



Government of Northwest Territories
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Priorities for Critical Minerals in the NWT

AN OVERVIEW

Industry, Tourism and Investment

Le présent document contient la
traduction française de la présentation.

Priorités pour les minéraux critiques aux TNO

APERÇU

Industrie, Tourisme et Investissement



If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.

French

Kīspin ki nitawihitīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłıchq yatı k'ê ẽ . Dı wegodi newq dè, gots'ō gonede.

Tłıchq

ʔerihł'ís Dēne Sųłíné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theᓃ ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yółłı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgháh got'ıe zhaté k'ê ẽ edatł'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'ẽ edahłı.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'ı ne xədə k'ê hederı ʔedłhtł'é yerıniwę ní dé dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijāhch'uu zhit yinohtan jı', diits'āt ginohkhii.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.

Inuvialuktun

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Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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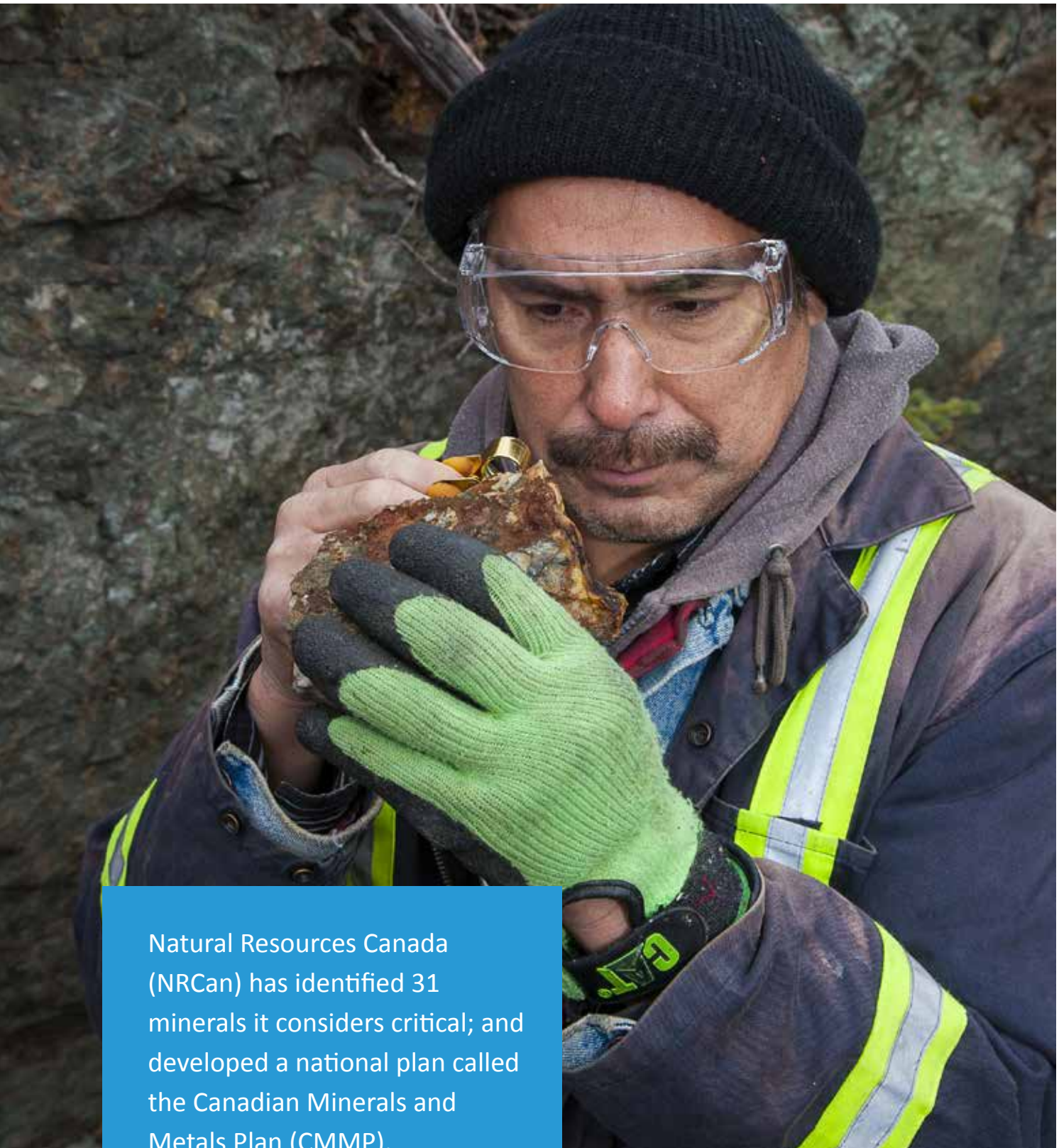
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Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has identified 31 minerals it considers critical; and developed a national plan called the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP).

