



**STRONGER TOGETHER:
A CRITICAL MINERAL STRATEGY FOR
WESTERN AND NORTHERN CANADA**



A Connected, Competitive Critical Minerals System

Western and Northern Canada is a globally competitive hub for critical minerals — combining abundant critical mineral resources, industrial capacity, and strategic infrastructure to support the clean energy transition, Indigenous partnerships, advanced manufacturing, food security, and secure supply chains

Our Vision

A resilient, future-focused critical mineral value chain unifying Western and Northern Canada to drive sustainable development, Indigenous prosperity, economic growth, job creation, and strategic investment



Our Strategic Focus

This strategy is organized around three priority pillars that reflect the region's critical mineral value chain strengths and growth opportunities, from enabling infrastructure to partnerships to development:


PILLAR 1



Investment Attraction & Regulatory Certainty

Positioning Western and Northern Canada as a globally competitive, investment-ready critical minerals region

PILLAR 2



Nation-Building Infrastructure & Corridors

Building the infrastructure backbone of the critical mineral value chain and unlocking development at scale

PILLAR 3



Regional Strength & Development Opportunities

Advancing regional strengths and development opportunities of national and global significance

Our Shared Commitments

This strategy is grounded in a set of shared commitments that reflect how Western and Northern Canadian jurisdictions will work together:



Global Focus – Positioning Western and Northern Canada as a reliable global supplier



Jurisdictional Respect – Respecting distinct priorities while strengthening collaboration



Shared Prosperity – Supporting economic opportunity and Indigenous participation



Inter-Jurisdictional Collaboration – Working together to advance shared priorities and consistent and coordinated approaches for the sector

A CRITICAL MINERALS SYSTEM MAP FOR WESTERN AND NORTHERN CANADA

Western and Northern Canada's strengths include globally significant production of potash, copper, uranium, zinc, nickel, and helium with strong opportunities in lithium, rare earths, tungsten, graphite, and aluminum.

Map Legend

- Town
- ⚓ Port
- ⚓ Proposed Port
- Highway
- Major Highway
- Transmission
- All-season Road
- ⚓ Railway
- ⚓ Proposed Railway
- Proposed Major Highway
- ⚓ Proposed/expanded Transmission

Transmission and road infrastructure in and adjacent to major centers is not shown on this map.

Critical Mineral Zones of Interest

BC: The Northwest Critical Mineral & Conservation Corridor¹, Northern Nexus Corridor² and Metal Tech Alley³ represent a complete critical mineral value chain, combining rich mineral deposits, processing, manufacturing and recycling innovation connected by trade corridors to global markets

AB: The Industrial Heartland is a scalable critical minerals processing cluster with world-class infrastructure, cost-competitive natural gas, carbon capture, utilization, and storage, and established industrial capacity

SK: The Athabasca Basin¹, Western Sedimentary Basin² and Flin Flon Greenstone Belt³ collectively host uranium, potash, helium, lithium, rare earths, base metals and North America's first fully integrated commercial rare earth processing facility

MB: The Thompson Nickel Belt¹ and Flin Flon Greenbelt² host world-class nickel, copper, and cobalt deposits with strategic market access via the Port of Churchill, and critical lithium deposits³ in Manitoba's South East

YT: Two significant critical mineral districts: the Carmacks-Mayo Corridor¹ for copper, silver, zinc and the Selwyn Basin² for zinc, lead, tungsten

NT: World-class bismuth, cobalt, copper, lithium, rare earths, tungsten, and zinc deposits anchoring an emerging critical minerals district

NU: Hosts three emerging critical mineral zones — Kivalliq¹, Baffin Island², and Kitikmeot³ — spanning copper, iron ore, and nickel, anchored by the proposed Gray's Bay Port and Road projects



OUR INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANTAGE: CONNECTING RESOURCES TO GLOBAL MARKETS

Provinces and Territories across Western and Northern Canada are investing in transportation, energy, and industrial infrastructure to connect critical mineral zones to communities, corridors, and global markets. Continued collaboration across governments, Indigenous communities, and industry will be essential to realizing the region's full value chain potential.



NU

Home to world-class copper, high-grade iron ore, and significant nickel potential, Nunavut is advancing Indigenous-led infrastructure and Arctic corridors to unlock one of Canada's most promising critical mineral frontiers



NT

The Northwest Territories unlocks high-value critical minerals through strong geoscience, emerging infrastructure, and a clear, co-managed regulatory system that directly involves Indigenous governments to better support investment certainty



YT

Yukon hosts globally significant critical mineral deposits, connected by established highway and transmission corridors linking resource regions to southern markets and Pacific export gateways



BC

BC is a Tier 1 mining jurisdiction producing the majority of Canada's copper and the critical minerals the world needs – with rich geology, clean low-cost power, First Nations partnerships, and innovative technology hubs paving the way, the growth potential in BC is immense



MB

Manitoba hosts 30 of Canada's 34 critical minerals, including lithium, magnesium, nickel, and copper, supported by clean hydroelectricity, strong partnerships with Indigenous communities, and shared opportunities for participation and benefit, alongside access to global markets via the Port of Churchill



