'s Strategy with the First Nations Energy and Mining Council's First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy.	Ongoing The Province is committed to working with First Nations to develop and implement the strategy. Over 30 First Nations have been engaged to date and this work will continue. Budget 2024 announced a \$1 billion First Nations Equity Financing Framework to support First Nations' participation in projects such as mining, with an initial \$10 million for immediate capacity needs. The Ministry's dedicated Engagement Geologist is working closely with First Nations to help build capacity and knowledge of critical minerals potential and the mining project life cycle. The Ministry and the First Nations Energy and Mining Council are in discussions regarding near-term priorities for alignment.
Mineral Tenure Act Modernization	In cooperation and collaboration with First Nations and First Nations organizations.	Ongoing The Mineral Tenure Act, which governs mineral and placer titles, is being modernized in a manner that engages directly with and is respectful of First Nations rights and interests and protects mineral resource development opportunities in the province.
Mines Digital Trust	Promotes B.C.'s ESG advantage and provides greater transparency for investors through B.C. government supported digital certificates.	Complete The Mines Digital Trust was introduced in June 2024. B.C. is committed to environmental, social, and governance standards, with initiatives such as Mines Digital Trust that allow

Action	Description	Status
		mining operators to showcase the origin and sustainability of their products. Collaborations with global organizations are helping position B.C. as a leader in sustainable sourcing.
Infrastructure & Electrification Gap Assessment	To identify and develop business cases to address infrastructure gaps and barriers to critical mineral value chain development.	Complete In January 2024, the Province announced BC Hydro's updated 10-Year capital plan, which contains investments worth \$36 billion, including for electrification infrastructure that will support mining projects. In 2025, the Ministry supported a mining electricity demand study led by Foresight Canada in partnership with industry and BC Hydro. The Province continues to identify and assess infrastructure needs to help grow the economy, create jobs and attract investment.
Critical Minerals Infrastructure Partnership Development	Partner with the federal government and First Nations to identify and advance high priority regional infrastructure projects.	Ongoing B.C. is partnering with Canada to invest in infrastructure to support mining, including a \$195 million upgrade to Highway 37. In January 2025, the Province announced that it is taking action to speed up permitting for the North Coast Transmission Line in partnership with BC Hydro and First Nations to meet the needs of growing industries such as mining, creating jobs and economic benefits for First Nations and communities.
Invest in Strategic Regional Critical Mineral Projects	Leverage federal funding to enable critical minerals processing, manufacturing,	Ongoing

Action	Description	Status
	and circular economy projects.	The Province is reviewing strategic project opportunities. Manufacturing and innovation projects that have been supported recently include Mangrove Lithium (by InBC), pH7 Technologies (by the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund) and the UBC Okanagan Battery Innovation Centre (by the BC Innovative Clean Energy Fund), helping to leverage federal funding.
Fiscal Environment Assessment and Targeted Incentive Programs	To drive investment throughout the value chain, incent production, and maintain competitiveness.	Ongoing The Province is completing its review of the fiscal environment for critical minerals exploration and mining in B.C. The Province is committed to ensuring that its fiscal framework supports a highly competitive mining sector and continues to position B.C. as a sought-after jurisdiction for investment.
StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan Skills Training & Workforce Development	Optimize programs to meet workers and critical minerals sector skills and training needs.	Ongoing B.C. is responding to labour market challenges and skills gaps in the mining sector by collaborating with industry and building partnerships with training organizations. These efforts are designed to ensure a skilled workforce is trained and ready to support the province's growing critical minerals economy. MCM is continuing to work closely with PSFS on strategic opportunities to address current and future labour market gaps in the mining sector.

Land Use Planning, Northern B.C.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), along with the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) have been mandated “to enable mining exploration and development in British Columbia’s (B.C.) northwest (NW) in partnership with First Nations in a manner that helps achieve our Provincial commitment to protect 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030 and creates economic growth and opportunity in the region”.
- Through Land Use Planning (LUP), opportunities are available to reach large-scale agreements on land use and critical metal and mineral development with First Nations in a manner that protects the environment and important cultural areas while providing predictability to the sector.
- Nation partners, including Tahltan, Taku River Tlingit, Kaska, Gitanyow and Nisga’a First Nation have been engaged in preparation for upcoming LUP projects spanning 16M ha across NW B.C.
- While industry associations and key tenure holders are generally supportive of the longer-term goals of LUP, some sector representatives have raised concerns related to the approach to and short-term impacts of the proposed “interim measures” (IMs).
- The northwest LUP area includes the ‘Golden Triangle’ and other areas of high critical mineral interest and potential, and B.C. is experiencing a generational opportunity to strengthen the critical minerals sector, access global markets and secure new jobs. One outcome of LUP is clarity on where development can happen and where conservation is needed.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- LUP provides an opportunity to resolve land use conflicts at the local level. Strategic planning helps to define ‘what’ can occur and ‘where’, in a planning area and supports improved land base predictability.
- IMs for the four NW LUP projects would limit the registration of new mineral, coal and/or placer claims in specified areas. They would be implemented either through a No Registration Reserve (by the Chief Gold Commissioner) under the *Mineral Tenure Act* for smaller targeted areas or through an *Environment and Land Use Act* (ELUA) Order under the ELUA for larger areas.

- As planning projects mature beyond the scoping phase, engagement with affected groups and stakeholders will commence through the formal planning processes. Public engagement will be conducted to ensure that all affected land users understand and support planning options. Public engagement will be a primary focus of LUP work in the coming year.
- A Mineral Claims Consultation Framework (MCCF) will be launched on March 26, 2025, will require consultation with impacted First Nations prior to the registration of new claims. The Ministry will work with First Nations to identify interests, impacts and possible accommodation measures on mineral staking in their territory, reducing the risk of indiscriminate staking in areas of concern to them (i.e., that are not included in IMs).
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Electrification of the NW, which includes major transmission line and interconnection infrastructure expansions, is key to unlocking critical mineral projects in the region.
- The first step is advancing the North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL) project, a new 500 kV transmission line and associated infrastructure from Prince George to Terrace, which is also on Premier Eby's 'fast-track' list.
- In March 2025, BC Hydro was approved for up to \$25M in funding through the Federal government's Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund, to support technical planning for further expansion of the NCTL north of Terrace.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- WLRS provincial \$7.8M LUP budget supports technical planning staff in regions; policy and project coordination in branch; and planning-focused positions within the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and MCM.

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
David Muter, WLRS	250 217-5385

Critical Minerals Office (CMO)

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Critical Minerals Office (CMO) is a dedicated group within the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) that supports the advancement of British Columbia's (B.C.) critical minerals projects through exploration and development and across the value chain.
- The CMO leads the MCM mandate letter commitment to work with industry, unions, stakeholders, and First Nations on a long-term outreach strategy to attract more investment and opportunities from mineral exploration to advanced processing in the critical minerals sector.
- Since inception, the CMO has:
 - Engaged with more than 50 investors, exploration and mining companies, industry associations, federal agencies, and international partners, and with several First Nations, on more than 15 B.C. critical minerals projects, to highlight B.C. opportunities, encourage investment, facilitate relationships and advance projects.
 - Actively engaged with the Government of Canada to support federal funding opportunities including over \$29 million for B.C. projects, and, with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, secured \$75 million from Canada for highway upgrades in the Northwest B.C. to support mining projects.
 - Secured BloombergNEF to host their first global Critical Minerals Forum in Vancouver in January 2025.
- Showcasing B.C.'s commitment to innovation and responsible mining practices, the CMO's Mines Digital Trust offers digital tools for mining operators to tag their shipments with verifiable data about the origin and sustainability of their products.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Established in 2024 as a key action of the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy, the CMO is headed by an Executive Lead with a small team of staff (6.0 FTEs in total).
- The CMO works with industry, First Nations and across government through concierge services tailored to assist projects at different stages of development, help to reduce barriers and support efficient entry into permitting processes.
- The CMO also pursues promotional opportunities to raise B.C.'s critical minerals profile nationally and internationally and aggressively engages with capital markets and

others to attract investment. The CMO seeks to enhance certainty for investors and derisk investment to drive growth.

- Additionally, the CMO seeks to increase First Nations participation in critical minerals opportunities where appropriate.
- MCM's development of an investment outreach strategy will build off existing capital market and industry engagement efforts that includes participation at recent global mining events such as the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference in March 2025.
- The CMO promotes B.C.'s value-adds as an attractive jurisdiction for investment, such as the Mines Digital Trust, which offers digital tools and credentials that enable mining operators to share verified environmental, social and governance (ESG) data to investors and customers.
- Mines Digital Trust enables B.C. permit holders to digitally prove their active Major Mines permit status - published in a machine readable, high-integrity data format compliant with a global standard for supply chain traceability.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM/EL Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
Tejindar Parhar (EL)	250 216-4716

Coal Exports

KEY MESSAGES:

- British Columbia (B.C.) is Canada's largest coal producer with \$10.3B worth of production forecasted in 2024.
- Over 95 percent of coal produced in B.C. is metallurgical coal used in steelmaking. In 2024, top export destinations for B.C. coal were China (31 percent), Japan (24 percent), and South Korea (21 percent).
- B.C. does not have any operating mines that produce thermal coal which is used in power generation and is a significant contributor to global CO2 emissions.
- B.C. is in the only jurisdiction on the Pacific coast of North America from which thermal coal can be exported. Thermal coal exported through B.C. ports is mined outside of B.C. in Alberta, Montana and Wyoming.
- Westshore Terminals, located just 32 km south of Vancouver, is Canada's primary coal export terminal. 17.6 million tonnes of United States (US) thermal coal was moved through this terminal in 2023 representing 64 percent of all coal shipments by volume.
- B.C. has few tools to influence policy around thermal coal exports as ports and railways are regulated by the Federal government.
- Premier Eby has called for the federal government to impose a tax on US thermal coal shipped from BC as a response to the tariff threats from the US.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- There are two primary types of coal – Metallurgical coal mined to produce the carbon used in steelmaking, and thermal coal used to make steam that generates electricity.
- B.C. is Canada's largest producer and exporter of coal with over 95 percent of coal produced in B.C. being metallurgical coal.
- B.C. does not have any operating thermal coal mines, though in the production of metallurgical coal some thermal coal is produced as a byproduct.
- Metallurgical coal is mined in B.C.'s Northeast by Conuma Resources and Southeast by Elk Valley Resources (EVR).
- In 2023, coal mines in B.C. produced \$10.6B (\$10.3B forecasted for 2024) worth of coal and directly employed almost 5,000 people.
- Both metallurgic and thermal coal are shipped from ports in Vancouver and Prince Rupert. The thermal coal exported through B.C. ports is mined outside of B.C. in Alberta, Montana and Wyoming.

- Ports that handle coal in B.C. include Westshore Terminals, Neptune Terminals, and Trigon Terminals (Appendix 1).
- Due to bans on development of coal export infrastructure in Washington, Oregon and California, B.C. is in the only jurisdiction on the Pacific coast of North America from which thermal coal can be exported.
- Westshore Terminals is located 32 kilometers south of downtown Vancouver and is Canada's primary coal export terminal. According to Westshore's 2024 Q3 Financial Report, 67 percent of the coal shipped in the first nine months of 2024 was thermal coal and 33 percent was metallurgical. 17.6 million tonnes of U.S. thermal coal was moved through the Westshore terminals in 2023.
- Ports and railways are regulated by the Federal government and B.C. has few tools to influence policy around thermal coal exports.
- Canada released a policy statement in June 2021 that thermal coal projects cause an unacceptable environmental effect and are not aligned with climate change commitments. This statement effectively prevents any future thermal coal projects from consideration under the federal environmental assessment process.
- On February 24, 2025 opposition leader John Rustad called for a levy on U.S. thermal coal exported through B.C. as a response to newly proposed tariffs, specifically those imposed on softwood lumber.
- On March 12, 2025 Premier Eby called for the federal government to impose a tax on US thermal coal shipped from BC as a response to the tariff threats from the US. The Premier stated that he had also presented a proposal directly to outgoing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to put levies on U.S. coal exports or even restrict them entirely.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1– Ports in B.C. that Handle Coal Shipments

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
Viva Wolf, SIPD	250-893-5681

Appendix 1– Ports in B.C. that Handle Coal Shipments

Westshore Terminals	• Located 32 kilometers south of downtown Vancouver, is Canada’s primary coal export terminal and is the busiest in North America. • Ships both thermal and metallurgical coal. • According to Westshore’s 2024 Q3 financial report, 33% of Westshore’s volume was metallurgical coal and 67% was thermal coal. • According to Westshore’s 2023 annual financial report, the largest shipping destinations for coal were to Japan (48%), followed by South Korea (26%) and China (13%).
Neptune Terminal	• Located in North Vancouver and is EVR’s primary terminal for coal shipments. • Ships only metallurgical coal. • In 2023, the terminal shipped 59% of Teck’s (EVR purchased Teck’s SE B.C. coal mines in 2024) coal volume (around 14 million tonnes).
Trigon Terminals	• Located in Prince Rupert and is Conuma’s primary terminal for coal shipments. • Teck has shipped up to 6 million tonnes of metallurgical coal from its SE coal mines (now owned by EVR) per year out of the Trigon Terminal.

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MINISTRY OF MINING and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

SECTION D: MINES POLICIES, PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES, INCLUDING INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

Section D Contents:

- UNDRIP Implementation
- Tahltan Central Government
- Tslihqot'in and Taseko Standstill Agreement
- Placer and Jade Mining in B.C.
- Site Liabilities and Reclamation Security
- Mineral Tax Revenue Forecast/Revenue
- Mining Exploration Tax Incentive Programs
- 2024 Major Approvals

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UNDRIP Implementation

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) is committed to implementing the Declaration Act Action Plan (Action Plan), to align B.C.'s laws with the UN Declaration, and support negotiations for shared decision-making agreements.
- B.C.'s interests are focused on advancing priority major mining projects through efficient decision making and permitting process; establishing a long term reconciliation path over areas with high mineral and mining potential; and supporting prospects for mining expansion in partnership with First Nations
- MCM is working in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples and First Nation organizations to deliver on priorities identified in the Action Plan, such as modernizing the *Mineral Tenure Act* and collaborating with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) on modernized land use planning (MLUP) that will set new strategic direction for resource management and stewardship.
- B.C. is working with the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) on two active consent-based processes for the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project and the Red Chris Mine Block Cave transition, both priority mining projects as announced by the Premier on February 5, 2025.
- Intergovernmental Communications

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- MCM is leading **Action 2.14** of the Action Plan to modernize the MTA through in-depth collaboration with First Nations and First Nation organizations and in alignment with the UN Declaration while continuing to enhance a strong, sustainable mineral exploration and mining sector. This work includes developing a mineral claim consultation framework with First Nations on mineral staking claims, which was implemented on March 26, 2025.
- WLRS is taking a coordinated and proactive approach to MLUP to implement **Action 2.6** of the Action Plan. In coordination with WLRS, MCM is updating geological data to ensure mineral exploration and mining interests are considered throughout the planning lifecycle.
- Signed in September 2021, the Relationship Protocol creates structures for MCM (formerly EMLI) to work with the First Nation Leadership Council (FNLC) as a pathway

to support a better future for Indigenous people on issues of common interest such as energy, mines, and low carbon innovation. In March 2023, EMLI provided \$2.4M in funding (over three years, until March 31, 2026), to support the implementation of the Relationship Protocol through an annual workplan which includes joint work in areas such as collaboration with the Audit Unit and Code Review Committee.

- FNLC participates in joint discussions on B.C.'s Regional Energy and Resource Table, an initiative to collaboratively identify, prioritize, and pursue opportunities presented by the net-zero transition, which include six identified areas: clean fuels/hydrogen; electrification; critical minerals; forestry; carbon management, technologies and systems; and regulatory efficiency.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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Tahltan Central Government

KEY MESSAGES:

- British Columbia (B.C.) has a number of priority mining initiatives underway with the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) with a shared goal of addressing TCG's concerns while achieving a world class sustainable mining regime through partnership.
- TCG and the Province have accomplished significant milestones together with the signing of the first consent-based decision-making agreement under Section 7 of the Environmental Assessment Act (2022), and again in 2023. The two ongoing and active consent-based processes for the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project (Eskay) and Red Chris Mine Block Cave (Red Chris) are priority mining projects as announced by the Premier on February 5, 2025.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- B.C.'s interests include advancing a relationship with TCG that sets a long-term reconciliation path in Tahltan territory, and building on shared experience to support efficient regulatory processes and oversight in this tier one mining jurisdiction.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- B.C.'s interests are focused on advancing priority major mining projects through efficient decision-making and permitting processes; establishing a long-term reconciliation path over areas with high mineral and mining potential; and supporting prospects for responsible mining expansion.
- The Section 7 agreements enable consent-based decision-making on environmental assessment (EA) processes and have set a foundation for consent-based decision-making agreements on EAs across the province.
- Investors rely on predictability provided by B.C.-Tahltan relationship to make final investment decisions (FID).
 - Eskay, Red Chris and Galore Projects are moving toward FID in 1-5 years and represent a combined capital expenditure of Intergovernmental and approximately 3,500 jobs.
- Intergovernmental Communications

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
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Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

Placer and Jade Mining in B.C.

KEY MESSAGES:

- The cumulative impacts of jade mining in Northwest British Columbia (B.C.) have caused harmful effects to sensitive alpine environments and created regulatory challenges for permitting, compliance and enforcement.
- First Nations have repeatedly identified jade mining as being inconsistent with their environmental and cultural values.
- In response, the Province established an Order in Council (OIC) under section 7 of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, prohibiting jade mining on new tenures in Northwest B.C., while allowing existing tenure holders to continue jade mining for five years (jade transition period), under enhanced reclamation requirements.
- The OIC does not impact other mining operations in the Northwest region and does not affect jade mining in other areas of B.C.
- Ministry staff have worked collaboratively with jade operators and First Nations in developing guidance on the enhanced reclamation requirements.
- Existing operators within the OIC boundary can continue to submit Notice of Work (NoW) applications pertaining to jade throughout the jade transition period.
- Regional Operations is currently processing four NoW applications pertaining to jade for the 2025 field season.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On May 11, 2020, the Province enacted OIC 234/2020, deferring placer jade permitting decisions in Northern B.C. for 24 months. This OIC was later repealed and replaced with OIC 409/2021, that applied to both placer jade and hard-rock jade, and was extended under OIC 289/2023 until May 11, 2024.
- On May 10, 2024, the Province enacted OIC 242/2024, establishing the five-year transition period for jade mining in Northwest B.C.
- The OIC ensures that environmental impacts can be addressed while existing tenure holders listed in the OIC continue mining for five years and have been given adequate time to wind down operations.
- Based on Ministry analysis, the jade sector generated approximately \$1,750,000 in annual gross revenue and provided approximately 50 - 60 seasonal jobs prior to the OIC in 2020.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Jade mining sector annual averages:
 - \$3.4M in jade sector revenues and inventory
 - \$1.26M in direct wages paid
 - \$120K in payments to government

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
Viva Wolf, SIPD	250 893-5681

Site Liabilities and Reclamation Security

KEY MESSAGES:

- Since 1969, mining companies have been required by law (Mines Act) to reclaim all lands disturbed by mining.
- The Province requires mining companies to provide reclamation security to ensure that any remaining reclamation and closure activities can be implemented in the event the company defaults on its obligation to reclaim.
- Besides the liability associated with physically reclaiming a mine site, long-term water treatment requirements are the single biggest contributor to a site's Reclamation Liability Cost Estimate (RLCE).
- The required information for RLCEs is outlined in the Major Mine Reclamation Security Policy (the Policy), which was released in April 2022.
- In 2024, to provide more certainty for industry on the RLCE requirements including in the Policy, the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) developed and released the Major Mine RLCE Guidance, which provides a detailed set of information requirements for the development of RLCEs.
- As of March 31, 2024, the Province has secured \$4.97B of the \$5.40B of known liability for major mines, a gap of 8 percent and a 53% improvement since 2016.
- The Province continuously works to improve how it manages reclamation securities for major mines.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Reclamation and Closure Requirements:

- What is considered effective reclamation of mine sites evolves in lockstep with the science, professional best practices, and the continued integration of Indigenous knowledge and concerns.
- MCM periodically updates its reclamation requirements to respond to the evolution of the profession.
- For a mine owner to be released from obligations under the *Mines Act*, they must complete all required reclamation, monitor and demonstrate that the reclamation has been successful and sustainable, demonstrate that it is not a source of impact to the receiving environment water quality, and ensure that all facilities (pits, tailings storage facilities, waste rock dumps, etc.) are stable to the point they no longer require monitoring and maintenance.