Executive Summary

Critical minerals (CM) are those minerals considered essential for renewable energy and clean technology applications. The primary push behind their development worldwide is climate change and the resulting urgent need to transition away from carbon-emitting fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal—and towards cleaner energy sources. Serious momentum has been building since 2015 when the Paris Agreement was signed by 196 parties, including Canada.

In Canada, minerals are defined as critical using four key criteria: importance to the digital economy; supply risk; importance of the mineral to fighting climate change; and strategic value to Canada. In consultation with provincial, territorial, and industry experts Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has identified 31 minerals it considers critical; and developed a national plan called the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP).

The NWT is one of the few regions in Canada that can call itself a CM producer today. At least 23 of the 31 minerals deemed critical by NRCan have been found within the NWT. Six CM projects are already in early mining and advanced exploration phases, however they represent only a fraction of the NWT's potential.

Several factors give the NWT an edge in building a strong position supplying CM to the world. The Territory offers several positives over much of the competition. It enjoys stable political, fiscal, legal, and banking frameworks; its long history of mining has resulted in a trained and educated workforce—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—and a general acceptance by the NWT public of mining as an industry important to its economy.

GNWT's vision for CM is to promote and advance its exploration and development in a manner that maximizes benefits for NWT residents and their communities, and supports and strengthens

Canada's commitments to Indigenous reconciliation, implementing UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), and addressing climate change.

To realize this vision, we're building on existing policies, agreements, and relationships; as well as new ones, to position our territory for the future. Firstly, we are increasing awareness and understanding of CM opportunities in NWT governments and residents; secondly, we are marketing and promoting the NWT's CM potential; thirdly, we are growing and expanding our own knowledge about NWT CM; and fourthly, we are building our relationships with Indigenous governments and partners, the federal government, and industry around CM.

Development of these pillars holds considerable promise for the NWT. With CM exploration and production trending upward, a skilled workforce, new modern legislation, key infrastructure development, Indigenous partnership and a solid track record of environmental and socio-economic management, the NWT is well-positioned to attract ESG-conscious investors and project developers to its CM potential. It's a pivotal opportunity.



Ressources naturelles Canada (RNCan) a identifié 31 minéraux essentiels et a établi un plan national appelé le Plan canadien pour les minéraux et les métaux (PCMM).

Sommaire

Les minéraux critiques (MC) sont considérés comme étant essentiels pour les applications dans les domaines des technologies propres et de l'énergie renouvelable. Le changement climatique et la nécessité de remplacer les combustibles fossiles comme le gaz, le pétrole et le charbon par des technologies plus vertes sont les principaux moteurs du développement de ces minéraux. Une dynamique sérieuse s'est mise en place depuis 2015, lorsque l'Accord de Paris a été signé par 196 parties, dont le Canada.