AB

Alberta offers Canada's lowest corporate income tax rate, streamlined regulatory pathways, and targeted financial incentives, alongside an estimated 82.5 million tonnes of lithium carbonate equivalent in-place and growing processing and refining capabilities



SK

Saskatchewan is consistently ranked amongst the top jurisdictions globally for mining investment attractiveness, with high-quality geoscience, attractive incentives, competitive royalty systems and predictable regulatory frameworks



PILLAR 1: INVESTMENT ATTRACTION & REGULATORY CERTAINTY

Western and Northern jurisdictions have an inventory of targeted programs that incentivize critical mineral investment

Western and Northern Canada offers a globally competitive, investment-ready critical minerals ecosystem. Provincial and Territorial governments are sharing best practices, collaborating on opportunities, and supporting more predictable project timelines to strengthen investor confidence — underpinned by Canada's geopolitical stability and secure access to diverse global markets.



Global Positioning & Market Presence

- Position Western and Northern Canada as a unified investment destination through coordinated branding and global engagement
- Develop shared investment tools, including a regional inventory, priority project shortlist, and visual assets to support investor outreach



Investor Confidence & Regulatory Certainty

- Advance coordinated permitting approaches by sharing best practices across jurisdictions to improve predictability and timelines
- Strengthen investor confidence through coordinated entry points, improved navigation of regulatory and funding processes, and clearer development pathways



Indigenous Partnerships & Inclusive Growth

- Continue strengthening Indigenous participation with capacity supports, equity partnerships, and economic reconciliation
- Promote early, durable Indigenous partnerships in project development, infrastructure planning, equity ownership, stewardship, and long-term regional prosperity



Aligned Incentives & Capital Attraction

- Align jurisdictions to attract future-focused capital, targeting both traditional and non-traditional investors
- Coordinate federal engagement where priorities align to secure funding, improve program alignment, and reduce fragmentation



PILLAR 2: NATION-BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS & HUBS

Building the infrastructure backbone
to unlock development at scale

Western and Northern Canada is building a coordinated infrastructure system — connecting resource regions, processing hubs, and export markets through integrated transportation, energy, and logistics networks - in collaboration with Indigenous communities - to enable critical mineral development at scale and strengthen global competitiveness.



Energy Systems & Industrial Infrastructure

- Advance reliable, competitive energy systems — including grid expansion, interties, and northern energy solutions — to enable critical mineral development
- Support shared industrial infrastructure including processing zones, utilities, and logistics hubs to enable large-scale projects and diversify export pathways



Supply Chain Efficiency & Federal Advocacy

- Improve efficiency of existing systems while addressing constraints — including port capacity, rail congestion, logistics networks, and power availability — through coordinated planning and investment
- Coordinate federal engagement where priorities align to secure funding, improve program alignment, and reduce fragmentation



Integrated Value Chains & Regional Collaboration

- Advance integrated value chains linking resource development, processing, manufacturing, and export with a focus on downstream opportunities
- Develop shared refining and processing hubs and align on where value-added activities occur to maximize regional economic benefit
- Advance projects that create meaningful economic opportunities by including Indigenous communities through equity participation, procurement, and employment



Transportation & Trade Corridors

- Coordinate rail, road, and marine transportation corridors to connect resource regions, processing hubs, and export gateways
- Advocate for federal investment to expand port and export infrastructure and improve access to global markets

PILLAR 3: REGIONAL STRENGTHS & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Advancing globally significant projects and a competitive value chain

Western and Northern Canada is home to a diverse portfolio of critical mineral resources, projects, and processing capabilities, positioning the region as a globally competitive supplier and highlighting commodity strengths, regulatory stability and value chain opportunities at scale.



Globally Significant Projects

- Advance globally significant critical mineral projects that demonstrate scale, readiness, and investment opportunity



Processing & Value-Add Capacity

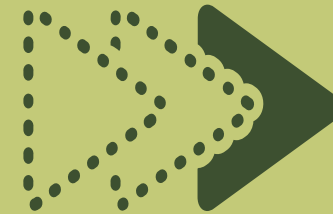
- Strengthen and expand mid-stream processing and value-add capabilities across the region to support integrated value chains, improve project economics, and reinforce the case for coordinated federal investment



Commodity Strengths & Market Position

- Promote regional strengths across commodities to support global competitiveness
- Advocate for alignment in federal framing and promotion of critical mineral opportunities in Western and Northern Canada

Western and Northern Canada is building a connected, competitive, aligned, and responsible critical minerals ecosystem that will unlock our full potential and strengthen global supply chains.



LOOKING AHEAD

Western and Northern Canada has the mineral wealth, enabling infrastructure, and ambition to become a global critical minerals leader

Realizing this immense potential requires continued collaboration and strategic investments across governments, Indigenous communities, and industry

Western and Northern Mining Ministers will meet again in early 2027 to continue the work of building the region into a global critical mineral leader





FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT



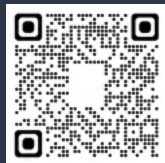
YT



MB



AB



BC



NT



NU



SK