Mine Liabilities:

- The Province requires mining companies to provide sufficient reclamation security to ensure that the remaining reclamation and closure activities can be implemented in the event the company is unable to fulfil its requirements.
- MCM and ENV have a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding, whereby, MCM assesses and secures the liabilities associated with discharge permits, issued under the Environmental Management Act, for major mines.
- The Province calculates the required reclamation security by requiring companies to provide an RLCE for all activities needed to complete reclamation of their sites in compliance with all regulatory approvals. Updated RLCEs must be provided a minimum of every five years as part of the Reclamation and Closure Plan Updates and with any substantial permit amendment applications.
- Besides the liability associated with physically reclaiming the mine site, long-term water treatment requirements represent the single biggest contributor to a site's RLCE.
- The required information for RLCEs is outlined in the Major Mine Reclamation Security Policy (the Policy), which was released in April 2022. The Policy was developed through substantial internal work to review securities practices and significant consultation with Indigenous groups, environmental organizations, and industry.
- In 2024, to provide more certainty for industry on the RLCE requirements including in the Policy, MCM and ENV developed and released the Major Mine RLCE Guidance, which provides a detailed set of information requirements for the development of RLCEs.
- RLCE reviews are included in amendment application review processes, which include consultation and participation by First Nations. To balance First Nations' interests with the need for confidentiality for some company cost estimates, MCM introduced new requirements on RLCE transparency in April 2024.

Reclamation Securities:

- The total amount of reclamation securities held by the Province for both major and regional mines has risen from \$10M in 1984 to approximately \$3.94B as of March 2024.
- An additional \$1.02B has also been secured through required payment schedules in some major mine permits that are tied to site-specific activities.
- Since 2016, the Province has significantly closed the gap between known liabilities and the amount secured for major mines. As of March 31, 2024, the Province has secured \$4.97B of the \$5.40B of known liability for major mines, a gap of 8%. In 2016 that gap was 60%.
- The Province is continuously working to improve how it manages reclamation securities for major mines.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

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Mineral Tax Revenue Forecast/Revenue Sharing with First Nations

KEY MESSAGES:

- Mineral tax revenue depends on the level of mineral production in British Columbia's (B.C.; the Province) mining sector along with commodity prices. Mineral tax revenues are mainly supported by coal, copper, and gold sales in the Province.
- After reaching record highs in 2022, prices for metallurgical coal cooled off in 2023 and 2024 as global demand for steel slowed following the surge in demand observed during the post-pandemic recovery.
- With lower coal prices, the Ministry of Finance (FIN) cautiously forecasts total mineral tax revenues to decrease from approximately \$497 million in 2023/24 to \$303 million in 2024/25.
- Up to 37.5 percent of incremental mineral tax is shared with First Nations (FN) with \$139 million shared in 2023/24. Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Economic Community Development Agreements (ECDA) representing 56 individual mineral tax revenue streams have been signed with 50 FNs and further are underway or planned.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) is currently evaluating revenue sharing policy improvements as part of the New Fiscal Relationship with Indigenous nations.
- The Province remains committed to continuing this important work in a way that responds to the current pressures while meeting our commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

B.C. Mineral Tax

- The mineral tax is a profit-based tax payable by the mines and quarries operating in B.C. The tax was enacted in 1990 within the *Mineral Tax Act*.
- The program applies a tax on prescribed commodities:
 - Coal (approximately 70 percent of forecasted revenue) - Metallurgical, Thermal, Pulverized Coal Injection (PCI)
 - Base and Precious Metals (approximately 29 percent of revenue) – Copper, Molybdenum, Zinc, Gold and Silver

- Other (less than 1 percent) – Industrial Minerals, Gemstones, rare elements and dimension stones
- The Mineral Tax Revenue projections are based on forecasted commodity prices, various economic indicators and knowledge of the industry. The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) is responsible for providing commodity price forecasts while the Ministry of Finance (FIN) is responsible for the Mineral Tax Revenue projections. See Appendix 1 for MCMs 2024 commodity price forecasts.
- There are two tiers of mineral tax:
 - The lower tier is called the Net Current Proceeds tax, calculated at 2 percent of operating cash flows (i.e., revenues plus recoveries minus operating expenditures for the period). This tax is paid before recovery of all operating and capital costs and other deductions.
 - The higher tier is called the Net Revenue Tax, calculated at 13 percent of profits over the life of the mine (i.e., cumulative revenue minus cumulative operating and capital costs and other tax-related deductions). The higher net revenue tax is only paid after recovery of all operating and capital costs and other deductions.

Mineral Tax Revenue Sharing

- In 2008, B.C. became the first province in Canada to introduce a policy to share direct provincial mineral tax revenue from new and expanded mines with FNs.
- ECDAs secure support for mining projects, increase process certainty for the Province, FNs, and industry, and reduce litigation risks for the life of the agreement. See Appendix 2 for a list of active ECDAs.
- MIRR leads the negotiation of ECDAs, and FNs receive a percentage of up to 37.5 percent of incremental mineral tax revenue from mine developments in FNs traditional territories.
- The Province's ECDA's represent 56 individual mineral tax revenue sharing streams to FNs which cover 27 metal and coal mines in B.C.
- In August 2024 an ECDA was signed with the Nisga'a Nation for the Premier Gold mine near Stewart. The mine is anticipated to begin operations in 2025.
- Other agreements, including those for Fireside Barite, Cariboo Gold, and Elk Gold, with further negotiations, are planned for the near future.
- MIRR is currently evaluating revenue sharing policy improvements as part of the New Fiscal Relationship with Indigenous nations.
 - While the focus of this work is currently on the forestry sector, the revenue sharing principals established will be used to inform a subsequent evaluation for mining and could result in modifications to the ECDA program.

- The fiscal and economic context has changed significantly since the co-development process began over two years ago.
- First Nations have been clear that the projects that will help us diversify the economy need to be developed in partnership and include principled revenue sharing frameworks that support both Indigenous and Provincial governments.
- Enabling FN support and partnership through revenue sharing and capacity building has been identified as a key to success for the B.C. Critical Mineral strategy.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1 – MCM 2024 Commodity Price Forecast
- Intergovernmental Communications

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Appendix 1 – MCM 2024 Commodity Price Forecast:

	Actual 23/24	Forecast (as of Jan 2024) 24/25
Metal Prices (US\$)		
Copper (\$/lb)	3.79	4.25
Lead (\$/lb)	0.96	0.94
Zinc (\$/lb)	1.12	1.31
Molybdenum (\$/lb)	20.96	21.43
Gold (\$/oz)	1,987	2,536
Silver (\$/oz)	23.56	30.26
Coal Contract Prices (US\$/mt)		
Metallurgical Coal	282	248
Low Vol PCI Coal	221	190
Thermal Coal	201	143
Mineral Tax (\$'000s)		
Metals	39,798	89,275
Coal	457,485	213,506
Total	497,283	302,781

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as
Intergovernmental Communications

Page 088 of 232

Withheld pursuant to/removed as
Intergovernmental Communications

Mining Exploration Tax Incentive Programs

KEY MESSAGES:

- British Columbia's (B.C.) mineral exploration incentive programs include the B.C. Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (MFTS) and the B.C. Mining Exploration Tax Credit (METC).
- Both programs are designed to encourage investment in mineral exploration, which is a critical part of discovering new mineral deposits that can lead to the development of new mines throughout the Province.
- The cost of these incentives to government is a fraction of the mineral exploration investment dollars driven by these programs (Appendix 1), and this investment is an important economic driver in rural B.C.
- The MFTS and the METC programs are highly competitive nationally and were made permanent in 2019 as recommended by the Mining Jobs Task Force.
- As an action within the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy, the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) is completing a Fiscal Environment Assessment to assess the competitiveness of B.C.'s mineral exploration sector against other 'competitor' jurisdictions, which will include existing provincial programs such as the MFTS and METC.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Provincial Exploration Tax Incentives

- The MFTS provides a 20 percent non-refundable tax credit to individuals who invest in flow-through shares associated with B.C. flow-through mining expenditures. The MFTS is harmonized with the federal Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for flow-through shares, making the cost of qualifying flow-through share exploration expenditures in B.C. among the lowest in Canada.
- The METC is a refundable tax credit equal to 20 percent of non-flow-through funded, eligible B.C. grassroots mineral exploration expenditures incurred after July 31, 1998. In Mountain Pine Beetle-affected areas, the METC has been increased by 10 percent to 30 percent for eligible exploration.
- The MFTS and METC were made permanent as part of BC's 2019 budget. The credits had previously been renewed on an annual basis.
- Over the past five years (FY19/20 to 23/24), the METC and MFTS have been estimated to cost the Province an average of \$74 million annually (approximately \$75 million for 22/23 and \$138 million for 23/24).

- B.C. had the third highest mineral exploration and deposit appraisal expenditures in Canada in 2023 at \$781 million. Ontario (\$976 million) and Quebec (\$949 million) both had higher expenditures than B.C. in 2023.
- Both Quebec and Ontario have tax incentives for flow-through share investors while Quebec offers an additional tax incentive program similar to B.C.'s METC program (Appendix 2).
- During Budget 2023 consultations, the Association for Mineral Exploration advocated for modest increases to the METC and the MFTS so that B.C. would have the most competitive exploration tax incentives in Canada.
- Competitor jurisdictions continue to maintain competitive programs to attract investment in critical minerals exploration. For example, Saskatchewan continues to provide expanded funding for its Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive Program. Other jurisdictions including Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland continue to offer exploration incentive programs to encourage investment in critical mineral exploration (Appendix 3).
- In summer 2024, MCM commenced a Fiscal Environment Assessment to assess the competitiveness of B.C.'s mineral exploration sector against other 'competitor' jurisdictions, with a lens on targeted incentive programs that could bolster all investment stages of the exploration lifecycle.

Federal Exploration Tax Incentives

- The federal Flow-Through Shares program allows companies to flow qualifying Canadian Exploration Expenses through to investors who can then deduct those expenses from otherwise taxable income. This encourages exploration by reducing the amount of funds the investor has at risk.
- The federal Mineral Exploration Tax Credit is a non-refundable, 15 percent tax credit for grassroots exploration expenses pursuant to a Flow-Through Share Agreement. In Marh 2025, the federal government announced that it would extend its METC credit for two years. The credit was set to expire on March 31, 2025 and had previously been renewed for 5 years.
- In April 2022, a new Federal Critical Mineral Exploration Tax Credit was announced. This credit is a non-refundable, 30 percent tax credit for grassroots exploration expenses in respect of critical minerals pursuant to a Flow-Through Share Agreement. The credit is eligible for agreements entered after April 2022 and before March 2027.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

• **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Appendix 1 – Costs of BC’s Exploration Tax Incentive Programs Relative to Minerals Exploration Expenditures
- Appendix 2 – Exploration Tax Incentives in Canada
- Appendix 3 – Examples of Critical Mineral Programs in Canada
- Appendix 4 – Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditures in Canada, 2019-2024, \$M

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

**Appendix 1 – Costs of BC’s Exploration Tax Incentive Programs Relative to Minerals
Exploration Expenditures**

Fiscal Year	B.C. Mining Exploration Tax Credit Cost (\$M)	B.C. Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit Cost (\$M)	Total Mining Exploration Tax Credit Costs (\$M)	B.C. Mineral Exploration Expenditures (\$M)*
2024/25 (Planned Cost)	40	40	80	552
2023/24 (Estimated Cost)	98	40	138	644
2022/23	35	40	75	740
2021/22	28	25	53	660
2020/21	29	20	49	423
2019/20	36	20	56	330

* Based on Calendar Year

Appendix 2 – Exploration Tax Incentives in Canada

Jurisdiction	Incentive	Rate
B.C.	Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (non-refundable)	20 percent
	B.C. Mining Exploration Tax Credit (refundable)	20 percent to 30 percent (Mountain Pine Beetle-affected areas)
Ontario	Ontario Focused Flow-Through Share Tax Credit (refundable)	5 percent
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (non-refundable)	30 percent
	Fuel Tax Rebate – Mineral Exploration	Full fuel tax rebate on fuel used in unlicensed machinery and equipment used in mineral exploration.
	Drilling Services PST Exemption	PST exemption applies to drilling services related to mineral exploration/
	PST Remission for Mineral Exploration	PST exemption applies to equipment used exclusively for mining exploration or geophysical surveys.
Manitoba	Manitoba Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (non-refundable)	30 percent
	Sales Tax Exemption	PST exemption applies to geophysical survey and exploration equipment (other than a drill rig).
Quebec	Tax Credit Relating to Resources (operators) (refundable)	12 percent 18.75 percent (Near and Far North)
	Tax Credit Relating to Resources (explorers) (refundable)	28 percent 38.75 percent (Near and Far North)
	Flow-Through Share deductions	Up to and additional 20 percent above the basic 100 percent deduction

Appendix 3 – Examples of Critical Mineral Programs in Canada

Jurisdiction	Program	Description
Ontario	Ontario Junior Exploration Program (OJEP)	Eligible junior mining companies can receive: • up to \$200,000 per project to cover 50 percent of eligible costs • up to \$10,000 to cover 100 percent of eligible costs per project supporting Indigenous employment and business opportunities OJEP is providing a \$4 million critical minerals stream allocation in 2024/2025.
	Critical Minerals Innovation Fund (CMIF)	The CMIF provides a maximum of 50 percent of eligible project costs, up to \$500,000 per project, for projects that supports research and development and increases critical minerals exploration, mining, development, production and processing.
Saskatchewan	Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive (TMEI)	Starting in 2023-24, funding for the TMEI program has increased from \$750,000 to \$4 million annually and has expanded to include all hard-rock mineral exploration projects at any location throughout the province. Eligible companies can receive a grant of 25 percent of direct drilling costs up to \$50,000 per year for uranium drilling; or up to \$150,000 per year for all other hard rock mineral projects.
Quebec	NQ Investissement Minier (NQIM)	NQIM is a regional institutional fund that will invest primarily in mineral exploration companies to encourage regional participation in mining investments that supports Quebec's Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals and regional socio-economic development. The initial investment in the new limited partnership will be \$17 million in shares and cash.
Newfoundland	Critical Mineral Assistance (CMA)	Critical Mineral Assistance (CMA) funding will be provided as part of the province's Junior Exploration Assistance Program. It includes an annual budget of \$1.3 million to provide focused assistance for projects exploring for critical minerals.

Appendix 4 – Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditures in Canada, 2019-2024, \$M

Jurisdiction	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
B.C.	388.7	513.5	898.1	996.8	781.3
Quebec	503.2	534.0	987.6	913.8	949.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	50.3	74.3	169.3	267.4	230.2
Nova Scotia	37.9	26.3	50.2	28.6	49
New Brunswick	12.7	14.1	27	24	16.3
Ontario	523.2	566.2	896.7	1,087	976.4
Manitoba	77.5	61.7	99.2	190.6	179.9
Saskatchewan	277.5	158.5	281.1	355.5	433.6
Alberta	53.2	46.6	20.8	18.6	38.1
Yukon	166.2	83.6	153.9	186.8	184.8
Northwest Territories	79.8	41.9	75.4	107	138.6
Nunavut	116.4	70.7	119.1	255.4	236.2

Source: Natural Resources Canada, from the federal-provincial/territorial Survey of Mineral Exploration, Deposit Appraisal and Mine Complex Development Expenditures.

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2024 Major Approvals

KEY MESSAGES:

- In 2024/25, three new or closed, existing, mines were permitted by the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals; they are Cariboo Gold, Dome Mountain, and Quintette.
- Additionally, the Blackwater mine that was permitted in 2023 continued to advance construction activities with plans for full production in 2025.
- When these sites come into production, they will represent four newly operating mines in British Columbia (B.C.).
- Additionally, an exploration-related bulk sample was permitted for the Eskay Creek Mine that represents two-years of substantial activity at the currently closed site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Cariboo Gold Project

- Cariboo Gold Project is a proposed underground gold mine owned by Osisko Development Corp. (ODV) and located adjacent to Wells, B.C. The site encompasses the existing Bonanza Ledge, Mosquito Creek, and QR Mines.
- The project will have an operating life of 12 years and is anticipated to produce 16.7 million tonnes of ore and employ 488 full-time employees during operations, and 634 full-time employees during the construction phase.
- ODV was issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) on October 10, 2023, *Mines Act* (MA) permits on November 20, 2024, and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) Effluent Discharge permits on December 11, 2024.
- The EAC process took a total of 3.5 years, and the MA/EMA process took 13 months, for a total of just over 4.5 years to authorize the new mine.

Dome Mountain

- Dome Mountain is an underground gold mine, owned by Blue Lagoon Resources, located 66km east of Smithers, B.C. The site has been in Care and Maintenance since 2012.
- The mine is expected to produce approximately 75,000oz of gold over the five-year life of mine and will create 17 full-time jobs. It's estimated capital costs will be \$35 million.
- The company plans to finish preparatory work, including installing a water treatment facility, to conduct further drilling to expand and improve the resource in Spring 2025, and is expected to enter production in July 2025.

- A permit was issued approving renewed mining activities in January 2025.

Quintette

- Quintette is an open-pit coal mine, owned by Conuma Resources Ltd. (Conuma), located near Tumbler Ridge, B.C., that has been in Care and Maintenance since 2000.
- Conuma purchased the site from Teck Coal Ltd. In February 2023. Due to substantial gaps in their Full Restart Application identified in October 2023, Conuma pivoted to a limited restart of mining in the Little Windy Pit. An application was submitted in May 2024.
- The limited restart included mining a portion of the existing Little Windy Pit and processing of the coal on site. It is expected mining would occur over two years.
- The site is estimated to employ approximately 400 full-time staff, the majority of whom transitioned from the Wolverine Mine when mining operations ceased in May 2024.
- A permit was issued approving the Little Windy Pit mining in September 2024.

Eskay Creek – Bulk Technical Sample

- The Eskay Creek mine, owned by Skeena Gold & Silver (Skeena), is an historic underground gold/silver mine located 83 km northwest of Stewart, B.C. The site operated between 1994 to 2008.
- The proposed Bulk Technical sample includes the open-pit mining of 35,000 tonnes of ore that will occur over a two-year period, which will be used to support refinement of the proposed, larger, Revitalization Project.
- Skeena has estimated that approximately 1,200 temporary jobs will be created to support construction activities related to Technical Bulk Sample.
- Limited early works construction for the Technical Bulk Sample was permitted in July 2024 and the full mine plan was permitted in December 2024.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

MINISTRY OF MINING
and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

SECTION E:
SAND AND GRAVEL / QUARRIES

Section E Contents:

- Overview of Regional Operations
- Record Ridge Magnesium Mine
- Garnet Valley Pit
- Cemetery Pit
- Hawkins Pickle Pit
- Ruddock Creek

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Overview of Regional Operations

KEY MESSAGES:

- Mineral and coal exploration, placer and jade, aggregate and rock quarry *Mines Act* permits are managed by regional offices of the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) located in Victoria, Kamloops, Cranbrook, Prince George, and Smithers.
- MCM continues to work with industry associations to reduce permitting backlogs and review timelines for Notice of Work (NoW) applications.
- MCM has made improvements to application forms and has provided guidance to assist operators in submitting high quality applications.
- MCM introduced a permit intake window (batching) process in the fall of 2022, for mineral exploration files. This process provides a scheduled approach to permit reviews and provides operators with more predictability with respect to when their applications will be reviewed
- Since 2022, the backlog has been reduced by 52%
- MCM is aiming to eliminate the backlog in exploration permits by July, 2025.
- In 2024 average turnaround times for Exploration permits was 145 days (excluding client delay) and 167 days for Sand and Gravel permits (excluding client delay)
- MCM continues to work with First Nations partners to establish more predictable and efficient approaches to consultation for NoWs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

2022-2024 Regional Operations Permitting Overview:

Year	Applications Received	Decisions Made*
2022	409	478
2023	397	412
2024	292	345

*may include applications already in the queue from previous year

2022-2024 Applications Received- Regional Operations Permitting

Application Type	MX	S&G	Placer	Quarry	CX	Total
2022	183	71	109	45	1	409
2023	154	91	120	29	3	397
2024	135	60	73	22	2	292

2022-2024 Decisions Made - Regional Operations Permitting

Application Type	MX	S&G	Placer	Quarry	CX	Total
2022	203	99	147	29	0	478
2023	167	93	113	37	2	412
2024	139	91	74	37	4	345

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – AMEBC Report – 17 March 2025