Au Canada, les minéraux sont définis comme essentiels selon quatre critères clés : l'importance pour l'économie numérique, les risques liés à l'approvisionnement, l'importance du minéral pour la lutte contre le changement climatique et la valeur stratégique pour le Canada. En consultation avec des experts provinciaux, territoriaux et industriels, Ressources naturelles Canada (RNCAN) a identifié 31 minéraux essentiels et a établi un plan national appelé le Plan canadien pour les minéraux et les métaux (PCMM).

Les TNO sont l'une des rares régions canadiennes qui peuvent se targuer d'exploiter des MC. En fait, pas moins de 23 des 31 minéraux jugés essentiels par RNCAN ont été découverts aux TNO. Six projets liés aux MC en sont déjà aux premières phases d'exploitation et d'exploration avancée, mais ils ne représentent qu'une fraction du potentiel des TNO.

De nombreux facteurs et atouts contribuent à avantager les TNO par rapport à la majorité de ses concurrents dans l'approvisionnement en minéraux critiques dans le monde. Les TNO bénéficient d'un cadre politique, fiscal, juridique et bancaire stable; la longue histoire d'exploitation minière du territoire a permis de former une main-d'œuvre qualifiée –autochtone et non autochtone– et de créer un sentiment favorable au sein de la population quant à l'importance de l'exploitation minière pour l'économie du territoire.

L'ambition du GTNO consiste à promouvoir et à faire progresser l'exploration et l'exploitation des MC de manière à optimiser les avantages pour les habitants des TNO et leurs collectivités, ainsi qu'à soutenir et à renforcer les engagements du Canada envers la réconciliation avec les Autochtones, la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones (DNUDPA) et l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Pour concrétiser cette ambition et positionner les TNO pour l'avenir :

- nous nous appuyons sur les politiques, les relations et les accords existants et à venir;
- nous sensibilisons les gouvernements et les habitants des TNO aux occasions qu'offrent les MC;
- nous commercialisons et soutenons le potentiel des MC;
- nous améliorons nos connaissances dans le domaine;
- nous établissons des relations avec les gouvernements et les partenaires autochtones, le gouvernement fédéral et l'industrie.

Le développement de ces piliers est très prometteur pour les TNO. Grâce à la tendance à la hausse de l'exploration et de la production de minéraux critiques, à une main-d'œuvre qualifiée, à une nouvelle législation moderne, au développement d'infrastructures clés, à un partenariat autochtone et à de solides antécédents en matière de gestion environnementale et socio-économique, les TNO sont bien positionnés pour attirer des investisseurs et des promoteurs de projets de MC qui soient soucieux des aspects environnementaux, sociaux et de gouvernance. Il s'agit là d'une excellente occasion.

Introduction

What are critical minerals? Why are we hearing so much about them? It seems they've become a much sought after and talked about commodity both locally and globally.

Put simply, critical minerals (CM) are those minerals considered essential for renewable energy and clean technology applications (especially batteries). The primary push behind the development of these minerals worldwide is climate change and the resulting urgent need to transition away from carbon-emitting fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal—and towards cleaner energy sources.

The NWT is well positioned to benefit from the exploration for, and future development of, CM. This paper provides some basic background of CM, the opportunities that exist, what they mean to Canada's and the NWT's future, and what is being done to maximize their benefits.



Background/Context

What is a Critical Mineral?

Critical minerals or elements are those considered essential for renewable energy and clean technology applications, for example batteries, permanent magnets, solar panels, and wind turbines. They are essential for future manufacturing supply chains related particularly to the automotive industry, as well as defense and security technologies, consumer electronics, agriculture, medical applications, critical infrastructure and much more.