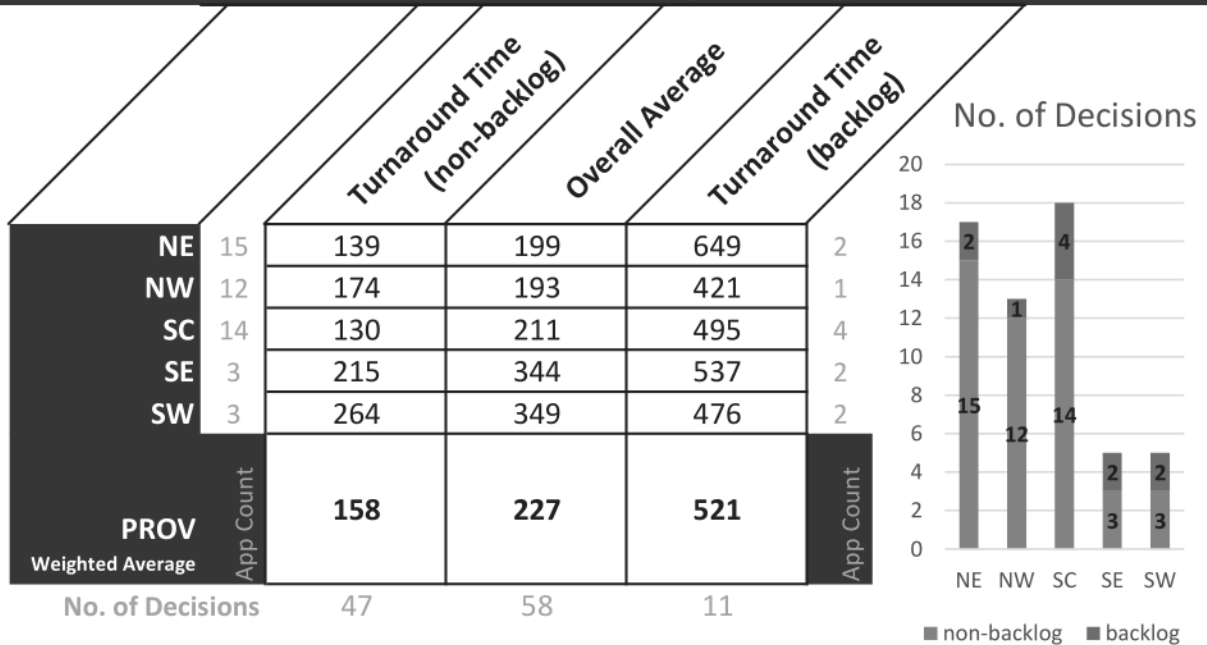
ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Regional Mines Permitting Report

Mineral Exploration

Average Turnaround Time Sep 2024 to Feb 2025

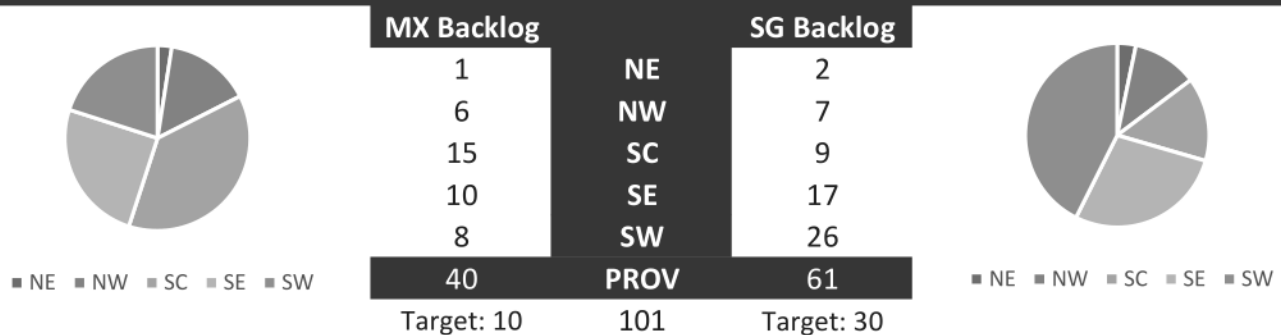
Net Duration (Total Duration minus Proponent Delay)



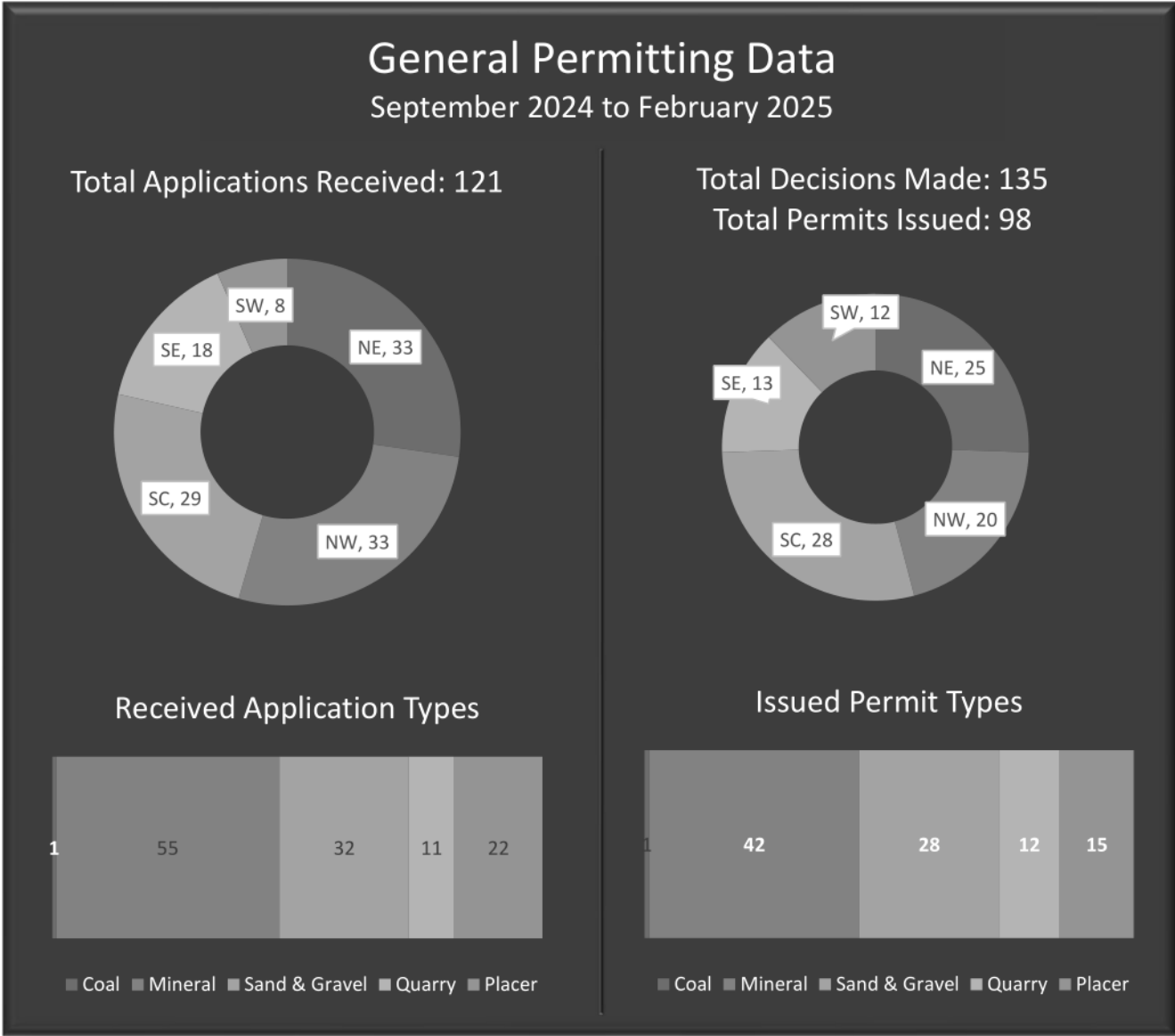
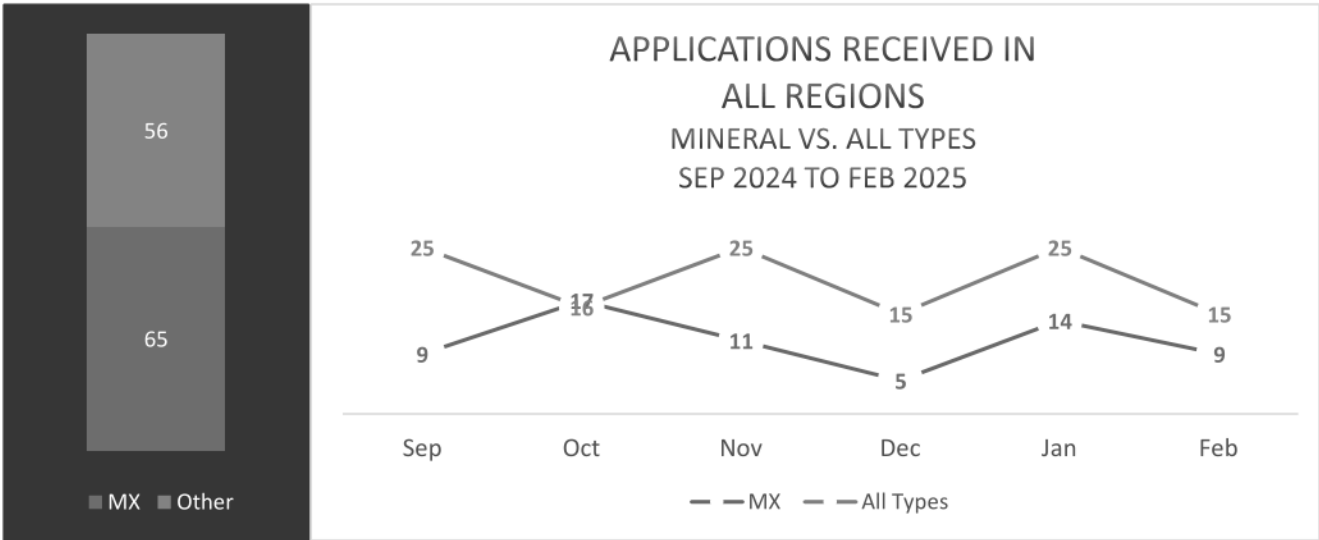
Mineral and Sand & Gravel Backlog

Count of Current Applications over 365 days

Net Duration (Total Duration minus Proponent Delay)



Data Date: Mar 11, 2025



Record Ridge Magnesium Mine

KEY MESSAGES:

- An application for the proposed Record Ridge Magnesium Mine (critical mineral) was first submitted to the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) in 2018 and has undergone multiple iterations.
- The Environmental Assessment Office reviewed the project proposal and determined that the project would be classified as a mineral mine; in response, the proponent reduced their proposed production capacity to stay below the threshold for an Environmental Assessment.
- The project has received significant opposition from the community, due to its proximity to a popular recreational area.
- A Mine Development Review Committee with broad representation from MCM, other provincial and federal agencies, First Nations, local government, and technical experts, was established to conduct a comprehensive review of the proposed project
- The application is posted for public review on the B.C. Mine Information Website
- The review is nearing completion and a referral for decision on the file is expected in late April.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- First Nations consultation has included the Ktunaxa Nation Council, Yaqan Nu?kiy, Shuswap, Splatshin, Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), Okanagan Nation Alliance, and Sinixt.
- The Record Ridge project proponent, West High Yield Resources Ltd. (WHY), and OIB have signed a cooperation agreement.
- WHY also signed a Letter of Intent with Skemxist Solutions, an OIB-led Limited Partnership to provide road construction and other services for the project.
- In March 2025, Canada's Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund announced \$49,952 funding for OIB to undertake a community consultation process for the Record Ridge project access road.
- The current access road, the Old Cascade Highway, is steep and narrow and may not be suitable for ore trucks.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

- Community concerns regarding the Record Ridge project relate to environment, the popularity of the area for mountain biking, hiking and skiing, land use and transportation, and potential impacts on tourism.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Garnet Valley Sand & Gravel Pit

KEY MESSAGES:

- On July 9, 2024 the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) approved a permit application for the proposed Garnet Valley Sand and Gravel Pit, located on private land, in Summerland, British Columbia (B.C.).
- This decision raised concerns among nearby residents in the Garnet Valley area, the local government, and Penticton Indian Band, all of whom had written letters opposing the project during the public consultation period.
- The primary concerns were related to land use, environmental values, geotechnical issues, and traffic and safety on the Garnet Valley Road.
- The Ministry addressed these concerns in the *Reasons for Decision* document that was shared with interested parties.
- The District of Summerland met with the former Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, Honourable Josie Osborne, at the Union of BC Municipalities convention, during which the Minister was asked to over-turn the permitting decision.
- Ministry staff (Executive Director of Regional Operations, Chief Permitting Officer, and Regional Director) attended a meeting with the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer of Summerland to discuss the permitting process on September 25th, 2024.
- On January 31, 2025, a petition under the *Judicial Review Procedure Act* was filed to the Supreme Court of B.C. by the Garnet Valley Agro-Tourism Society, to challenge the permit decision.
- The matter is now before the courts.
- Advice/Recommendations; Legal Information

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- No Additional Information

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

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Cemetery Pit

KEY MESSAGES:

- Cemetery Pit is an aggregate mine in Hope, B.C. applying to expand operations from 30,000 tonnes/year to 215,000 tonnes/year.
- The application is currently open for public comment.
- The most controversial portion of the application has been the transportation route to and from the aggregate site.
- Nearby residents are concerned about extra truck traffic and associated noise, dust, and safety.
- The current access route to the site has been along Kakwa Lake Road, which is a residential street and the residents along this road have been very vocal in asking for the route to the aggregate site to be relocated away from their street.
- Executive Director, Regional Operations and a Senior Inspector of Mines met with residents of Kettle Valley Road in Hope, on March 20, 2024.
- In response, the proponent has proposed to develop a new road, privately owned by the proponent
- However, residents along other streets are now opposed to the proposed route and extra truck traffic from the pit expansion.
- The application is currently going through consultation with 15 First Nations.
- MLA Tony Luck held a Town Hall meeting on the proposal on February 21, 2025.
- The application is under review by the Statutory Decision Maker under the *Mines Act*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Not applicable

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

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Hawkins Pickle Pit

KEY MESSAGES:

- Hawkins Pickle Pit is a proposed sand and gravel pit and quarry located in Deroche, B.C. The original application was submitted in August 2022.
- The gravel portion is located on a flood plain of Norrish Creek near the confluence with Nicomen Slough.
- There is public concern related to protection of salmon fish and habitat in lower tributaries of Norrish Creek.
- A public comment period that initially was to end in September 2024 has been kept open.
- The application was referred to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada for review, which has been completed.
- The application is currently being consulted on with six First Nations:
 - Kwantlen
 - Leq'a:mel
 - Matsqui
 - Peters
 - Semiahmoo
 - People of the River (PRRO)
- A permitting decision is expected towards the end of April 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Not applicable

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk	250 818-6426

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Ruddock Creek

KEY MESSAGES:

- Ruddock Creek is a proposed zinc/lead exploration project with underground workings, located approximately 90km northeast of Vavenby and accessed via a Forest Service Road.
- An amendment application was submitted for the Ruddock Creek Project by Imperial Metals in 2022.
- The ministry's technical reviewers identified significant deficiencies in the application and the proponent has been working to address the deficiencies.
- The company has resubmitted information (on Feb. 18th) in response to MCM feedback and the most recent technical submissions are under review by the ministry's geotechnical specialists to ensure that Code requirements are being met.
- Consultation with First Nations has been paused until the technical issues in the design have been resolved.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- The company has expressed concerns that the Forest Service Road that provides access to the mine site is planned to be decommissioned by the Ministry of Forests.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tejindar Parhar, EL, Mining Regulatory Reform	250-216-4716



MINISTRY OF MINING and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

SECTION F: EXPLORATION

Section F Contents:

- Mining and Mineral Exploration in B.C.
- British Columbia Geological Survey
- Geoscience BC
- Exploration Projects in B.C.
- FPX / Baptiste Exploration

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Mining and Mineral Exploration in BC

KEY MESSAGES:

- Mineral exploration expenditure in the province was \$552.1 million in 2024, marking the second year of declines since its historical high in 2022 (Appendix 1).
- These declines are being driven primarily by global macroeconomic conditions as well as the cyclical nature of the exploration industry, as B.C.'s flagship projects mature out of the exploration phase and approach operation.
- \$348 million was spent in the Northwest Region (the Golden Triangle), which is 63 % of British Columbia's (B.C.) total exploration expenditure.
- Currently, there are six active coal mines and nine metal mines, approximately 30 industrial mineral mines, and over 1000 aggregate pits/quarries operating in B.C.
- B.C.'s mineral production value is forecasted at approximately \$16.5 billion for 2024, a slight increase from 2023 actuals of \$16.4 billion.
- Mining, mineral exploration and related sectors provide well-paying direct jobs for approximately 40,000 British Columbians.
- Over 650 publicly traded exploration and mining companies are headquartered in B.C.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The goal of exploration is to locate large, high-grade mineral and coal reserves with minimal disturbance to the ground and the environment.
- Exploration projects result in benefits for nearby communities, particularly rural and First Nations communities, as many mineral and coal deposits are found in remote areas of B.C. The industry also provides thousands of spin-off jobs and business opportunities for suppliers and service providers located close to project sites.
- 2024's Exploration Survey found that total metal, industrial mineral, and coal expenditures are estimated at \$552.1 million, which is down \$91.4 million from 2023 and down \$188.3 million from the record 2022 survey total of \$740.4 million. Of this, \$38.2 million was from coal projects and \$513.9 million was from metal and other projects.
- According to the survey, grassroots expenditures, such as prospecting, sampling and airborne geophysics, saw the most substantial decrease, from 11% of total expenditures in 2023 to 4.5%, or \$25 million, in 2024.
- There was an observed downturn in spending in B.C.'s copper and gold exploration in 2024, with copper dropping 28% (from \$244M to \$175M) and gold dropping 25% (from \$326M to \$249M).

- However, other commodities, such as silver, metallurgical coal, industrial minerals (gypsum and limestone) and non-copper critical minerals all saw respective increases in expenditures in 2024 (see Appendix B for summary).
- According to the most recent forecasts from the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), B.C. mines produced approximately \$16.5 billion worth of commodities in 2024, which would be the 2nd highest amount on record for the province but just short of the \$17.5 billion produced in 2022. The decrease can mostly be attributed to a decline in metallurgical coal prices which was anticipated given record prices observed in 2022.
- According to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), B.C.'s share of Canadian mineral resource development investments decreased from 16.7 percent in 2022 to 16.5 percent in 2023 and this percentage is anticipated to remain similar for 2024 based on NRCan's preliminary spending estimates.
 - Preliminary spending estimates show a 5.0% increase in Saskatchewan's share of Canadian mineral resource development investment in 2024 driven by construction of the world's largest potash mine, which is keeping BC's share of investment in check.
- Preliminary spending estimates published by NRCan show that mine development investment in BC decreased slightly in 2024. Final NRCan numbers for 2024 have not yet been released.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

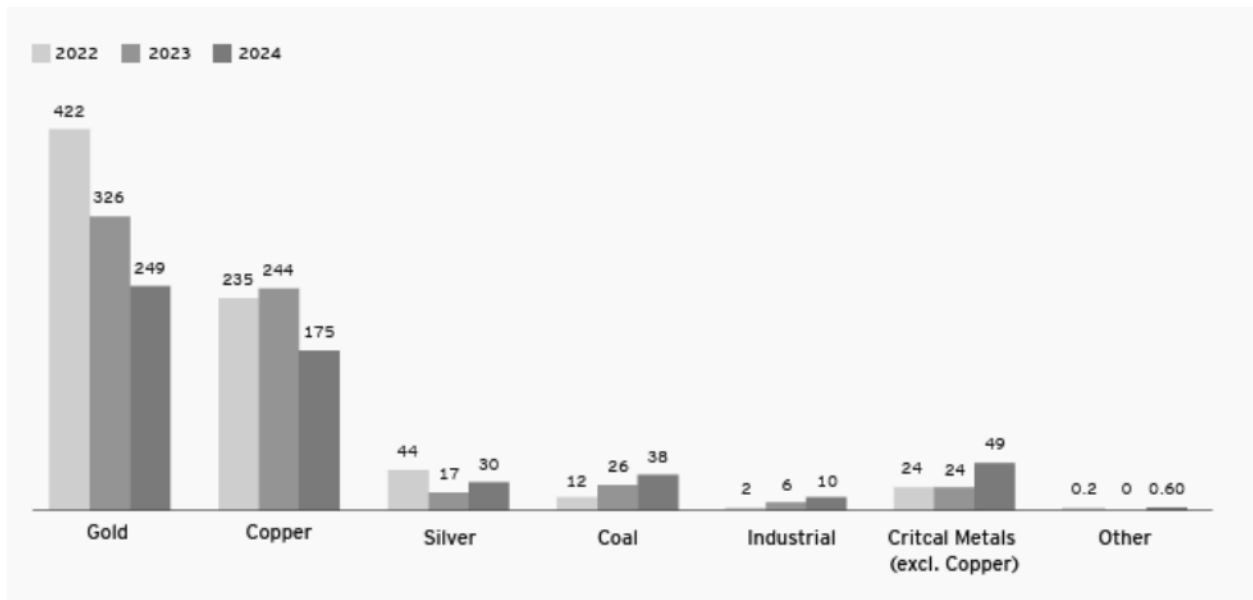
- Appendix 1 – Mineral Exploration Expenditures 2015-2024
- Appendix 2: Annual Exploration Expenditure by Commodity (2022-24 (C\$m))

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	251 818-6426

Appendix 1 – Mineral Exploration Expenditures 2015-2024

Year	BC Mineral Exploration Expenditures (CAD \$M)
2014	338.0
2015	272.0
2016	205.0
2017	246.6
2018	331.4
2019	329.5
2020	422.7
2021	659.8
2022	740.4
2023	643.5
2024	552.1

Appendix 2: Annual Exploration Expenditure by Commodity (2022-24 (C\$m))



B.C. Geological Survey

KEY MESSAGES:

- The British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS) develops, disseminates, and acts as the custodian for British Columbia's (B.C.) geoscience information.
- Over 4 years, starting in FY22/23, Government is investing \$3.5M into BCGS to advance critical mineral geoscience.
- BCGS continues to support economic development in rural B.C. as public geoscience attracts investment. According to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), every \$1 provided to public geoscience typically results in \$7 of private sector investment.
- BCGS is a Canadian leader in delivering digital geoscience that supports innovative mineral potential assessment, essential information for land use decisions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- BCGS is a branch of the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) with in-house staff geoscientists that carrying out geological field surveys and publishing the resulting maps, data, and reports.
- BCGS provides geoscience expertise to support Government's objectives of responsible resource development and job creation.
- BCGS also monitors industry activity, connects investment to B.C.'s mineral resources and provides sector intelligence through the Mineral Development Office in Vancouver.
- Over the last 5 years, BCGS has published or contributed to more than 170 scientific reports, maps, and datasets, including the 2023 B.C. Critical Mineral Atlas, that are advancing the knowledge around critical mineral opportunities in B.C.
- Through the additional resources provided by government for critical mineral geoscience, BCGS has levered more than \$4M in external resources through Geological Survey of Canada and partnerships with Canadian universities and National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada.
- The public geoscience work that BCGS does is an economic stimulant, and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) notes that every \$1 provided to public geoscience is expected to bring \$5 of private sector investment. According to a recent NRCan evaluation, the return is >\$7 and audits of several Australian public geoscience programs have realized >\$20 return on public geoscience funding.

- BCGS's key roles are to:
 - Advise government on the province's minerals resources;
 - Create, maintain and deliver geoscience knowledge for informed decisions;
 - Attract investment to explore B.C. for new mineral and coal resources;
 - Act as the public steward of mineral resources information;
 - Track the economic health of mineral exploration and the mining sector; and,
 - Provide mineral potential assessments that ensure mining interests are included in land management strategies and negotiations.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Geoscience BC

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) recognizes the contributions of Geoscience BC (GBC).
- GBC research areas align with priorities of Government. These include carbon capture and storage (CCS), water and low/zero emission energy (e.g., hydrogen, geothermal and natural gas) as well as extracting critical minerals from mine tailings.
- The sustainable, long-term viability of GBC remains an issue that government takes seriously and the Province encourages GBC to continue to develop a sustainable funding model that does not require the Province to provide base funding.
- Government's current fiscal position will make it challenging to offer significant and long-term funding commitments to GBC.
- The British Columbia Geological Survey will continue to be a key provider of public geoscience resources for government, the mining sector, Indigenous Groups, and the general public.
- MCM has refocussed on advancing minerals geoscience through the BCGS over external grant requests following a review, recommended by the Mining Jobs Task Force in 2019, that found that B.C.'s public geoscience is falling behind other jurisdictions from underfunding of BCGS and that the dual delivery model with GBC led to expenditures that were less effective than their potential.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- GBC is a non-government, non-profit granting society that generates independent, public geoscience research and data about BC's minerals, energy, and water resources.
- GBC works primarily as a project management society that funds and/or coordinates other groups or contractors to generate data. With no internal technical capacity, the funds GBC receives are generally dispersed to service providers, universities, or other proponents.
- Since its founding in 2005, GBC has received over \$77 million in grants from the Province to fund operations and projects.
- Broad grant funding was last provided in 2019 (\$5 million) through contingencies. Since then, government has provided targeted funding for specific projects. For example, in 2024, the then Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) initiated two new projects via Shared Cost Arrangements with GBC totalling \$400,000 in funding and an additional two arrangements for a total of \$500,000.

- Government has been unable to provide broader grant in recent years funding due to fiscal constraints.
- Government has supported GBC in seeking other resourcing mechanisms and financial support for their organization's operational and administrative base funding.
- Without funding, GBC has advised that it will be forced to reduce its activities beginning in March 2025.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Exploration Projects in B.C.

KEY MESSAGES:

- According to the [EY Canada Exploration Survey](#), mineral-exploration expenditure in the Province in 2024 was \$552.1 million, 66.6 percent higher than in 2018, the first full year of this government's mandate, and the 4th highest number on record.
- Annual exploration expenditure in 2024 declined from 2023 levels, which reflects global trends, namely 3.3% decrease year over year across the globe. This is driven primarily by two factors:
 - Trends in the exploration industry reflecting global macroeconomic conditions, such as access to financing and increasing costs driven by inflationary pressures.
 - Project maturity, as flagship projects in B.C. that received significant funding in past years mature out of the exploration phase and move along the exploration lifecycle into development and construction.
- B.C. has seen major investment from mineral producers in British Columbia (e.g. Newmont Corporation in Northwest B.C.), however Junior explorers continue to struggle to raise capital to finance exploration.
- Northwest B.C., the region that includes the Golden Triangle, represents 63.0 percent (\$347.6M) of B.C.'s total exploration expenditure.
- Currently, there are six coal mines, nine major metal mines, approximately 30 industrial mineral mines, and hundreds of aggregate pits/quarries operating in B.C.
- B.C.'s mineral production value is forecasted at approximately \$16.5 billion for 2024, representing a projected increase from 2023's value of \$16.4 billion.
- Mining, mineral exploration and related sectors provide well-paying direct jobs for more than 35,000 British Columbians.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The goal of exploration is to locate large, economically minable mineral and coal reserves.
- Exploration projects result in benefits for nearby communities, particularly rural communities, as many mineral and coal deposits are found in rural areas of B.C. The industry also provides thousands of spin-off jobs and business opportunities for suppliers and service providers located close to project sites.
- 2024's Exploration Survey found that exploration spending declined as flagship projects matured. The 2024 expenditure was \$552.1M, a 14% decrease from 2023's total of \$643.5M.

- Earlier-stage expenditure, a combination of grassroots and early stage, decreased 22% year-on-year in 2024, from \$228M in 2023 to \$177M in 2024.
- Expenditures for metallurgical coal exploration was up 47% to \$38M likely because of preacquisition exploration as Teck Resources divested its steelmaking coal business to Glencore.
- Expenditures were up for nickel (+\$5M), zinc (+\$7M) and other critical minerals (+\$8M) excluding copper.
 - The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) forecasts that B.C. mines produced around \$16.5 billion worth of commodities in 2024 which is comparable to the 2023 revised estimate of \$16.4 billion.
- According to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), B.C.'s share of Canadian mineral resource development investments for exploration and deposit appraisal decreased by 11% (2023 actual vs 2024 preliminary estimates), however, mine complex development increased by 6% (2023 actual vs 2024 preliminary estimate).
- As flagship projects in B.C. that received significant funding in past years mature out of the exploration phase and move along the exploration lifecycle and approach operational readiness, we start to see a shift in expenditure patterns. An example of this is the Artemis Blackwater Gold Mine:
 - This mine development drove significant exploration expenditures while undertaking activities to determine the location, size and shape of the mineral deposit, and then analyzing the feasibility of the mineral deposit and mine site through more extensive testing, drilling, and economic studies.
 - In 2024, Artemis had secured all permits for construction and started to incur capital expenditures to build the Blackwater mine.
 - Capital expenditures are defined as the acquisition or construction of buildings, engineering structures, and machinery and equipment, which have a life of more than one year.
- According to StatsCan, B.C. has seen year over year increases in mining capital expenditure which can be used as a proxy for expenditures in mine development and expansion activity.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 – MX Critical Mineral Project Current LineUp – Mar 7 2025 (excel)

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	251 818-6426

MX Critical Mineral Project Current LineUp
March 7, 2025

Estimates 2025 - MCM
Section F, Tab 4 - Attachment 1

Proponent / Mine Name	Region	Critical Mineral(s)	Status	Mine	PERMIT NO.
2 Star and Storey Creek	Southwest	Cu	Consultation	0800259	Mx-8-193
Aeonian Resources Ltd./Koocanusa North West	Southeast	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1630518	MX-5-714
Aeonian Resources Ltd./Koocanusa South East	Southeast	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1631029	MX-5-804
Amarc Resources Ltd. / Duke	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1641970	MX-13-289
Amarc Resources Ltd. / Joy	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au/Ag	Referred to FN Consultation	1641969	MX-13-286
ArcPacific Resources Corp. / Rey Lake Mine	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000267	New Permit
Arsenault/Casa Minerals Inc.	Northwest	Cu/Ag	Under Inspector Review	1650815	MX-100000434
Atahk Earthworks LTD / Atahk Claim group	South Central	Al, Ba, Co, Cu, Li, Ni, Ti, P, Ca	Waiting for bond	2000207	New Permit
Bakar	Southwest	Cu	Client Delay	1610769	New Permit
Barkerville Gold Mines Ltd. / Cow-Barkerville Mount	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1620905	MX-4-561 Amendment
Bornite/ACDC Battery Metals Inc	Northwest	Ni	Referred to FN Consultation	200435	New Permit
Burns Del Santo/Rockbridge Resources	Northwest	Cu/Zn/Ag	Waiting for bond	200226	New Permit
BW Gold Ltd. / Nechako	Northeast/Northcentral	Au/Ag/Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	2000492	New Permit
BW Gold Ltd./ Fawnie	Northeast/Northcentral	Au/Ag/Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	1640950	MX-13-322
Camb 1/Teuton Resources Corp.	Northwest	Ag	Referred to FN Consultation	101272	New Permit
Canada One Mining Corp. / Copper Dome	South Central	Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	2000343	New Permit
Cariboo Rose Resources Ltd. / Koster Dam	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1621825	New Permit
Cariboo Valley Gold / Davis Keays Eagle Vein	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	900185	New Permit
Castle Rock	Southwest	Cu	Consultation	2000392	New Permit
Catface	Southwest	Cu	Consultation	1610059	Mx-8-238
Consolidated Woodjam Copper Corp. / Megaton	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1000949	Amendment
Defense Metals Corp / Wicheeda	Northeast/Northcentral	Rare Earth Elements	Waiting for bond	1640293	MX-13-168
Dome/Gavin Mines Ltd.	Northwest	Ag	Under Inspector Review	200006	MX-1-769
DV Big Bulk/Dolly Varden Silver Corp	Northwest	Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	1650507	MX-1-784
Eagle Plains Resources/Mount Polley West	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000450	New permit
Empire	Southwest	Cu	Consultation	1610794	MX-100000050
EQN Canada Inc./Alps-Alturas	Southeast	Sb	Under Inspector Review	2000520	New Permit

MX Critical Mineral Project Current LineUp
March 7, 2025

Estimates 2025 - MCM
Section F, Tab 4 - Attachment 1

Proponent / Mine Name	Region	Critical Mineral(s)	Status	Mine	PERMIT NO.
Fertoz Canadian Phosphate Ltd. / Wapiti	Northeast/Northcentral	Phosphate	Under Inspector Review	1641109	MX-09-056
Fertoz Canadian Phosphate Ltd. /Pump Station	Southeast	Phosphorus	Under Inspector Review	1631074	New Permit
Fertoz Canadian Phosphate Ltd./Barns Lake	Southeast	Phosphorus	Referred to FN Consultation	500934	MX-5-813
FPX Nickel Corp. / Decar	Northeast/Northcentral	Ni/Co	Referred to FN Consultation	1300117	MX-13-208
Georgie River/Scottie Resources Corp	Northwest	Ag	Waiting for bond	100090	MX-1-151
Goldcliff Resource Corporation / Princeton Property South	South Central	Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	1620978	MX-4-592
Golden Triangle North/Snipgold Corp	Northwest	Cu/Ag/Mo	Referred to FN Consultation	1650656	MX-1-870
Goldin Rock Resources Inc. / Gold Panners Paradise	South Central	Cu/Au	Client Delay/Info from applicant	1101744	MX-11-122 Amendment
Goldwedge/Goldwedge Mines Inc	Northwest	Ag/Cu/Zn	Referred to FN Consultation	101007	MX-1-935
Grizzly Discoveries/Copper Mountain	Southeast	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1630464	MX-5-672
Hat/Doubleview Gold Corp	Northwest	Cu/Co/Ag	Referred to FN Consultation	101459	MX-1-872
Hoodoo/Questex Gold and Copper	Northwest	Cu	Waiting for bond	100997	New Permit
Huakan International Mining Inc./Revel Ridge	Southeast	Zn	Referred to FN Consultation	400022	MX-4-500
Imperial Metals Corp. / Bear	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Mo/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1640419	New Permit
Iskut Project/SnipGold	Northwest	Ag/Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	101255	MX-1-46
Jared Put / Twin	Northeast/Northcentral	Au/Ag/Cu/Pb/Zn/Mo	Waiting for bond	1000034	New Permit
Karma/Rokmaster Resources Corp	Northwest	Cu/Zn/Ag	Waiting for bond	1650735	New Permit
Kinskuch/Hecla Quebec Inc	Northwest	Ag/Zn	Referred to FN Consultation	1650661	MX-1-868
Kutcho Creek Nickel/Terralogic Exploration Inc	Northwest	Ni	Under Inspector Review	2000398	New Permit
Lara	Southwest	Cu, Zn	Consultation	1610667	New Permit
Lennac Lake Two/Goldhills Holdings Ltd.	Northwest	Cu/Mo	Referred to FN Consultation	2000494	New Permit
Libero Kinskuch/Dolly Varden Silver Corp	Northwest	Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	1650264	MX-1-990
Lithos Geological Inc. / Magic Property	South Central	Cu/Au	Client Delay/Info from applicant	2000504	New Permit
Martech Mining Inc / Whipsaw	South Central	Cu/Au/Ag/Mo	Referred to FN Consultation	1500170	MX-4-399
MGX Minerals Inc/GC Lithium	Southeast	Li	Referred to FN Consultation	2000323	New Permit

MX Critical Mineral Project Current LineUp
March 7, 2025

Estimates 2025 - MCM
Section F, Tab 4 - Attachment 1

Proponent / Mine Name	Region	Critical Mineral(s)	Status	Mine	PERMIT NO.
Mount Sicker	Southwest	Cu, Zn	Client Delay	0800179	New Permit
New Gold / New Afton	South Central	Cu /Au Also Ag	Referred to FN Consultation	0300614	MX-4-563
New Gold Inc. / FSJ2	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000433	New Permit
NIC Property	Southwest	Cu, Mo	Client Delay	2000351	New Permit
Northwest Copper / Croy Bloom	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au	Working with Proponent	1640745	MX-13-184
Pacific Empire Minerals Corp. / Trident Property	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au/Ag	Referred to FN Consultation	1000032	New Permit
Phoenix Copper Company/Phoenix	Southeast	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	501055	MX-5-836
Quetzal Copper Limited / Big Kidd	South Central	Cu/Au/Ag	Client Delay/Info from applicant	1500587	MX-4-728
Quetzal Copper Limited / Dot	South Central	Cu/Ag/Mo/Au	Client Delay/Info from applicant	1500336	MX-4-496
Richard Billingsley / Conglin Creek	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000331	New Permit
Rogers Creek	Southwest	Cu, Mo	Client Delay	1610454	MX-7-188
Rokmaster Resources/Big Copper	Southeast	Cu/Au	Under Inspector Review	1630585	MX-5-740
Rosegold Exploration Ltd. / Sofia Property	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au	Under Inspector Review	1300673	MX-13-307
Selkirk Metals Corporation / Ruddock Creek	South Central	Zn/Pb	Under Inspector Review	0400396	MX-4-389
Silver47 Exploration Corp. / Adams Plateau Silver47	South Central	Zn/Cu/Au and some Sb/C (Graphite)	Referred to FN Consultation	2000342	New Permit
Silvertip/Coeur Silvertip Holdings Ltd.	Northwest	Ag/Zn	Under Inspector Review	100525	MX-1-520
South Gossan	Southwest	Cu	Pend Decision	2000466	New Permit
Sun Summit Minerals Corp / JD	Northeast/Northcentral	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	1300506	MX-100000424
Talisker Resources Ltd. / Nova Gold	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000156	New Permit
TECK HIGHLAND VALLEY COPPER PARTNERSHIP / Highland Valley Copper	South Central	Cu/Zn/Mo/Ge/In/Au Also Ag/Cd/Pb	Client Delay	0300010	MX-4-688
Teeta Creek	Southwest	Cu, Mo	Pend Decision	1610776	MX-8-295
Topley Richfield/General Gold Copper Resources	Northwest	Cu	Waiting for bond	200216	New Permit

MX Critical Mineral Project Current LineUp
March 7, 2025

Estimates 2025 - MCM
Section F, Tab 4 - Attachment 1

Proponent / Mine Name	Region	Critical Mineral(s)	Status	Mine	PERMIT NO.
Torr Metals/Kolos	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000457	New permit
Trailbreaker Resources Ltd / Murray (aka Liberty)	South Central	Cu/Mo	Referred to FN Consultation	1101941	MX-100000216
Treaty Creek/Tudor Gold Corp	Northwest	Ag/Cu	Referred to FN Consultation	100419	MX-1-439
Vizsla Copper Corp. / Copperview	South Central	Cu/Au	Referred to FN Consultation	2000411	New Permit
WHY Resources/Record Ridge	Southeast	Mg	Referred to FN Consultation	500006	MX-5-460
Ximen Mining Corp/Athabasca	Southeast	Cu/Au	Waiting for Environmental Management Pla	500839	New Permit

FPX / Baptiste Exploration

KEY MESSAGES:

- FPX Nickel Corp. (FPX) is seeking to advance the Baptiste Nickel Project (the Project) that has the potential to produce nickel and cobalt and contribute significantly to the critical minerals sector of British Columbia (B.C.) and Canada.
- FPX applied for permits for additional drilling and associated exploration activities in February 2025. The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) has reviewed the application and is currently conducting consultation with First Nations.
- The Project has strong economic potential and has seen interest from international majors, including investment from Japan's Sumitomo Metal Mining.
- If constructed, the mine is anticipated to bring USD \$2.2 billion in upfront capital investment to B.C. and create 1,100 direct jobs annually.
- FPX's 2025 Economic Impact Study indicates a total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution of CAD \$45.6 billion and total provincial tax revenue of CAD \$8.5 billion over a 32-year mine life.
- The BC Critical Minerals Office is providing internal agency coordination to support the advancement of the Project.
- The Project is located northwest of Fort St. James on the territories of Tl'azt'en Nation (Tl'azt'en), Binche Whut'en, Yekooche First Nation and Takla Nation.
- The Project is situated in an area of high cultural importance to Tl'azt'en.
- The Province is making significant efforts to understand the varying interests and perspectives of all potentially impacted First Nations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- FPX is a Vancouver-based junior mining company with a market capitalization of \$82 million. The Baptiste Nickel Project is its flagship project.
- FPX currently plans to enter the B.C. Environmental Assessment (EA) process in late 2025.
- If constructed, the Project could produce high-grade nickel concentrate which could be used in the stainless-steel industry with potential to be used, after further refining, in the electric vehicle battery supply chain.
- FPX has received \$725,000 under Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy to help assess the viability of processing for battery supply chains.