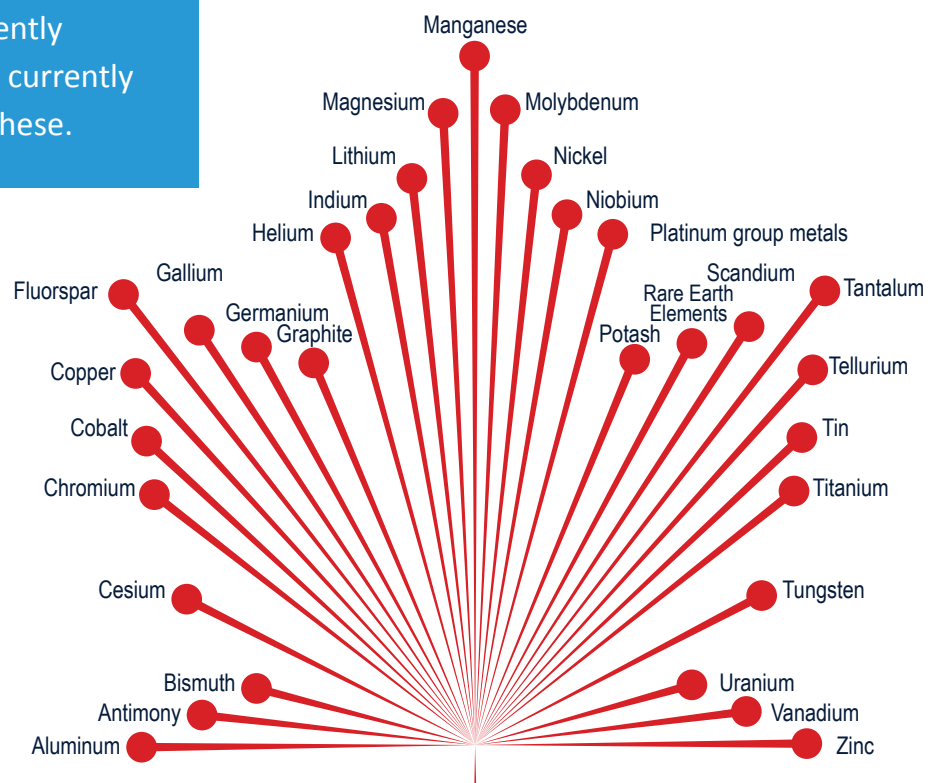
In Canada, minerals are, in essence, defined as critical using four key criteria:

- **Importance to the digital economy:** does future demand, forecast and urgency of the demand for the mineral affect its pricing; and its importance to the supply chain for production and distribution of minerals?
- **Supply risk:** which countries, if any, in the supply chain have high political or other risks like climate change or pandemics?
- **Importance of the mineral to climate change:** how critical are they to the technology required to confront climate change?
- **Strategic value to Canada:** does being part of the supply chain have economic and social value to Canada, and what advantages does Canada have over competing countries?

In the USA, 35 elements, minerals, and mineral groups are currently defined as critical. Canada is currently a supplier for at least 13 of these.



https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/mineralsmetals/pdf/Critical_Minerals_List_2021-EN.pdf



Why are CM in such demand?

CM are the building blocks for the green and digital economy. Without CM, the transition for Canada and the world to green energy is at risk.



Net-Zero and Electric Vehicles

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty on climate change adopted by 196 parties, including Canada, in 2015 at the UN Climate Change Conference (known as COP21) in Paris, France. The aim of the agreement is “Net-zero” – a term that refers to a project or a jurisdiction that either emits zero harmful greenhouse gases or offsets its emissions to realize no net emissions. Offsets, for example, can be actions such as tree-planting or employing technologies that capture the carbon before it is released into the air. The *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* commits Canada to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Net-zero, and the four defining criteria presented in the previous section, are creating strong demand for CM. A good example to illustrate

this demand is electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are demonstrating phenomenal growth: a rate of more than 20 times over the past ten years. Most automobile manufacturers have made commitments to reach high sales volumes as the demand accelerates well through to 2030. NWT communities and industry will require significant additional sources of clean energy in order to support the electrification of industrial and transportation sector demand.

The World Bank forecasts that as a result, annual demand for battery minerals like lithium will increase along with it. The supply of minerals required to meet these needs is not yet secured. To support this rapid growth, auto manufacturers will require what are known as “giga” battery factories: those capable of producing hundreds of millions of batteries every year. This additional planned capacity over the next decade is forecast to call for tens of billions of dollars of investment in gigafactories. This doesn’t include investment in the exploration, mining, and processing of CMs like lithium and cobalt needed to supply the factories.