- FPX has attracted strategic equity investments by Japan’s major global nickel producer Sumitomo Metal Mining and major global stainless-steel producer Outokumpu. FPX also has partnership arrangements with other Japanese entities.
- FPX has stated that the awaruite nickel at the Project is sulphur-free and strongly magnetic, meaning no acid rock drainage and less energy-intensive extraction.
- The Project is located on the traditional territory of Tl’azt’en, Binche Whut’en, Yekooche First Nation and Takla Nation. Tl’azt’en has previously indicated that they are in opposition to the Project and have a desire for consent-based decision-making process.
- The Province is establishing two tables, with Tl’azt’en, and with Binche Whut’en, Yekooche First Nation and Takla, to support government-to-government dialogue.
- FPX continues to seek opportunities to engage meaningfully with Tl’azt’en and other First Nations impacted by the Project and associated infrastructure.
- In June 2024, FPX opened an office in Fort St. James to provide community access and to support ongoing and increased engagement with First Nation governments.
- FPX is considering Project power line options that would bring additional benefits to local communities.
- In September 2024, FPX announced that the Project is being included in BC’s Critical Minerals Office (CMO) initiative. The CMO provides concierge services tailored to assist projects at different stages of development, reduce barriers and support efficient entry into permitting processes.
- In 2025, FPX intends to focus on further engineering studies, baseline environmental data collection, and continued engagement with First Nations and the Provincial and Federal governments in preparation for the EA process.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426
Tejindar Parhar EL, RMCD	250 216-4716



**MINISTRY OF MINING
and CRITICAL MINERALS**

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

**SECTION G:
MINE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Section G Contents:

- MMO Overview List
- Cariboo Gold
- Eskay Creek
- Highland Valley Copper
- Copper Mountain
- Mount Milligan
- Conuma
- Red Chris

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Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Intergovernmental Communications

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Intergovernmental Communications

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Withheld pursuant to/removal as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as
Intergovernmental Communications

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

Page 143 of 232

Withheld pursuant to/removed as
Intergovernmental Communications

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Cariboo Gold

KEY MESSAGES:

- Osisko Development Corporation (ODV) is advancing the Cariboo Gold Mine Project (Cariboo Gold), located in central British Columbia (B.C.), in the historical Wells-Barkerville mining camp.
- ODV was issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) on October 10, 2023, *Mines Act* (MA) permits on November 20, 2024, and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) Effluent Discharge permits on December 11, 2024.
- The EAC process took a total of 3.5 years, and the MA/EMA process took 13 months, for a total of just over 4.5 years to authorize the new mine.
- Lhtako Dene Nation (LDN) and Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) issued letters of support for Cariboo Gold.
- Xat'sül First Nation (XFN) did not support the issuance of permits due to concerns around water quality modelling and closure liabilities.
- Cariboo Gold will have an operating life of 12 years and is anticipated to produce 16.7 million tonnes of ore and employ 488 full-time employees during operations, and 634 full-time employees during the construction phase.
- A new 69kV, three phase, transmission line for the project is planned to be constructed privately by ODV.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Osisko Development Corporation (ODV) is developing the Cariboo Gold Mine Project (Cariboo Gold), located near the District of Wells, B.C.
- The Project encompasses the existing Bonanza Ledge, Quesnel River, and Mosquito Creek mines.
- The EAC was issued on October 10, 2023.
- The MA permit was issued November 20, 2024, and the EMA permit for effluent discharge was issued December 11, 2024.
- Cariboo Gold falls within the traditional territories of LDN, the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG), Neskonlith Indian Band (NIB), WLFN and XFN.
- LDN, XFN and WLFN were consulted at a deep level and NIB and TNG at a notification level during the permitting process for Cariboo Gold.
- The Major Mines Office within the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals received letters of support for Cariboo Gold from LDN and WLFN.

- XFN did not support the issuance of permits for Cariboo Gold due to concerns around water quality impacts and reclamation and closure plans and the associated liability.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- ODV is undertaking a 10,000 metric tonne bulk sample. Results of the bulk sample are anticipated in Q1 2025 supporting ongoing work on the optimized feasibility study for the project and are expected to be completed in Q2 2025.
- A new 69kV, three phase, transmission line for the project will be constructed privately by ODV, extending from Quesnel to a new substation at the Mill Site outside of Wells.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Eskay Creek

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Eskay Creek Revitalization Project is notable because the Environmental Assessment (EA) process features a consent agreement under Section 7 of the *Declaration Act*.
- Under this agreement the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) will undertake a consent based decision-making process on the EA.
- The Province is working collaboratively with TCG and Skeena Gold & Silver (Skeena) on advancing the EA and permitting process forward in an efficient manner in order to be able to have all decisions referred by late November 2025.
- The average regulatory timeline for a project such as this would be 5.5 years, MCM expects to reduce this by 30%.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine overview

- The Eskay Creek mine, owned by Skeena Gold & Silver (Skeena), is an historic underground gold/silver mine that previously operated between 1994 to 2008.
- It is located 83 km northwest of Stewart within the territory of the Tahltan Nation (represented by the Tahltan Central Government; TGC) and the asserted traditional territory of the Tsetsaut Skii km Lax Ha.

Revitalization Project

- The proposed Eskay Creek Revitalization Project (the Project) is an open-pit gold/silver mine with an expected operating life of 13-16 years.
- If approved, it will employ approximately 400 full time employees at peak operations.
- In June 2024, Skeena secured \$1 billion (CDN) in funding from Orion Resource Partners.
- Concentrate transported to the Stewart Port via Highway 37 and 37A will pass through the Nass and Nass Wildlife Areas of the Nisga'a Nation and the asserted traditional territory of the Gitanyow Nation.
- The Project requires amendments to its existing EA Certificate (EAC) and *Mines Act* (MA) and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) permits.
- The Project also requires a federal Impact Assessment (IA), which is being conducted as a substituted project as part of the EAC amendment process.

- The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and Tahltan have developed a Decision-Making Agreement that sets out a consent based decision-making process for the EAC, pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of the *Declaration Act*. The Agreement was signed on June 6, 2022.

Permitting Timelines

- EAC application review phase commenced in August 2024.
- The EA application review phase was required to be extended due to Skeena's decision to re-design key water management and mitigation components of the Project.
- Skeena anticipates submitting its complete revised EA application by mid-April 2025 and an EAO/TCG decision to move to the 150-day Effects Assessment would occur by late May 2025. This would result in referral for decisions in October 2025.
- Skeena anticipates submitting its MA/EMA application in late April 2025.
- MCM, the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV), and EAO have worked collaboratively with TCG and Skeena to develop a MA/EMA review process that, should Skeena submit a complete application and resolve issues in a timely manner, would result in referrals for decision in late November 2025.
- The average regulatory timeline for this project would be 5.5 years, MCM expects to reduce this by 30%.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Highland Valley Copper

KEY MESSAGES:

- Teck's proposed HVC Mine Life Expansion project is one of four mines on the Premier's priority projects list announced earlier this year.
- The HVC Mine Life Expansion (Project), would extend the mine life from 2028 until approximately 2042 (approximately 14 years), adding an additional 200 jobs bringing the workforce to over 1300 people.
- To create a more efficient and streamlined approvals process, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), and Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV), in collaboration with Teck and First Nations, developed a combined Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and *Mines Act/Environmental Management Act* (MA/EMA) process. This included a single application and combined review and consultation process, led by EAO.
- The EAO and Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) were unable to achieve consensus regarding the assessment of potential impacts from the Project, and SSN requested dispute resolution on the matter. Dispute resolution is anticipated to conclude in April 2025.
- MA and EMA decisions have been referred to the Statutory Decision Makers and can proceed following the EAC decision, if the EAC decision is positive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine Overview:

- HVC is an operating open-pit copper/molybdenum mine owned by Teck Resources Ltd. (Teck) and located approximately 17 kilometres west of Logan Lake.
- It has operated nearly continuously since 1962 and has permitted mining until approximately 2028.
- The Province consults with the following Nlaka'pamux Nations (Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CAN), Lower Nicola Indian Band (LNIB), Kanaka Bar Indian Band (Kanaka Bar), Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC), and Spuzzum First Nation), Secwépemc Nations (SSN), and Bonaparte First Nation (Bonaparte)).

HVC Extension:

- The proposed HVC Extension Project (the Project) would extend mine life until 2042 (approximately 14 years), producing an additional 900 million tonnes of ore and 1 billion tonnes of tailings.

- The Project would expand the existing Valley and Highmont Pits, increase the production rate, increase the existing Tailings Storage Facility size, and would require the potential relocation of a portion of Highway 97C.
- The Project requires a new EAC and MA/EMA permit amendments.

Permitting Timelines:

- To create a more efficient and streamlined approvals process, EAO, MCM and ENV, in collaboration with Teck and First Nations, developed a combined EAC and MA/EMA process. This included a single application and combined review and consultation process, led by EAO.
- Review of the combined application commenced in September 2023 and the MA and EMA permits were referred for decision in December 2024.
- The EAO and SSN were not able to achieve consensus regarding the assessment of potential impacts from the proposed expansion project, and SSN requested dispute resolution on the matter.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- The 90-day dispute resolution process has been extended to April 15, 2025. MA and EMA decisions can proceed following the EAC decision, if the EAC decision is positive.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Copper Mountain

KEY MESSAGES:

- Copper Mountain's proposed New Ingerbelle pit expansion will extend the mine life from 2027 to 2047 (approximately 20 years).
- Review of the joint *Mines Act* (MA) and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) is expected to commence, once application is submitted by Hudbay at the end of March 2025.
- The Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB) and Upper Similkameen Indian Band (USIB) have expressed significant concerns with additional mining in their territory including the proposed New Ingerbelle expansion.
- The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) will work collaboratively with USIB, LSIB, and the company to identify and resolve areas of concern during the application review process in a robust and efficient manner.
- A best-case scenario review process could have referrals for MA and EMA decisions by late 2025, which is approximately seven to eight months following application submission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine Overview

- Copper Mountain is an open pit copper/gold mine and is located 20 km south of Princeton, British Columbia (B.C.).
- The mine is owned/operated by Copper Mountain Mine Ltd., a subsidiary of Hudbay Minerals Inc. (75 percent) and Mitsubishi Materials Corp. (25 percent). Hudbay is responsible for the operation of the mine.
- Currently, the mine produces approximately 50,000 tonnes of ore per day.
- The mine directly employs 465 people, mostly from the local community.
- The proposed New Ingerbelle expansion, if approved, would extend mine operations by an additional 20 years, until 2047.

USIB/LSIB Concerns

- The mine is within the territories of the LSIB and USIB.
- Both Nations have numerous and significant concerns with the proposed New Ingerbelle expansion that are linked to their broader concern of mining and development impacts to the Similkameen River.

- Intergovernmental Communications

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Application Review Process

- Hudbay is expected to submit the MA/EMA application in late-March 2025.
- MMO will lead the New Ingerbelle application review process, including consultation and engagement in accordance with a collaborative process agreement reached with USIB.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable.

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Mount Milligan

KEY MESSAGES:

- To create a more efficient and streamlined approvals process, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM), and Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV), in collaboration with Centerra and First Nations, developed a fully combined Environmental Assessment (EA), *Mines Act* (MA) and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) process led by MCM.
- The fully combined process includes a single set of information requirements, one application, and a single review and consultation process.
- The fully combined EA/MA/EMA approach is anticipated to cut the timeline in half compared to the standard approach to EAs and permitting and the provincial agencies continue to seek efficiencies throughout the application review process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine Overview:

- The Mount Milligan Mine is an operating open-pit gold/copper mine owned by Thompson Creek Metals Company Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Centerra Gold (Centerra).
- The mine is located approximately 155km northwest of Prince George, within the consultative territories of Takla Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Binche Whut'en, and Nak'azdli Whut'en.
- The mine has been in continuous operation since 2013 and has permitted mining until approximately 2028.

Mount Milligan Expansion Project:

- The Mount Milligan Expansion Project (the Project) proposes to expand the existing open pit, increase the size and height of the existing tailings storage facility, create a low-grade ore stockpile, and increase the milling rate to 65,000 tonnes per day (tpd).
- The Project would increase the operational mine life by 7 years, until 2035. The mine currently sustains 575 full-time jobs, 56 percent of them from local communities, and 17 percent self-identified as indigenous.
- The Project requires amendments to the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and the MA/EMA permits.

Permitting Timelines:

- To create a more efficient and streamlined approvals process, EAO, MCM and ENV, in collaboration with Centerra and First Nations, developed a fully combined EAC/MA/EMA process lead by MCM.
- The fully combined process includes a single set of information requirements, one application, and a single review and consultation process.
- Centerra originally planned to submit the combined EAC/MA/EMA application on January 31, 2025, but has delayed to March 31, 2025.
- Currently, the Province anticipates the combined process to take approximately 1.5 years, which relies on Centerra to provide a complete application and efficiently resolves issues during the review process.
- If the standard approach of completing the EAC amendment followed by the MA/EMA amendment was followed, the Project would have required at least 3.5 years to all decisions.
- The Province continues to seek additional ways to streamline the combined EA/MA/EMA process.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	778 698-7222

Conuma

KEY MESSAGES:

- Conuma owns five open-pit metallurgical coal mines in Northeast B.C., one located near Chetwynd (Willow Creek) and four near Tumbler Ridge (Quintette, Brule, Wolverine, Trend-Roman). They are an important economic driver in the the Northeast of the province.
- Conuma's properties lie within the traditional territories of Treaty 8 Nations, and Halfway River First Nation (HRFN), Saulteau First Nations (SFN), and West Moberly First Nations (WMFN) have Regional Coal Agreements (RCA) with the Province. The RCAs establish a Shared Decision-Making Process and timelines with respect to coal authorizations within the RCA Area.
- MCM is working with Nations and Conuma to permit a Full Restart of the Quintette Mine by June, 2025. Conuma is planning to initiate a permitting process to restart the Trend-Roman Mine in Q3, 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine Overviews:

- Conuma's five mines are within the traditional territories of Blueberry River First Nation's Area B, Doig River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation's Area B, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation (HRFN), Saulteau First Nations (SFN), and West Moberly First Nations (WMFN).
- WMFN, SFN and HRFN have Regional Coal Agreements (RCA) with the Province. The RCAs establish a Shared Decision-Making Process and timelines with respect to coal authorizations within the RCA Area.
- Overall, Conuma employees approximately 1,100 people directly, and the company estimats they support approximately 2,200 indirect jobs.
- In 2023, Conuma paid more than \$210 million in direct wages to its employees, and spent approximately \$184 million on goods and services in the six surrounding communitites (Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St John, Grande Prairie and Prince George).
- Quintette:
 - Purchased from Teck Coal Ltd. in February 2023 and in Care and Maintaience bewteen 2012 and 2024.
 - Currently in MA/EMA application review for Full Restart.

- Started into limited operations in September 2024, but anticipate impact to operations if Full Restart not approved by June 2025.
- Willow Creek:
 - In operation and permitted for mining until approximately 2029.
 - Anticipated to be seeking Operational, possible Environmental Assessment Certificate amendment in 2026 to extend mining reserves. Would also require amendments to *Mines Act* and *Environmental Management Act* permits.
- Brule:
 - Completed permitted mining in January 2025 and entered Care and Maintenance for the foreseeable future.
 - The site has been consistently discharging site contact water that exceeds limits for selenium and nitrate since January 2020. They are required to have a water treatment system operational by January 2025, which has not yet occurred.
 - Conuma is conducting exploration drilling to inform a potential application for additional mining, timelines are unknown at this time.
- Wolverine:
 - Completed permitted mining in May 2024 and entered into long-term Care and Maintenance with no current plans for future mining.
 - Conuma decided to abandon the Wolverine Hermann expansion in January 2025, following a 1 year pause to the nearly complete MA/EMA review process.
- Trend-Roman:
 - Purchased by Conuma from Anglo American in February 2025, and in Care and Maintenance since 2014.
 - Conuma anticipates submitting a Restart/Mine Plan amendment application in August 2025 and, if approved, plans to restart operations in Q2 2026.

Quintette Full Restart Timelines

- The key issue that needs to be resolved before referral for MA/EMA decisions is when and how much selenium/nitrate water treatment is required for the site to meet water quality limits.
- Conuma submitted the Full Restart application in September 2023 and required until February 2024 to respond to review comments.
- In February 2024, due to its incomplete application, Conuma pivoted to a limited restart of mining in the Little Windy Pit. An application was submitted in May 2024 and the permit was issued in September 2024.

- Conuma submitted a revised Full Restart application in October 2024 and requires until at least the end of March 2025 (4+ months) to provide responses to initial review comments.
- MCM will continue to work to moving the review process forward once Conuma is able to provide the required information; however, referral for decisions is not anticipated to occur until end of June at the earliest.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	778 698-7222

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Red Chris

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Red Chris Block Cave Expansion is notable because the Environmental Assessment (EA) process features an agreement under Section 7 of the *Declaration Act*.
- Under this agreement the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) will undertake a consent based decision-making process on the EA.
- The Province is working collaboratively with TCG and Newmont on advancing the EA and permitting process forward in an efficient manner in order to be able to have all decisions referred by late December 2025.
- This project is on Premier Eby's list of priority projects – it will result in a \$2.6B capital investment and ensures 500 jobs.
- The average regulatory timeline for this project would be 3.5 years, we expect to reduce this by 30%.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mine Overview:

- The Red Chris Mine is an operating open-pit copper/gold mine located in northwestern B.C., approximately 450 km north of Smithers.
- The mine has been in continuous operation since 2015 and is owned by Newmont Corp. (70%) and Imperial Metals Inc. (30%), with Newmont responsible for all operations.
- The mine is located within the territory of the Tahltan Nation (represented by the Tahltan Central Government; TGC)

Block Cave Expansion:

- The proposed Red Chris Block Cave Expansion (the Project) includes transitioning the site to underground mining within the existing mine boundary, increasing the production rate, while reducing the overall amount of waste rock. The tailings storage facility is remaining unchanged from its currently permitted capacity.
- If approved, the Project would extend operations until approximately 2038.
- The Project requires amendments to its existing *Environmental Assessment Certificate* (EAC) and *Mines Act* (MA) and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) permits.
- EAO and Tahltan have developed a Decision-Making Agreement that sets out a consent based decision-making process for the EAC, pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of the *Declaration Act*.

- Newmont is seeking all regulatory approvals by December 2025.

Permitting Timelines:

- The EAC application review phase commenced in January 2025 and is currently anticipated to conclude by May 2025.
- An EAO/TCG decision to move to the 150-day Effects Assessment would occur by June 2025. This would result in referral for decisions in October 2025.
- Newmont anticipates submitting its MA/EMA application in early June 2025.
- MCM, ENV, and EAO will work collaboratively with TCG and Newmont to develop a MA/EMA review process that, should Newmont submit a complete application and resolve issues in a timely manner, will result in referrals for decision by December 2025.
- The average regulatory timeline for a project of this scale would be 3.5 years. MCM expects to reduce this by 30% through the collaborative work with the TCG and Newmont.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

**MINISTRY OF MINING
and CRITICAL MINERALS**

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

**SECTION H:
MINES HEALTH, SAFETY AND
ENFORCEMENT**

Section H Contents:

- Mining Compliance and Enforcement Oversight
- Standing Code Review Committee
- Abandoned Mines
- Mines Audits Unit
- Quinsam Coal Mine
- Tulsequah Chief Mine
- Hedley Tailings
- Myra Falls Mine
- Yellow Giant Mine (Banks Island)

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Mining Compliance and Enforcement Oversight

KEY MESSAGES:

- Mining remains one of the safest heavy industries in British Columbia.
- The Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines (OCIM) has completed 1724 mine inspections to date in the 2024/25 fiscal year. Inspections are conducted in close collaboration with workers and unions.
- In 2024/25, there were 3364 certificates of competency issued to confirm mine employee qualifications in specific roles to protect worker health and safety. These included Supervisor, Shiftboss, Blasting and Mine Rescue certifications.
- Inspectors have resolved or are actively addressing 95% of 243 complaints received.
- The Mines Investigation Unit, presently has a caseload of 29 active out of 127 total files since its inception in 2017, with files ranging in complexity from serious non-compliance to fatal injuries, with recent highlights including:
 - Two serious injury files were recently referred to a Statutory Decision Maker with a recommendation for an Administrative Monetary Penalty
 - Two files are being investigated for discrimination under the *Mines Act*
 - Three files are being investigated for prosecution under the *Mines Act*
 - Court proceedings continue regarding a 2021 UTV-related fatality at Shasta Mine, located 300 km north of Smithers, B.C., regarding three counts under the *Mines Act* and the Health, Safety, and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia (HSRC), approved by Crown. Charges relate to:
 - Section 1.11.1(1) of the HSRC. Failure to adequately train workers.
 - Section 1.9.1 of the HSRC. Failure to ensure the workplace was free of potentially hazardous conditions.
 - Section 1.11.1(2) of the HSRC. Failure to ensure employees receive basic orientation and instruction in safe work practices.
- There were no fatalities on B.C. mine sites in FY2024/25.
- The OCIM continues to focus on compliance promotion activities such as the Annual Mine Safety Awards scheduled for May 2025, and quarterly Mine Safety Days, to make sure that compliance expectations are clearly understood and to promote voluntary compliance across the industry.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The OCIM is responsible for mining compliance oversight, mine emergency incident response and programs required to protect the health and safety of workers and

members of the public from risk factors associated with mine operations across the province. The OCIM consists of the following work units and speciality disciplines, numbering 44 FTE inspectors and 10 FTE investigators:

- Health, Safety, and Compliance Unit – multi-disciplinary health and safety
 - Health and Safety Specialists Unit – industrial hygiene, ergonomics, engineering, electrical, mechanical
 - Technical Compliance Unit – geotechnical, geoscience, reclamation
 - Mines Investigations Unit - Special Provincial Constables
- The OCIM utilizes a variety of activities to gain compliance, escalate enforcement and promote best practice across the sector, including, but not limited to:
 - Compliance promotion
 - Advisories, warnings
 - Orders
 - Suspension of work
 - Recommendations for Administrative Monetary Penalties, Certificate suspension or cancellation
 - Prosecution
- The Chief Inspector of Mines has authority to impose additional sanctions for the most serious of matters, including, but not limited to:
 - Mine closure
 - Permit cancellation

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
George Warnock, MHSED	778-675-5228

Standing Code Review Committee

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in B.C. (Code) provides detailed regulations for all aspects of mining and mineral exploration in B.C.
- The standing Code Review process is in place to ensure mining regulations address the changing needs of the industry, the environment, and First Nations.
- The 12-member Code Review Committee (Committee) is comprised of equal representation from labour unions, First Nations, and industry.
- A UN Declaration sub-committee, struck in April 2022, is co-chaired with the First Nations Energy and Mining Council to ensure future Code changes align with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Un Declaration) and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act).
- The latest version published in April 2024, demonstrates a strong focus on improving health and safety of workers and supporting new technologies.
- Current Committee work includes the introducing of requirements to address bullying and harassment at mine sites; revision of requirements for exploration activities and permitting and addressing the safety aspects of electrical systems and operation of Off-Road Vehicles.
- The Code Review Committee operates on a consensus model and plans to propose its next recommended changes in the fall of this year. These changes will be submitted to the Minister for approval and, if approved, an Order in Council (OIC) will be sought to amend the Code.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Committee's work continues to evolve in response to the needs of the mining industry and its workers, with an emphasis on safety, technological advancements, and the inclusion of mental health and well-being provisions. Key points are highlighted below:

1. Committee Formation and Structure:

- The Minister appoints members to the Committee under the *Mines Act*, which uniquely establishes a committee process for creating and amending the Code. The Chief Inspector of Mines (or their delegate) chairs the Committee.
- The Committee consists of four members each from labour unions, First Nations, and the mining industry, ensuring consideration of diverse perspectives.

- The CRC membership may be reviewed from time to time and no later than every three years as requested by the Chair, Minister or as required by the membership. Members are nominated from unions, industry, or Indigenous Nations through an invitation process.
- There are currently two vacancies on the Committee. The Code Review Secretariat has been working with both industry stakeholders and First Nations to nominate candidates for these positions. Once candidates are selected, a formal request will be sent to the Minister for appointment, in accordance with S.34 of the *Mines Act*.

2. Prioritization and Annual Review:

- The Committee follows an annual prioritization process for its review work. It also considers recommendations from the Chief Auditor.
- The funding for the Committee was allocated in Budget 2019 in response to a recommendation from the 2018 Mining Jobs Task Force.

3. Ongoing Work:

- Bullying and Harassment: The Committee is seeking to improve worker mental health and safety by introducing measures related to bullying and harassment.
- Permitting and Exploration: These sections in the Code are being reviewed with the aim of better alignment with current industry needs.
- Off-Road Vehicles and Electrical Systems: The new Code will include specific language to ensure the safe operation of off-road vehicles and address safety requirements for electrical systems at mine sites.
- Occupational Health: Revisions will also cover ergonomics and shift length adjustments to mitigate exposure to airborne contaminants for workers.
- Roles and Responsibilities: The Code will clarify safety responsibilities for various roles at mine sites, including managers, supervisors, workers, and contractors.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Att 1: Code Review Committee Membership List

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
George Warnock, MHSED	778-675-5228

2025/26 Estimates Note

Ministry: Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

Minister Responsible: Jagrup Brar

Attachment 1: Code Review Committee Membership List

	Code Review Committee Members
Labour	Rob Foscett, Union of Operating Engineers
	Ed Kent, United Steelworkers Union
	Dean Lott, United Steelworkers Union
	Dave Williams, UniFor
Indigenous Nations	Charlie Allison, Upper Similkameen Indian Band
	Nalaine Morin, Tahlitan First Nation
	Tamlyn Botel, Nlaka'pamux Nation
	Vacant
Exploration	Kim Bittman, consultant, Association for Mineral Exploration
Sand and Gravel	David Rogalsky, Woodbrook Aggregates
Major Mines	Don Sander, Elk Valley Resources
	Vacant

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Abandoned Mines and Statutory Spending under Mines Act S17

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Abandoned Mines Branch (AMB) works to reduce public safety and environmental risks at high-priority sites, in collaboration with industry and First Nations.
- AMB addresses abandoned mine risks through multiple funding sources, including booked liabilities, reclamation security (when available), and from the consolidated revenue fund under Section 17 of the Mines Act.
- Section 17 enables urgent action to protect public safety and the environment.
- Current de-risking work includes Quinsam Coal Mine, Hedley Gold Tailings, abandoned tailings storage facilities, and mine shaft closures on Crown land.
- MCM is evaluating policy options for a sustainable funding model for abandoned mine remediation. While that policy work is underway, immediate public safety issues and tailings storage facility maintenance will continue to be managed under s.17 and booked liability funding.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Abandoned Mines Branch (AMB) was established in 2019 to address public safety and environmental concerns at abandoned mine sites across B.C.
- B.C. has approximately 2000 abandoned mines on Crown Land, most of which predate modern reclamation legislation (1969), leaving behind safety, environmental, and liability risks that require ongoing management.
- Abandoned mine risks include hazardous mine openings, geotechnical hazards, environmental contamination, and tailings dam stability issues.
- Following the 2022 Auditor General Audit, AMB has transitioned from assessment to active hazard reduction, prioritizing sites that pose the greatest risks.
- AMB aims to reduce risks as much as practicable while minimizing long-term monitoring and maintenance costs.
- To achieve this, AMB contracts qualified professionals to assess and mitigate hazardous mine openings, tailings storage facilities, and other high-risk features.
- AMB works closely with Crown Contaminated Sites Program and other agencies to strengthen coordination and identify resources for abandoned mine remediation.
- Many abandoned mines are located on First Nations traditional territories, and AMB partners with First Nation communities to integrate land stewardship principles into remediation efforts.

- The next Quinsam Mine Treasury Board decision (March 2026) may provide an opportunity to propose a structured funding and governance model for abandoned mine remediation.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Information related to F2024/25 spending will be reported in the government public accounts in the Summer of 2025. The values provided below are estimates.
- Treasury Board allocations in FY24/25
 - Mine Hazard Mitigation: \$4.574M
- Booked liability spending in FY24/25
 - Investigations and engineering assessments: \$0.470M

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
George Warnock	778 675-5228

Mine Audits Unit

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Audit Unit's mandate is to evaluate the effectiveness of mining regulation in B.C. and provide recommendations to government for continuous improvement.
- The Audit Unit has five audits currently underway related to:
 - Security for exploration and placer mining activities (Security),
 - Major mine closure (MMC),
 - Occupational health and safety committees (OHSC),
 - Confined spaces, and
 - Management of non-compliance.
- The Audit Unit published its 2024/25 Annual Audit Plan and is in the process of developing the 2025/26 Annual Audit Plan, which is expected to be released in June 2025.
- The Audit Unit is nearing completion of three audits. The team's focus for 2025/26 will be on completing and publicly releasing the Security audit, OHSC audit, and MMC audit.
- The Audit Unit and the Ministry continue to collaborate with the First Nations Energy and Mining Council (the FNEMC) to ensure Indigenous perspectives are incorporated in all audit work.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Mine Audits Unit (the Audit Unit) was established in mid-2019 to conduct audits to evaluate the effectiveness of mining regulation and is an important component of the mining regulatory framework in B.C. The Audit Unit operates under the authorities and duties of an independent Chief Auditor (a statutory role under the Mines Act).
- After completing an audit, the Chief Auditor must provide a final report to the Minister outlining the audit's findings, conclusions, and any recommendations. The report must also be published on the Audit Unit's website.
- Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Chief Auditor and the Ministry, the Ministry has committed to providing the Chief Auditor with a response to each audit as well as annual progress updates, both of which the Chief Auditor posts on their website.
- The Audit Unit and the Ministry have a MOU with the FNEMC that sets out collaboration points in audits and responses to help ensure Indigenous interests are meaningfully considered. The FNEMC's collaboration under the MOU has had a positive

impact on audits and has contributed to integrating Indigenous perspectives and interests into the audit process.

- To date, the Audit Unit has published two audit reports focused on (1) requirements for tailings storage facilities and (2) worker protection in mobile equipment near water. Combined, these audits resulted in 10 recommendations for the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (the Ministry).
- The Ministry accepted all recommendations from the two audits and developed 15 actions in response. Some of the audit findings have informed amendments to the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in B.C. through the work of the standing Code Review Committee.
- The Ministry provides updates on audit recommendation progress annually in a progress report submitted to the Chief Auditor and posted on their website. As reported in the FY 2023/24 report (May 2024), the Ministry has completed all 15 actions from previous audit recommendations.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
George Warnock, MHSED	778-675-5228

Quinsam Coal Mine

KEY MESSAGES:

- Quinsam Mine, a thermal coal mine near Campbell River, operated from 1986 to 2016, before being abandoned in 2019 when Quinsam Coal Corporation went bankrupt.
- The financial bond and Treasury Board allocations have been used since abandonment to fund site management through a Receiver. The Receiver is currently undertaking work to de-risk the site and reduce long-term care and maintenance costs.
- De-risking efforts focus on reducing explosion risks from accumulated gas, closing underground workings, and preventing acid rock drainage and metal leaching from contaminating the surrounding environment.
- The Province is on track to complete de-risking work by FY26, allowing the receiver to be discharged in 2027. A Treasury Board report back is planned for October 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Quinsam Mine was abandoned by the trustee after the 2019 bankruptcy, and the B.C. Supreme Court appointed a receiver to oversee care and maintenance.
- Activities at the site are being conducted under section 17 of the Mines Act (but through a separate TB Allocation), focusing on stabilizing site conditions while minimizing long-term liabilities.
- The Province meets annually with community members and First Nations through the Environmental Technical Review Committee to review site conditions.
- Wei Wai Kum First Nation has expressed interest in economic opportunities related to ongoing care, maintenance, and remediation efforts at the site.
- The Province is evaluating long-term stewardship options to ensure the site remains stable and does not pose unacceptable ongoing risks after de-risking is complete.
- Policy improvements have been made to reduce the risk of future financial burdens of this kind on taxpayers by ensuring adequate security is in place for mine closures.
- The bond posted for Quinsam Mine was not sufficient to cover de-risking costs, reinforcing the need for stronger financial safeguards in permitting and closure planning, which continues to be a focus of MCM.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- The Province held \$7.3M in reclamation security for the Quinsam Mine, which was exhausted by June 2021. Since then, the Province has funded the receivership and site management costs.

- Between June 2021 and March 2024, the Province spent approximately \$15M on site management and receivership costs.
- Treasury Board approved \$17.6M (2024–2026) for de-risking and ongoing care and maintenance at Quinsam Mine, with \$10.5M allocated for 2024/25 and \$7.1M for 2025/26.
- Current care and maintenance costs are approximately \$3.6M per year. De-risking efforts aim to reduce these costs to under \$1M per year by 2027.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
George Warnock, MHSED	778 675-5228

Tulsequah Chief Mine

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Province is continuing our collaborative work with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) and engaging with stakeholders regarding clean-up of the Mine.
- From 2020 to 2022, the Province carried out interim reclamation activities at the Mine in collaboration with the TRTFN using \$1.2M of seized security.
- Teck is voluntarily supporting clean-up at Tulsequah. To date, Teck has provided a total of \$3.26 million to support interim reclamation works in 2021 and 2022.
- In 2024, Teck, in collaboration with TRTFN, planned and executed a site investigation program to support development of a final closure plan. This work will continue through 2025.
- The Province, TRTFN and Teck meet regularly to develop a sustainable closure plan for the Mine.
- The Province continues to work with Alaska to transparently share information with the State, Tribes, and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and address concerns from Alaska state lawmakers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Tulsequah Chief Mine (the Mine) is located south of Atlin and northeast of Juneau Alaska, on the Tulsequah River, in the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN). The Tulsequah River drains into the Taku River, which then drains into Alaska.
- Underground copper/lead/zinc mining activities carried out at the Mine from 1951 to 1957 by Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Ltd. (Cominco), left a legacy of acid rock drainage, raising concerns amongst First Nations and stakeholders, including Alaska.
- Cominco, through corporate amalgamation, is now Teck Metals Corp., a subsidiary of Teck Resources Ltd. The Mine has not operated since the late 1950's. Teck carried out exploration activities at the Mine in the 1980's and 1990's before selling its interests to Redfern Resources Inc. ("Redfern").
- Redfern became insolvent, and the Mine was acquired by Chieftain Metals Inc. ("Chieftain") in 2010.
- The Mine is currently owned by Chieftain, a company incorporated in Ontario.
 - In 2016, Chieftain became insolvent and in September 2016, Chieftain's primary secured creditor, West Face Capital Inc. ("West Face"), applied to the Ontario Superior Court for the appointment of a receiver over Chieftain and its parent

company, Chieftain Metals Corp. All Chieftain's corporate directors resigned at this time.

- In fall 2016, the Chief Inspector of Mines confiscated the \$1.2 million security bond provided by Chieftain, which was used to secure areas of the site, address immediate issues, and fund the development of a conceptual closure and reclamation plan.
- In September 2022, West Face transferred their interests in Chieftain to Armex Mining. In August 2023, Armex appointed directors to the board of Chieftain and Chieftain remains a corporation in the Province of Ontario.
- After a series of inspections, compliance actions, and orders to Chieftain, the Chief Inspector of Mines made the decision to cancel their Mines Act permit in May 2024. As well, over 2023 and 2024, the Chief Gold Commissioner cancelled all *Mineral Tenure Act* claims held by Chieftain for failure to provide adequate evidence of work on site. A no-registration reserve is in place over the Tulsequah site.
- Chieftain continues to own 24 2-post crown granted mineral claims at the Mine and 4 fee-simple parcels at the barge site.
- 2023 marked the transition from interim work to more focused long-term reclamation planning work at the Mine, with Teck voluntarily taking the lead on closure-planning activities in collaboration with TRTFN and B.C. Data collection. Closure planning work started in August 2023 and is expected to continue throughout 2025.

United States and International Interests:

- Following a March 2023 visit to Alaska by MCM and ENV senior executive for the Juneau Mining Forum, a press conference was held where Alaska state legislators and Alaska Tribal Leaders expressed concern and urgency surrounding Tulsequah Chief and other northwest B.C. mines. Since then, numerous letters from Alaska state legislators have been sent to the U.S. and B.C. governments expressing concerns of continued development in the transboundary region. This approach appears to be supported by numerous ENGOs and Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations.
- The Province and Alaska signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation (MOU) in 2015. The MOU is being implemented through a Statement of Cooperation on the Protection of Transboundary Waters. B.C.'s relationship with its Alaskan counterparts (Commissioners) is strong, transparent, and cooperative.
- B.C. is working with its Alaskan counterparts through the MOU to identify ways to continue to transparently share information with the State, Tribes, and ENGOs. B.C.'s position remains that an International Joint Commission reference is not needed, given the actions B.C. is taking and the strong working relationship with Alaska.
- Provincial staff will continue to be in regular contact with the State of Alaska, Tribes in Alaska, ENGOs, and other interested parties regarding the site investigation program conducted in 2024 and continuing in 2025.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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Hedley Tailings

KEY MESSAGES:

- Mining at the Hedley Mine dates back to 1904, most recently with Candorado Mines operating a permitted heap leach facility from 1988 to 1997 to extract gold from historic tailings.
- Candorado filed for bankruptcy in 1999, leaving the site only partially reclaimed, with contaminated tailings and heap leach ponds posing ongoing environmental and safety risks.
- The Abandoned Mines Branch is taking action under section 17 of the Mines Act to stabilize the site and prevent further contamination.
- The Abandoned Mines Branch is actively exploring the potential for cost recovery through reprocessing tailings to help offset remediation costs.
- The MCM and the Upper Similkameen Indian Band are leading a collaborative de-risking plan through a commercial G2G agreement, ensuring First Nation involvement in remediation efforts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The site contains an abandoned heap leach facility, contaminated ponds, and contaminated tailings, which continue to impact the Hedley community and the Upper and Lower Similkameen Indian Bands.
- Sunrise Resources, the successor to Candorado Mines, lacked the financial capacity to reclaim the site, leading to the cancellation of its permit under section 10.1 of the Mines Act in September 2024.
- The Abandoned Mines Branch is implementing de-risking work under section 17, with Phase 1 (~\$200,000) focused on stabilizing site conditions.
- Regeneration has been contracted to characterize the tailings and assess reprocessing potential, aligning with MCM's strategy to integrate economic recovery into site remediation.
- \$5.4M in booked liability from the French Mine Mill site is available to support ongoing remediation efforts at Hedley, ensuring dedicated funding for continued risk reduction.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- \$5.4M of booked liability was transferred from WLRS to MCM when the Candorado permit was cancelled. This was a balance sheet transfer, and the funds will be used to

support remediation efforts at Hedley, including site investigations, risk assessments, and early-stage de-risking work.

- Phase 1 de-risking work under section 17 is valued at ~\$200,000 and will be complete in 2025/2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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Myra Falls Mine

KEY MESSAGES:

- In December 2023, Myra Falls Mine Ltd. entered creditor protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (CCAA) and announced it was placing the Myra Falls Mine into Care and Maintenance due to low metal prices, high operating costs, and liquidity risk.
- The Supreme Court of B.C. has extended the stay of proceedings until April 4, 2025, allowing Myra Falls to continue restructuring under CCAA protection.
- The outcome after April 4, 2025, depends on the outcome of the restructuring process —Myra Falls could transition to new ownership, seek another stay to continue restructuring, or, if no viable path is found, move into bankruptcy and liquidation.
- MCM is working closely with Myra Falls to ensure proper monitoring and maintenance of the mine, tailings storage facility and water treatment plant during ongoing Care and Maintenance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Myra Falls is an underground mine located within Strathcona Provincial Park, 90 km southwest of Campbell River, in the traditional territories of the Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai and K'ómoks, and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (MMFN).
 - The mine is wholly owned by Trafigura, the world's third-largest commodity trading company, based in Singapore.
 - Primary production is zinc, with secondary copper, lead, silver, and gold. Surface operations began in 1965, transitioning to underground mining in 1972. The mine was previously placed in Care and Maintenance in 2015 before restarting in late 2019.
 - In 2022, Myra Falls generated ~\$226M USD in revenue from mineral production, employing 262 hourly staff, 87 full-time staff, and 78 contractors. Current staffing while in Care and Maintenance is understood to be approximately 35 employees, split roughly 50/50 between unionized (Unifor) and non-union staff.
 - Intergovernmental Communications
-
- The mine's load-out facility for ore concentrate is located on Wei Wai Kum reserve land. A lease renewal agreement for this facility was reached in 2022.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- No costs to the Province. The company received court approval for a \$21M loan facility in December 2023, to maintain operations during restructuring. This was later increased to \$37M, ensuring Myra Falls can continue restructuring through at least April 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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Yellow Giant Mine (Banks Island)

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Province acknowledges Gitxaala's concerns related to outstanding reclamation at this site and is working with the Nation on options to address.
- The Province is committed to working closely with Gitxaala to confirm a desired approach to addressing reclamation of the site through collaborative efforts.
- The Province has conducted remedial work at the Mine under section 10.1 of the *Mines Act*, using confiscated securities to remove hazardous materials in 2017.
- The Province will continue to monitor discussions and negotiations between Gitxaala and the current site owner, MCC Canadian Gold Venture (MCGV), and is assessing the availability of regulatory tools to hold any past owners accountable for clean-up at the site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Mine comprises three separate exploration sites and one permitted mine, including a modular processing plant.
- The Mine is in the asserted territory of Gitxaala Nation (Gitxaala) and Kitselas First Nation.
- In 2016, Banks Island Gold (BIG) filed for bankruptcy and went into receivership. EMLI confiscated reclamation securities, totaling \$420,000, and used \$200,000 to remove high risk hazardous materials from the site in 2017.
- In 2019, the mineral claims were acquired by MCGV, a major creditor to BIG. This purchase was approved in December 2018 by the court as part of BIG's receivership. Although BIG is bankrupt, it remained the permittee under the *Mines Act* as MCGV did not transfer the permit. However, due to BIG's failure to file its annual reports with the corporate registry, BIG was dissolved on August 15, 2022.
- Gitxaala has voiced concerns about the current and future state of the Yellow Giant site and, in October 2021, requested "clear confirmation that BC is committed to promptly ensure full and complete remediation is conducted at the Yellow Giant site, and that this remediation will not be in any way contingent on permitting further mining to occur at the site".
- The Province has built a positive relationship with Gitxaala in relation to this site through open and transparent dialogue and information sharing, and is in discussions regarding next steps and opportunities for collaboration. On September 13, 2023,

EMLI and Gitxaala Nation Territorial Management Agency (GTMA) conducted a joint site visit at the Mine, as part of IFP-funded project commitments.