There is also a pressing economic and strategic need to secure sources of CM located in North America in order to minimize supply disruptions.

By the end of the decade, a minimum of eight battery factories representing an investment of around \$30 billion are foreseen. The battery minerals needed to feed these factories are not yet secured and could come from Canada.

Canada's CM Strategy

In March 2021, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) identified 31 minerals it considers critical. The list was developed by consulting with provincial, territorial, and industry experts. These minerals are considered critical for the sustainable economic success of Canada and will help to maintain our position as a leading mining nation.

The potential is enviable. Canada is endowed with enormous resource wealth spread across CM-rich regions from coast to coast to coast, including rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. For example, Canada is the only Western nation with an abundance of cobalt, graphite, lithium, and nickel — CMs essential to creating the batteries and electric vehicles of the future. Canada is the world's second largest producer of niobium, an important metal for the aerospace

industry, and the fourth-largest producer of indium, a key input to semiconductors and many materials needed for advanced vehicle manufacturing. The federal CM list includes nickel, potash, aluminum, and uranium. Canada has the potential to supply even more CMs to both domestic and international markets.

NRCan, working with provinces, territories, and industry, has developed a national plan called the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP). It defines CM simply as those essential for building “a clean and digitized economy”. The CMMP also defined criteria to determine which minerals were deemed critical.

A corresponding CMMP action plan was developed and updated in 2021. In addition, to secure North American supplies, NRCan worked with the US government to develop the *Canada – US Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Collaboration*, released in January 2020.

What does this mean for the Northwest Territories?

To date, at least 23 of those 31 minerals defined as critical by NRCan have been found in the NWT. In fact, the NWT currently has approximately 2000 CM showings. While we can boast a lot of experience with CM, there is still work to do to fully define the scope of our potential and to connect our resources to the world.

As countries around the world move to secure and develop supplies of critical and strategic minerals, six CM projects are already in the advanced stages of development in the NWT (See next section).

The Yellowknife Pegmatite Province is a very strong contender in the global rush for hard-rock lithium. and is another example of the undeveloped and undiscovered potential that puts the NWT in the middle of the current global rush for CM.

For the NWT, this all points to:

- Opportunity – a new chapter in our mining story.
- Potential for industry investment in exploration and development projects (jobs and business).
- Potential for federal investment in clean energy infrastructure, transportation, education, and communications infrastructure.

The NWT has an opportunity to fully participate in supplying global value chains with NWT CMs. The planet's CM needs are presenting a not-to-be-missed time for the NWT. Resource availability, technology, market demand and global interest are aligning to create extraordinary opportunities for investment.

We want to be prepared to take advantage of favourable commodity markets generally, investors in search of quality projects, the growing focus on Environment, Sustainability and Governance (ESG) standards, geopolitical factors and obviously, the growing demand for a reliable supply of CM that we know the NWT can provide.

Not only will the NWT be in a position to produce these metals crucial to a low-carbon, technologically advanced economy, but the related jobs created from infrastructure development, exploration, extraction, processing, and transportation could have an enormous impact on the economy and health of the territory as a whole.

For example, the development of a polytechnic university, with its focus on earth resources and environmental management, will enhance education and training needed by residents to meet the labour market demands of the NWT's future. It will ensure that northerners are trained and educated to participate fully in the critical minerals energy value chain to support energy transition.

But while buyers are lining up to purchase the NWT's critical minerals, most will desire that its production come from 100 percent green energy, where possible.

Ironically, NWT mines set to supply the elements essential to a net-zero economy today are still, themselves, primarily dependent on diesel for vehicles, power generation and heating.