- In February 2023, MCGV provided a proposal for clean-up activities to MCM and Gitxaala. In response to this proposal, the GTMA Director sent a letter to MCGV in August 2023, providing a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with MCGV, including conditions that would need to be accepted prior to any on-site work. Conditions included compliance with Gitxaala laws and cultural practices, written consent for all activities, and relinquishing existing leases and permits.
- MCM will continue to monitor the agreement discussions and negotiations between GTMA and MCGV and is assessing the availability of regulatory tools to hold past owners of the site accountable for clean-up at the site.

Legal Context:

- On October 26, 2021, Gitxaala announced a legal challenge to the *Mineral Tenure Act* (MTA), particularly with respect to the provincial tenuring system under the MTA. The filing referenced environmental impacts resulting from the Mine operating outside of the regulatory scheme, as well as the outstanding reclamation liabilities at the Mine. These issues were cited as examples of impacts to rights and title resulting from the issuance of mineral tenures and subsequent regulation of mining activity.
- The resulting September 2023 Gitxaala v. British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner) court ruling is an important decision for Indigenous rights, mineral exploration, and the industry.
- Work is underway to implement the B.C. Supreme Court decision in parallel with MTA modernization.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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MINISTRY OF MINING and CRITICAL MINERALS

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

SECTION I: OPERATING MINES

Section I Contents:

- Operating Coal Mines in B.C.
- Operating Metal Mines in B.C.
- Map – Operating Mines and Selected Major
- Mount Polley Mine

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Operating Coal Mines in B.C.

KEY MESSAGES:

- There are currently six metallurgical (met) coal mines operating in British Columbia (B.C.), employing approximately 4,523 workers.
- B.C. is Canada's largest coal producer with all of its operating mines producing metallurgical coal used in steelmaking.
- There are no thermal coal mines operating in the province.
- The forecasted value of the coal produced in B.C. in 2024 was around \$10.3 billion, down from \$10.6 billion in 2023 and around \$12 billion in 2022 (due to declining prices for met coal).
- Over 90 percent of the mineral tax the Province collected from B.C. mines in 2023/24 came from coal operations (\$457.5 million) and marked a 38 percent decrease from 2022/23 (\$737 million).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The following coal mines are currently operating in B.C:

Operation	Company	Community	Est. Employees
Elkview	EVR	Sparwood	1,107
Fording River	EVR	Elkford	1,346
Line Creek	EVR	Elkford	684
Greenhills	EVR	Sparwood	711
Willow Creek	Conuma	Chetwynd	275
Quintette	Conuma	Tumbler Ridge	400

- The forecasted value of the coal produced in the Province decreased by 2.6 percent from around \$10.6 billion in 2023 to around \$10.3 billion in 2024 due to a decrease in the price of met coal.
- Met coal is B.C.'s top mineral commodity in terms of production value and mineral tax revenue.
- Over 90 percent of the mineral tax the Province collected from B.C. mines in 2023/24 came from coal operations (\$457.5 million of \$497.3 million). The forecasted mineral tax revenue from coal operations in 2024/25 is \$213.5 million.
 - Reasons for the decline in mineral taxes include falling prices for metallurgical coal as well as major labour and shipment disruptions in the second half of 2024,

including the Canadian rail stoppage in August 2024 and strike at the Port of Vancouver in November 2024.

- Four of B.C.'s six operating coal mines are in Southeast B.C.:
 - The four Elk Valley mines are a significant part of the regional and provincial economy, employing approximately 3,848 people.
 - Teck Resources (Teck) operated these mines from 2003 until they sold them to Switzerland's Glencore in July 2024. Glencore holds a 77 percent controlling interest in the mines with Japan's Nippon Steel (20 percent) and South Korea's POSCO (3 percent) holding the remaining equity interest. Provincial authorizations are held through Elk Valley Resources Operations Ltd. (EVR).
 - The Fording River Extension (FRX) Project at the Fording River mine continues to be advanced by EVR. It is anticipated that EVR will submit a revised project for an Environmental Assessment readiness decision in 2025.
- Two of B.C.'s six operating coal mines are located at the Peace River Coalfield near Tumbler Ridge. These are owned by Conuma Coal and employ approximately 675 people from the communities of Tumbler Ridge and Chetwynd.
 - Wolverine Mine (May 2024) and Brule Mine (January 2025) completed permitted mining and entered care and maintenance for the foreseeable future.
 - Trend-Roman Mine was purchased in February 2025 with plans to bring it back into operations in 2026.
- Proposed new coal projects in the environmental assessment (EA) process include Crown Mountain (Southeast B.C.; NWP Coal Canada), Michel Coal Project (Southeast B.C.; North Coal), Tenas Coal (Smithers; Allegiance Coal), and Rocky Creek Coal (Chetwynd; CTI Resources Plus). Proposed near-term coal expansion projects include those at the Fording River and Greenhills mines.

Coal Prices, Carbon Intensity and Transportation

- The skyrocketing price of met coal that was seen from the end of 2021 through the first half of 2022 has cooled, following a softening of the surge in steel production caused by the post-pandemic global recovery. The average spot price for 2024 was US\$241/tonne, down from US\$295/tonne in 2023. The latest reported spot price was US\$187/tonne on February 28, 2025.
 - China and India continue to top global demand for internationally traded met coal, and Australia remains the biggest global supplier.
 - Looking forward, met coal prices are expected to be weighed down by market oversupply for at least the next two years and competitive supply sourcing by both India and China.
- Met coal produced in B.C. is high-quality with low sulfur content, reducing acid rain concerns.

- B.C. mines also have significantly lower carbon intensity compared to competing jurisdictions due to use of clean energy (50 percent lower carbon intensity than Australia, 300 percent lower carbon intensity than United States).
- Coal produced at B.C. mines is transported by rail to shipping terminals in Vancouver (Port Metro, Westshore, or Neptune Terminals) and Prince Rupert (Trigon Terminals).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
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Operating Metal Mines in B.C.

KEY MESSAGES:

- There are currently nine metal mines operating in British Columbia (B.C.), employing approximately 4,937 workers.
- The Blackwater, Premier, Cariboo Gold, and Dome Mountain mines have received their *Mines Act* (MA) and *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) permits and are working toward commercial production
 - Blackwater, Premier, and Dome Mountain are anticipated to initiate commercial production in 2025.
 - Together, these four mines are expected to employ over 1,100 workers.
- The key metals mined in B.C. are copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum.
- B.C. is Canada's largest producer of copper and Canada's only producer of molybdenum, both of which are on Canada's critical minerals list.
- Metal mines accounted for \$4.8 billion of all mine production in 2023, representing about 29 percent of total major mine output.
- The preliminary estimate for all metal mines production in 2024 is around \$5 billion.
- In November 2024, Osisko Development obtained a MA permit to allow construction at its Cariboo Gold project – a process which took 13 months.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The following nine mines are currently operating in B.C.:

Operation	Company	Community	Est. Employees
Highland Valley Copper	Teck Resources Ltd.	Logan Lake	1,421
Gibraltar	Taseko Mines Ltd.	Williams Lake	690
Mount Milligan	Centerra	Prince George	618
New Afton	New Gold	Kamloops	485
Copper Mountain	Hudbay Minerals	Princeton	471
Red Chris	Newmont	Iskut	467
Brucejack	Newmont	Stewart	425
Mount Polley	Imperial Metals	Williams Lake	340
Elk Gold	Gold Mountain Mining	Merritt	20

- Metal mines accounted for \$4.8 billion of all mine production in 2023 and the preliminary estimate for production from metal mines in 2024 is around \$5 billion.
- The Province collected \$39.8 million in mineral taxes from B.C. metal mines in 2023/24. The estimated mineral tax from B.C. metal mines for 2024/25 is \$89.3 million. This increase is mainly attributed to higher copper and gold prices.
- Proposed upcoming new and expanded metal mines include:
 - Near-term, permitted, mines (1-3 years): Blackwater Gold, Cariboo Gold, Premier Gold, and Dome Mountain.
 - Near-term projects (1-3 years): Highland Valley Copper – Extension; Eskay Creek Project, Red Chris – Block Cave Expansion, Mount Milligan – Expansion, Mount Polley - Springer Expansion, Gibraltar – Phase 1 Expansion, and New Afton – East Extension,
 - Long-term projects: Galore Creek, New Polaris, Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM), Kutcho, Turnagain, Baptiste Nickel, Schaft Creek, Yellowhead, Berg, Kwanika, Wicheeda, Aley, Ootsa, and North Island Copper.
- Blackwater Gold Project obtained its MA permit in March 2023. Mine production is anticipated in the second quarter of 2025 and is estimated to create 400 jobs from operations and generate an estimated \$52 million in annual mineral tax revenue for the province.
- Premier Gold Mine obtained its MA and EMA amendments in late 2021/early 2022 to restart operations located near the town of Stewart. Mine production is anticipated as soon as Q2 2025. The mine is estimated to create 280 jobs from operations and generate an estimated \$18 million in annual mineral tax revenue for the province.
- Cariboo Gold Project obtained its Environmental Assessment Certificate on October 10, 2023, and MA in November 2024. Mine production is anticipated in Q4 2025/Q1 2026. The mine is estimated to create 488 jobs from operations and generate an estimated \$31 million in annual mineral tax revenue for the province.
- 2024 and early 2025 saw significant investment in B.C.'s major metal mines (Appendix 1) with approximately \$15.5 billion invested in mines and advanced projects such as KSM, Mount Milligan, the Southeast Coal Mines, Eskay Creek, Copper Mountain, New Afton, and Gibraltar.
- The price of copper and gold increased by 8 percent and 23 percent, respectively, in 2024. Copper found support from increasing demand in emerging technologies including electric vehicles and advancements in AI and data centers. Gold continued to be an attractive haven for investors under uncertain geopolitical conditions and monetary easing by the United States Federal government.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1 – Recent Investments in B.C.'s Operating and Proposed Metal Mines

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

Appendix 1 – Recent Investments in B.C.'s Operating and Proposed Metal Mines

- In January 2025, Seabridge Gold Inc. announced that it has entered into a Controlled Equity Offering Sales Agreement with Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. and RBC Capital Markets, LLC. for gross proceeds of up to US\$100 million (C\$143.36 million). Net proceeds from the Offering will be used to advance the company's flagship KSM Project.
- In October 2024, Royal Gold signed an agreement with Centerra Gold to extend the life of Mount Milligan to 2035. Consideration includes \$33.17 million in cash and 50,000oz of gold.
- In July 2024, Teck Resources Ltd. announced that it has completed the sale of its remaining 77% interest in the steelmaking coal business, Elk Valley Resources, to Glencore plc. Teck received total cash proceeds of US\$7.3 billion (around C\$ 10 billion), subject to customary closing adjustments. Teck intends to allocate some of the proceeds to fund near-term copper growth projects including its BC HVC expansion project.
- In June 2024, Skeena Resources Ltd. announced that it has secured a financing package totaling US\$750 million (equivalent to over C\$1 billion) with Orion Resource Partners for the development, construction, and general working capital required to advance the Company's 100%-owned Eskay Creek Gold-Silver Project.
- In May 2024, Hudbay Minerals announced the agreements of bought deal equity financing worth US\$349,980,000. The offering was conducted by a syndicate of underwriters led by RBC Capital Markets and BMO Capital Markets. The company intends to use the proceeds to advance near term growth initiatives including acceleration of mine pre-stripping activities and mill optimization initiatives at Copper Mountain.
- In May 2024, New Gold announced the closing of bought deal equity financing worth US\$172,679,400. The offering was conducted by a syndicate of underwriters led by CIBC Capital Markets. The company intends to use the proceeds to increase cash flow at their New Afton mine.
- In April 2024, Taseko announced that it had priced an offering US\$500 million of Senior Secured notes due 2030. Proceeds will be used for capital expenditures at the company's Gibraltar mine.
- In January 2024, Teck closed the sale of a minority interest in its steelmaking coal business, Elk Valley Resources (EVR), to Nippon Steel Corporation (NSC) and POSCO. NSC acquired a 20% interest in EVR in exchange for its prior 2.5% interest in Elkview Operations plus US\$1.3 billion in cash paid at closing to Teck and US\$0.4 billion paid subsequently to Teck out of cash flows from EVR. POSCO exchanged its 2.5% interest in Elkview Operations and its 20% interest in the Greenhills joint venture, for a 3% interest in EVR.

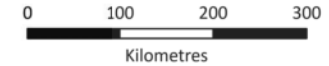


British Columbia Geological Survey
Open File 2025-01



Mines, mine development, selected proposed mines, and selected exploration projects in British Columbia, 2024

Gordon Clarke, Bruce Northcote, Nate Corcoran, Cary Pothorin, Hassan Heidarian and Kirk Hancock



Project status (coloured by project type)

- Operating mine*
- Mine in care and maintenance
- Specialty mill
- Mine development
- Proposed mine
- Exploration project
- Temporary shutdown
- *Operated in or for a portion of 2024

Project type

- Coal (metallurgical)
- Precious metals
- Precious and base metals
- Base metals
- Base and precious metals
- Rare earth elements
- Industrial minerals
- Aggregates
- Precious and semi-precious gemstones
- Slag
- Other

Geology

Post-accretionary assemblages

- Intrusive rocks
- Supracrustal rocks
- Neogene to Quaternary volcanic rocks

Terranes

- Outboard
- Alexander
- Wrangellia
- Cache Creek and affiliates
- Slide Mountain
- Stikinia
- Quesnellia
- Yukon-Tanana

Ancestral North America

- Cassiar
- Deep-water basin strata
- Platform strata
- Craton and cover

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Clarke, G., Northcote, B.K., Corcoran, N.L., Pothorin, C., Heidarian, H., and Hancock, K., 2025. Mines, mine development, selected proposed mines, and selected exploration projects in British Columbia, 2024. British Columbia Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals, British Columbia Geological Survey Open File 2025-01.

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Mount Polley Mine

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) and Environment and Parks (ENV) Ministers provided consent to the tailings storage facility (TSF) Dam Raise on March 27, 2025.
- The Statutory Decision Maker under the Mines Act also approved a 4m raise to the TSF on March 27, 2025.
- The approvals followed a detailed technical review of the company's plans, and consultation with First Nations.
- MCM and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) are actively reviewing the Springer Pit Expansion.
- The MCM and Environment and Parks (ENV) Ministers would need to have provided consent to the proposed Springer Expansion, as per the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC), before a decision can be made on the Springer Pit Expansion.
- If approval is not received by the end of May 2025 the ability of the mine to continue full operations may be impacted. Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) is currently working on developing contingencies to keep its employees working.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key Messages: March 27 TSF Ministers' Consent and Permit Decision

- What happened in 2014 can never happen again, and we have taken significant steps to strengthen standards with respect to tailings dam design and operation.
- The Mount Polley Mine became operational again in 2016 under strict new environmental protection standards.
- With spring freshet on the way, the application to raise the dam is needed to keep the mine operating safely, and to keep people working.
- The application met what is now required under significantly strengthened environmental standards.
- We absolutely understand people's concerns when it comes to this mine, and the impact it has had on our environment.
- Staff in both ministries continue to monitor the operation to ensure they are following our strong environmental protection requirements.

Mine Overview

- Mount Polley is an operating open-pit copper/gold mine, located 56km Northeast of Williams Lake, and is owned by MPMC (a subsidiary of Imperial Metals Ltd.).
- The mine first started mining operations in 1997. The site went into Care and Maintenance between May 2019 and November 2022 due to low metal prices.
- The mine is located within the traditional territories of the Xat'sül First Nation (XFN), Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN), Neskonlith Indian Band (NIB), and Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band (WP/CIB).
- The mine supports 340 existing direct jobs, the majority of which are under the United Steelworkers Union of Canada, and indirectly supports an additional 700 jobs.
- MPMC has business agreements and a benefits arrangement with WLFN and is in negotiations on a benefits agreement with XFN.

Dam Breach

- On Aug 4, 2014, a breach occurred in the perimeter embankment of the TSF. The breach released tailings, water, and embankment construction materials to the downstream environments of Polley Lake, Hazeltine Creek, and Quesnel Lake. Following the breach, mine operations ceased.
- In June 2016, MPMC was issued a *Mines Act* permit amendment permitting a return to full operations and the resumed deposition of tailings into the TSF.

Permitting Timelines

TSF Dam Raise

- In July 2024, MPMC submitted a *Mines Act* and *Environmental Management Act* (MA/EMA) application for the combined TSF Dam Raise and Springer Expansion, which would raise the TSF by 4m and extend mine life by 6 years until 2031.
- In August 2024, MPMC decided to prioritize the TSF Dam Raise portion - MCM completed the review process in September 2024 and undertook additional consultation with XFN between September and November 2024.
- Between September 2024 and March 2025, MCM and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) undertook a review/consultation process required under the Mt. Polley EAC. This resulted in the MCM Minister determining the TSF Dam Raise was a 'material alteration' under the EAC and the MCM and ENV Ministers providing consent to the activity.
- The Mines Act permit for the TSF Dam Raise was issued on March 27, 2025.
- MCM advanced the TSF Dam Raise application through Fall 2024 and referred the permit for decision in March 2025.

Springer Expansion

- Initial review comments were provided to MPMC in August 2024, who did not provide responses until March 2025, a 7-month delay. As a result, the review process is not expected to be referred for decisions until June 2025 at earliest.
- As required by the Mount Polley EAC, the MCM and ENV Ministers must decide to consent to the Springer Expansion before decisions can occur on the MA and EMA permits. Referral for ministerial consent is expected in May 2025 for the Springer Expansion.
- MPMC has indicated that if they are unable to obtain approval for the Springer Expansion by June 2025 there will likely be impacts to their ability to sustain full operations.

Final TSF Raise

- MCM anticipates MPMC applying for a final 13m TSF Dam Raise in Q2 2025.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

- Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- Not applicable

ADM(s) Responsible	Contact number
Tania Demchuk, RMCD	250 818-6426

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**MINISTRY OF MINING
and CRITICAL MINERALS**

ESTIMATES SPRING 2025

**SECTION J:
FINANCIALS AND SERVICE PLAN**

Section J Contents:

- Budget Highlights
- Minister Briefing Slides
- Estimates Summary
- Estimates Blue Book
- Service Plan and Mandate Letter

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MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

2025 Budget Highlights

MCM's 2025/26 budget is \$61.012M. **This represents a \$1.416M or 2.4% net increase from the previous year.** This net budget increase is comprised of:

Budget 2025 Decisions:

- \$0.481M increase for the Shared Recovery Wage Mandate
- \$0.161M to fund the new Deputy Minister's Office
- \$0.100M to support corporate resources for the new ministry
- \$0.006M adjustment to Minister's Office to reflect updated structure

Prior Year Decisions:

- \$0.673M increase in Critical Minerals (Budget 2023)
- (\$0.005M) decrease Major Projects & Regional Permitting (Budget 2024)

\$000	2024/25 Estimates	Change	Restated 2023/24	2025/26	\$ Change	% Change
Ministry Operations	59,596	-	59,596	61,012	1,416	
Total	59,596	-	59,596	61,012	1,416	2.4%

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Budget 2025

Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

Minister Briefing

Ministry Budget 2024/25 – 2027/28

Corporate Services for the
Natural Resource Ministries



	2024/25 Restated	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Ministry Operations	\$000			
Responsible Mining and Competitiveness	29,927	30,676	30,457	30,457
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement	14,120	14,251	14,251	14,251
Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships	3,570	3,630	3,630	3,630
Executive and Support Services	11,979	12,455	12,455	12,455
Total Ministry Operations	\$59,596	\$61,012	\$60,793	\$60,793
<i>Changes from Budget 2024</i>		\$1,416	\$1,197	\$1,197
<i>Changes Year over Year</i>		\$1,416	(\$219)	\$0
Total Ministry Budget	59,596	61,012	60,793	60,793
Operations Budget Changes from Budget 2024				
Shared Recovery Wage Mandate		\$481	\$481	\$481
Deputy Minister's Office Resources		\$161	\$161	\$161
Corporate Resources		\$100	\$100	\$100
Minister's Office		\$6	\$6	\$6
Prior Year Approvals				
Critical Minerals (Budget 2023)		\$673	\$668	\$668
Major Projects & Regional Permitting (Budget 2024)		(\$5)	(\$219)	(\$219)
Total Changes		\$1,416	\$1,197	\$1,197
Percent Change to Operations from Budget 2024		2%	2%	2%

Budget 2025 Highlights

- \$1.443M over the fiscal plan moved from contingency to base to fund the shared recovery wage mandate.
- \$0.783M over the fiscal plan to resource the new Deputy Minister's Office (up to 4 FTEs) and corporate services (1 FTE) to stand up the new ministry.
- \$0.018M over the fiscal plan adjustment to Minister's Office to reflect updated structure as approved by the Premier's Office.