With a commitment of assistance by the federal government, the NWT's proposed Taltson hydro-expansion project would connect 10 NWT communities and over 70% of the NWT population to one hydro grid. This transformative infrastructure would support Canada's net zero objectives by

electrifying communities and providing access to clean energy for the NWT's mining industry. Furthermore, the introduction and building of new infrastructure, including a single hydro grid, roads, and railways, will stabilize the cost of energy in communities, reduce transportation and industrial emissions and lower the costs for exploration and development going forward, and the cost of living for residents.

While the proposed Grays Bay Road and Port Project (GBRPP) is still in the early stages of development, the eventual linking of the Slave Geologic Province Corridor to the proposed GBRPP could potentially give NWT resources future access to a deep-water port.

Canada's Critical Mineral Strategy agrees and offers a timely opportunity to invest in and develop the northern infrastructure needed to bring our industry into the future and benefit northerners and all Canadians.

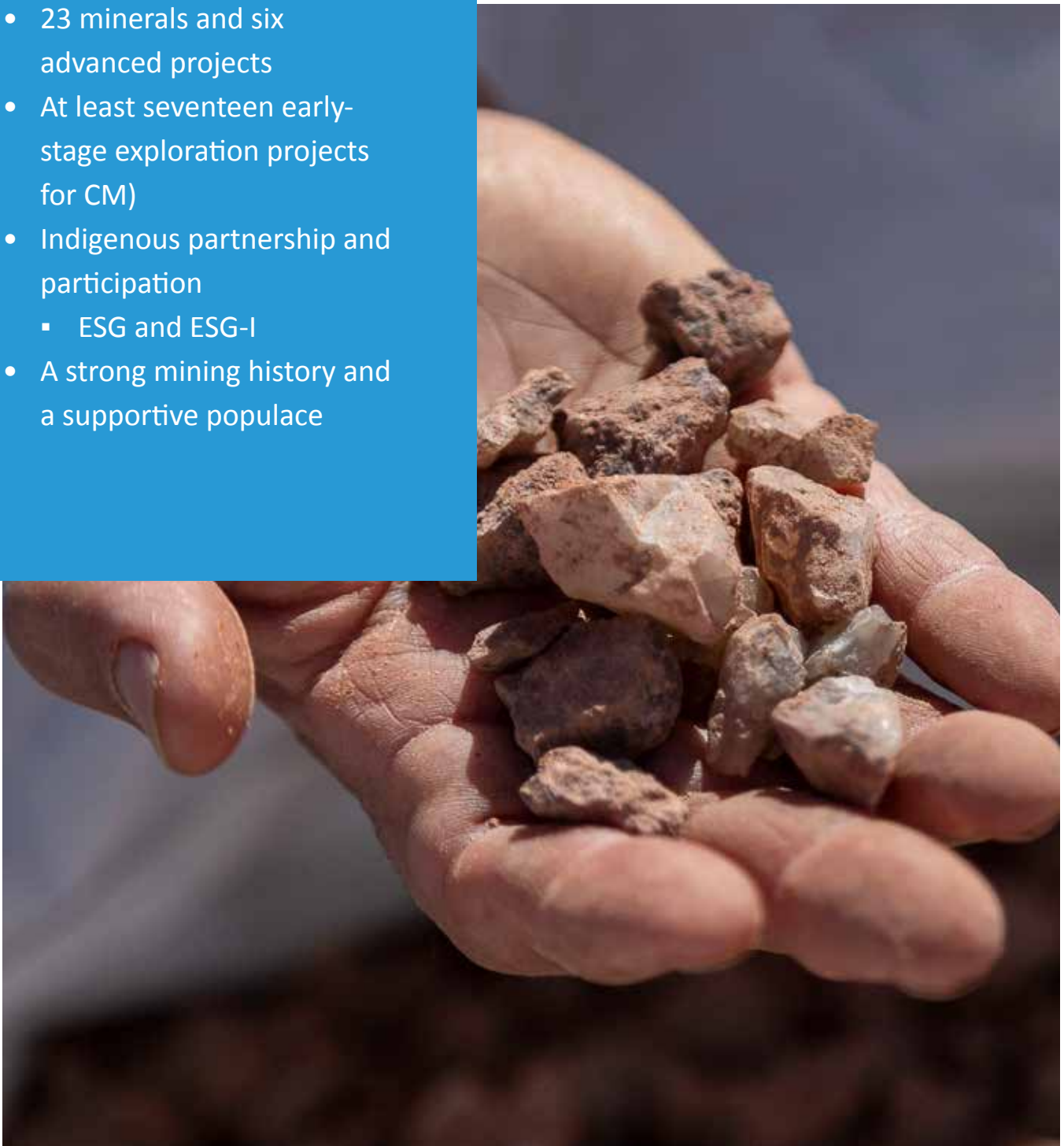
*To date, at least
23 of those 31 minerals
defined as critical
by NRCan have been
found in the Northwest
Territories.*