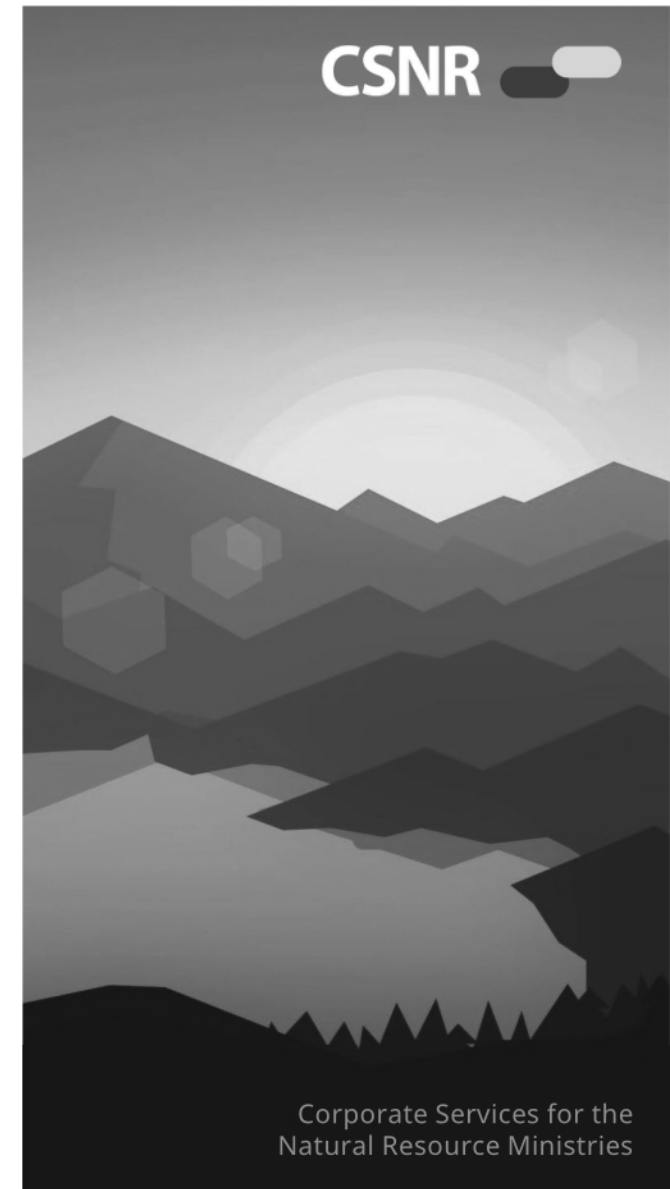
Other Authorizations

Contingency	24/25	25/26	26/27
Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications			

Statutory			
Quinsam Coal Mine - Mines Act S.17	10,500	7,100	
Sub-Total Statutory Approval	10,500	7,100	-

Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Note: Contingency does not include pending FY25 Reprofiling requests



MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

Budget 2025 Estimates Summary

By Core Business										
\$000s										
		Budget 2025 Decisions						Prior Year Decisions		
	Restated Estimates 2024/25	(1) Wage Mandate	(2) DMO & Corporate Resources	(3) Minister's Office Adjustment	(4) Critical Minerals (Budget 2023)	(5) Major Projects & Regional Permitting (Budget 2024)	Estimates 2025/26	(5) Major Projects & Regional Permitting (Budget 2024)	2026/27 Estimates	2027/28 Estimates
Ministry Operations										
Responsible Mining & Competitiveness	29,927	263			491	(5)	30,676	(219)	30,457	30,457
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement	14,120	131					14,251		14,251	14,251
Strategic & Indigenous Partnerships	3,570	60					3,630		3,630	3,630
Minister's Office	693			6			699		699	699
Executive and Support Services	11,286	27	261		182		11,756		11,756	11,756
Sub-Total	59,596	481	261	6	673	(5)	61,012	(219)	60,793	60,793
TOTAL MINISTRY	59,596	481	261	6	673	(5)	61,012	(219)	60,793	60,793

Budget 2025 Decisions:

- (1), (3) The ministry received a budget lift to support the negotiated **Wage Mandate** and salary adjustment to the **Minister's Office**
- (2) budget increase to fund FTEs to support the new **Deputy Minister's Office and Corporate** services
- (4), (5) Incremental adjustment for resources for prior year **Major Mines and Regional Permitting** and **Critical Mineral** approvals

Budget 2024 and Prior Year Decisions for Out Years

- (5) Incremental adjustment to operational expenses from prior year **Major Mines** and **Regional Permitting** approval

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MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

The mission of the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals is to align regulatory frameworks and policy to support the advancement of mining opportunities and facilitate a safe, environmentally responsible, and competitive mining sector for the benefit of all peoples in British Columbia, now and in the future.

MINISTRY SUMMARY

(\$000)

	Estimates 2024/25 ¹	Estimates 2025/26
VOTED APPROPRIATION		
Vote 40 — Ministry Operations.....	59,596	61,012
OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>59,596</u>	<u>61,012</u>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ²	545	548
LOANS, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS ³	—	—
REVENUE COLLECTED FOR, AND TRANSFERRED TO, OTHER ENTITIES ⁴	—	—

NOTES

¹ For comparative purposes, figures shown for the 2024/25 operating expenses; capital expenditures; loans, investments and other requirements; and revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities are restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 *Estimates*. A reconciliation of restated operating expenses and capital expenditures is presented in Schedule A.

² A listing of estimated capital expenditures by ministry is presented in Schedule C.

³ A summary of loans, investments and other requirements by ministry is presented in Schedule D.

⁴ A summary of revenue collected for, and transferred to, other entities by ministry is presented in Schedule E.

MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

SUMMARY BY CORE BUSINESS

(\$000)

	2024/25	2025/26 ESTIMATES		
	Net	Gross	External Recoveries	Net
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Core Business				
Responsible Mining and Competitiveness.....	29,927	33,729	(3,053)	30,676
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement.....	14,120	14,253	(2)	14,251
Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships.....	3,570	3,632	(2)	3,630
Executive and Support Services.....	11,979	12,457	(2)	12,455
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	59,596	64,071	(3,059)	61,012
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
	Capital Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Receipts and P3 Liabilities	Net
Core Business				
Executive and Support Services.....	545	548	—	548
TOTAL	545	548	—	548

MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

Estimates
2024/25

Estimates
2025/26

VOTE 40 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS

This vote provides for the programs, operations, and other activities described in the voted appropriations under the following core businesses: Responsible Mining and Competitiveness; Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement; Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships; and Executive and Support Services.

RESPONSIBLE MINING AND COMPETITIVENESS

Voted Appropriation

Responsible Mining and Competitiveness.....	29,927	30,676
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for the management and responsible development of the province's mineral, coal, and aggregate resources through developing and delivering geoscience databases and surveys; profiling British Columbia's mineral and coal opportunities; providing secure and modernized mineral and coal tenure systems; delivering a fair, effective, and transparent permitting process; developing and implementing policies and legislation to attract investment in British Columbia and advance reconciliation; developing strategies and actions to continuously enhance provincial competitiveness; collecting fees and securities associated with permits and tenures; advising government agencies on mineral and coal resources and their potential; and engaging and collaborating with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, local and federal governments, and the public. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINES HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT

Voted Appropriation

Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement.....	14,120	14,251
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for oversight of the mining sector, including health, safety, and technical oversight of all mineral, coal, and aggregate mine sites during exploration, development, production, and reclamation; performing independent effectiveness auditing for continuous improvements to mining regulatory oversight; undertaking inspections, investigations and enforcement; providing data-driven process and policy to support robust compliance and enforcement; engaging with Indigenous communities in relation to mining regulatory oversight; and providing for a standing Code Review Committee to ensure labour, Indigenous, and industry representatives are involved in developing British Columbia's mine safety standards. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

STRATEGIC AND INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS

Voted Appropriation

Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships.....	3,570	3,630
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Voted Appropriation Description: This sub-vote provides for leadership and support in areas of strategic and cross-ministry policy, Indigenous relations, intergovernmental relations, business review and planning, the legislative affairs of the ministry and the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, and liaising on Indigenous policy with the British Columbia Energy Regulator and the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. This sub-vote also provides for corporate services and corporate business innovation, including legislation and internal communications. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.

MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

(\$000)

	Estimates 2024/25	Estimates 2025/26
EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Voted Appropriations		
Minister's Office.....	693	699
Corporate Services.....	11,286	11,756
	<u>11,979</u>	<u>12,455</u>
Voted Appropriations Description: This sub-vote provides for the office of the Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals and executive support, including the deputy minister's office, and coordination of legislation. This sub-vote also provides for corporate services, correspondence, records management, and information and privacy. This sub-vote also provides for executive direction to the ministry; finance, administrative, and strategic human resources; information management services and systems; revenue collection; and trust fund management for ministry operations, programs, and clients. Costs may be recovered from ministries, Crown agencies, other levels of government, and parties external to government for activities described within this sub-vote.		
VOTE 40 — MINISTRY OPERATIONS	59,596	61,012

MINISTRY GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

GROUP ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION

Salaries and Benefits	44,132	45,291
Operating Costs	16,205	16,364
Government Transfers	275	275
Other Expenses	2,047	2,145
Internal Recoveries	(4)	(4)
External Recoveries	(3,059)	(3,059)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	<u>59,596</u>	<u>61,012</u>

MINISTRY OF MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS

(\$000)

VOTE 40 Ministry Operations

Description	Total 2024/25 Operating Expenses	50	51	52	54	Total Salaries and Benefits	55	57	59	60	63	65	67	68	69
Responsible Mining and Competitiveness	29,927	21,640	1,235	5,496	—	28,371	50	1,459	—	2,725	241	335	—	—	208
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement	14,120	9,091	868	2,309	—	12,268	50	818	—	588	124	281	—	—	29
Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships	3,570	2,261	—	574	—	2,835	—	91	—	513	15	74	—	—	—
Executive and Support Services	11,979	1,364	22	371	60	1,817	—	119	2,379	390	734	2,340	—	—	—
Minister's Office	693	418	—	130	60	608	—	58	—	—	10	20	—	—	—
Corporate Services	11,286	946	22	241	—	1,209	—	61	2,379	390	724	2,320	—	—	—
Total	59,596	34,356	2,125	8,750	60	45,291	100	2,487	2,379	4,216	1,114	3,030	—	—	237

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70	72	73	75	Total Operating Costs	77	79	80	Total Govt Transfers	81	83	85	Total Other Expenses	86	88	Total Internal Recoveries	89	90	Total External Recoveries	Total 2025/26 Operating Expenses
209	—	—	—	5,227	—	—	116	116	—	—	16	16	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(3,052)	(3,053)	30,676
29	—	—	—	1,919	—	—	59	59	—	—	8	8	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	14,251
—	—	—	—	693	—	—	100	100	—	—	5	5	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	3,630
310	—	1,130	1,123	8,525	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,116	2,116	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	12,455
3	—	—	—	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	699
307	—	1,130	1,123	8,434	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,116	2,116	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	11,756
548	—	1,130	1,123	16,364	—	—	275	275	—	—	2,145	2,145	—	(4)	(4)	(4)	(3,055)	(3,059)	61,012

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Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan

March 2025



For more information on the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals contact:

Deputy Minister's Office
PO Box 9313, STN PROV GOVT
V8W 9N3

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Or visit our website at

<https://www.gov.bc.ca/MCM>

Published by the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jagrup Brar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jagrup" and last name "Brar" clearly distinguishable.

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
March 4, 2025

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Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures.....5

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Strategic Direction

In 2025/26, the Government of British Columbia will continue to prioritize delivering the services and infrastructure needed for people to build good lives in strong communities.

To support this objective, Government will focus on growing the economy, responding to the threat of tariffs, creating good paying jobs, improving affordability, strengthening health care and education, and making communities safer.

Government will also continue deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples while advancing implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

This 2025/26 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals will support the government's priorities and selected action items identified in the Minister's January 2025 [Mandate Letter](#)

Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals](#) (Ministry) is responsible for British Columbia's (B.C.'s) mining and mineral exploration sectors. The Ministry facilitates mining and mineral exploration that is globally competitive, upholds leading environmental practices, and advances reconciliation with First Nations, while providing opportunities and quality jobs for British Columbians and a fair return on resources to support the province's priorities.

The Ministry carries out this work in support of provincial climate policies and programs, as well as commitments to First Nations reconciliation including the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#). In fulfilling its mandate, the Ministry consults and collaborates with other ministries and levels of government, First Nations, private sector stakeholders, communities, regulators, environmental and industry organizations, labour unions and the public.

Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures

The Ministry's goal is to promote a sustainable and competitive mining sector that supports First Nations reconciliation, reflects high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and contributes to the transition to a low carbon economy with responsibly produced minerals and metals. To achieve this, the Ministry will continue to focus on the following outcomes:

- A strong, responsible, low carbon and innovative mining sector that creates well-paying, family supporting jobs.
- Oversight of the mining industry is continuously improved to protect the environment, health and safety, and the public interest.

The Ministry continues to focus on First Nation consultation and permitting timeline improvements to advance a regulatory framework that protects the environment and promotes a globally competitive mining industry. Delivering on a [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) commitment to modernize the [Mineral Tenure Act](#) (MTA) will be key to the long-term outlook for the sector.

Industry oversight contributes to a safe and a sustainable sector that produces the minerals needed to transition to a low carbon economy. The Ministry uses a risk-informed inspection planning approach to prioritise and select sites to be inspected to ensure the most efficient and effective use of compliance management resources. The Ministry fosters meaningful collaboration with First Nations to enhance their participation in compliance activities, ensuring that engagement respects the distinct rights, priorities, and perspectives of each Nation.

Beyond this established work, the Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals has been tasked in the mandate letter to achieve the following specific objectives and performance targets:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints; the realities faced by project proponents and operators in relation to access to capital, global inflation, and interest rates; and the threat of American tariffs.
- Work with industry, First Nations, and across ministries to establish fixed timelines for mining approval permits across British Columbia.
- Ensure BC mining permit approval times are competitive with high-standard international jurisdictions and are dramatically reduced from current permit wait times for mining-related project proposals, while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.
- Work with industry, unions, stakeholders, and First Nations on a long-term outreach strategy to attract more investment and opportunities from mineral exploration to advance processing in British Columbia's critical minerals sector.
- Work with provincial and territorial counterparts to advance a northwestern Canadian critical mineral strategy.
- Where opportunities are available to reach large-scale agreements on land use and critical metal and mineral development with First Nations in a manner that expedites permits, protects the environment, offers investor security, and increases prosperity for British Columbians, lead that work on a priority basis.

- Following the court judgment, update the [Mineral Tenure Act](#) in a manner that engages directly with and is respectful of First Nations rights and interests and also protects mineral resource development opportunities in the province to deliver prosperity for all British Columbians.
- Work with the [Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship](#) to enable mining exploration and development in British Columbia's northwest in partnership with First Nations, in a manner that helps achieve our Provincial commitment to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030 and creates economic growth and opportunity in the region.

Our Ministry will continue to develop specific objectives and performance measures for inclusion in our 2026/27 service plan for Budget 2026. As this work proceeds, the Ministry will maintain its inspection targets, and advance work to attract more investment to BC for mineral exploration and mining.

Financial Summary

(\$000s)	2024/25 Restated Estimates ¹	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
Operating Expenses				
Responsible Mining and Competitiveness	29,927	30,676	30,457	30,457
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement	14,120	14,251	14,251	14,251
Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships	3,570	3,630	3,630	3,630
Executive and Support Services	11,979	12,455	12,455	12,455
Total	59,596	61,012	60,793	60,793
Capital Expenditures				
Executive and Support Services	545	548	548	548
Total	548	548	548	548

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2024/25 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2025/26 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Minister Mandate Letter



January 16, 2025

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Brar:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals at a critical time for our province. Serving as a member of the executive council is a privilege and responsibility which I am confident you will fulfill with integrity and a commitment to the people of our province.

British Columbians have trusted us with a mandate to deliver for them in ways that make a tangible difference in their daily lives. They expect us to listen and learn from people of different perspectives – and work together to make things better for everyone.

Specifically, we will tackle the challenges people worry about at the kitchen table:

- **Grow the economy by creating good jobs across British Columbia.** We will collaborate with businesses, workers, and communities to attract investments in both new and traditional sectors as well as emerging sectors of the economy. This approach will bring certainty for business, security for workers, and generate the wealth needed to support the essential services British Columbians rely on.
- **Reduce costs for families** including by helping people access homes they can afford through support for first-time homebuyers, increasing the supply of rental housing stock, and stronger measures to crack down on housing speculation.

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**Office of the
Premier**

Web Site:
www.gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Location:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria

- **Strengthen health care** by expanding access to family doctors and recruiting and training more health professionals, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the care they need, no matter where they live. We will also increase access to addictions treatment and provide help for people whose struggles require intensive supports.
- **Make our neighbourhoods and communities safer** by working with law enforcement and social agencies to address street disorder, crack down on organized crime, and do all we can to ensure repeat offenders stay behind bars.

Our commitment to take action on climate change remains foundational and will be key to a healthy and prosperous BC for future generations.

Underlying all this work is our partnership with Indigenous peoples. Advancing reconciliation, implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and working in partnership with First Nations rights-holders to advance shared interests is the responsibility of every Minister.

Over this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- In order to protect key services that British Columbians rely on, work with the Minister of Finance to review all existing Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals programs and initiatives to ensure our programs remain relevant, are efficient, grow the economy, and help keep costs low for British Columbians. This is important in the context of current Provincial budget constraints; the realities faced by project proponents and operators in relation to access to capital, global inflation, and interest rates; and the threat of American tariffs.
- Work with industry, First Nations, and across ministries to establish fixed timelines for mining approval permits across British Columbia.
- Ensure BC mining permit approval times are competitive with high-standard international jurisdictions and are dramatically reduced from current permit wait times for mining-related project proposals, while maintaining our world-leading environmental standards.
- Work with industry, unions, stakeholders, and First Nations on a long-term outreach strategy to attract more investment and opportunities from mineral exploration to advance processing in British Columbia's critical minerals sector.
- Work with provincial and territorial counterparts to advance a northwestern Canadian critical mineral strategy.

.../3

- Where opportunities are available to reach large-scale agreements on land use and critical metal and mineral development with First Nations in a manner that expedites permits, protects the environment, offers investor security, and increases prosperity for British Columbians, lead that work on a priority basis.
- Following the court judgment, update the *Mineral Tenure Act* in a manner that engages directly with and is respectful of First Nations rights and interests and also protects mineral resource development opportunities in the province to deliver prosperity for all British Columbians.
- Work with the Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship to enable mining exploration and development in British Columbia's northwest in partnership with First Nations, in a manner that helps achieve our Provincial commitment to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030 and creates economic growth and opportunity in the region.

As you are aware, we have established an accord with the BC Green Caucus that supports our shared commitment to ensuring stable governance focused on delivering progress and tangible outcomes for British Columbians. The commitments in that accord complement the direction in these mandate letters.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The work we have ahead takes place in a profoundly challenging geopolitical environment. Close friends and neighbours to our south are contemplating imposing draconian tariffs on our products that would hurt both Americans and Canadians. Our allies internationally face governmental instability. Hate and racism are on the rise around the world. Artificial intelligence breakthroughs with unclear implications and astonishing potential are announced daily. Global inflation, snarled supply chains, and war are threatening global economic growth and prosperity as well as the transition to a low-carbon economy.

We have an obligation to protect and defend British Columbians, as well as seize opportunities, in these uncertain times.

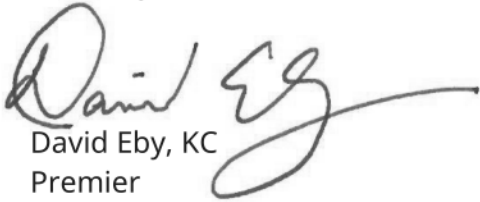
The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and

innovators – are among the most talented in the world. We are home to world-class educational institutions and public services. Our natural beauty is unmatched, we have internationally envied resources, and we are one of the most diverse places on the planet. Your job is to help us leverage these advantages in perilous times.

Use this mandate letter to guide your work, and do not be afraid to challenge assumptions, or be innovative, bold and aggressive in achieving the goals set out for you and your Ministry by the people of this province.

Thank you for joining me in the work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eby", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

David Eby, KC
Premier

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