Critical Minerals in the NWT



The NWT's Mining Sector and its Competitive Edge for CM

- 23 minerals and six advanced projects
- At least seventeen early-stage exploration projects for CM)
- Indigenous partnership and participation
 - ESG and ESG-I
- A strong mining history and a supportive populace



BILL BRADEN / VITAL METALS

The NWT is one of the few regions in Canada that can call itself a CM producer today. Six CM projects are already in early mining or advanced exploration phases, and at least 23 of the 31 minerals considered critical by NRCan to industry, national security and emissions reduction have been found within the NWT. Several factors give the NWT an edge in building a strong position in supplying CM.

Mining has long been the NWT's economic strong suit – so adapting to CM exploration is natural. Past exploration projects have provided experience with CM and demand has been growing in recent years. In the NWT, there are six active CM-related projects, including: Cheetah/Nechalacho (REEs), LiFT Power/Yellowknife Lithium (Lithium); Fortune Minerals/NICO (Cobalt, Gold, Bismuth and Copper; Osisko Metals/Pine Point (Lead-Zinc); Norzinc/Prairie Creek (Zinc and Silver); and Fireweed Metals/Mactung (Tungsten).

The NWT is rich with hard-rock lithium, with several proponents conducting exploration activities. The Government of the Northwest Territories provides funding to prospectors and exploration companies through the Mining Incentive Program (MIP). In 2023 seven applicants received support specifically for lithium exploration projects with drilling and other planned work happening across the territory.

Building on these, the NWT offers several positives over much of the competition. It enjoys stable political, fiscal, legal, and banking frameworks; its long history of mining has resulted in a trained and educated workforce—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—and a general acceptance by the NWT public of mining as an industry important to its economy.

The mining industry is strongly supported in many ways. For example, the Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) makes historical and current geoscience knowledge publicly available while also undertaking geological mapping and fieldwork for CM potential. The new *Mineral Resources Act* has provisions for sharing benefits from mineral developments with Indigenous governments and organizations, communities, and residents.

Importantly, today's socially conscious investors are attracted by the NWT's approach to mineral development, which ensures the rights of Indigenous Peoples are protected and benefits to Indigenous Peoples are guaranteed.



[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/LITHIUM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithium)



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MIDDLE PHOTO: LITHIUM BATTERIES *Natatempossi occatur serspie ndipsan tiberianis sima dolo officiam et que perfern atioem perumquisto.*

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These rights and guarantees are enshrined in several agreements. Under the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement*, resource revenues are shared with Indigenous governments and organizations that have signed the agreement. Several regional mineral development strategies are under consideration or have been completed by Indigenous governments and organizations. Under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), co-management by, and consultation and engagement with, Indigenous governments and organizations and communities are necessary parts of both the environmental assessment and regulatory processes.

The federal CMMP contains several ideas for positioning Canada as a global supplier of choice for both critical and non-critical minerals to our allies and global partners. Many of these ideas apply to the NWT as well.

The federal government has been firm in stating that bringing Indigenous governments, businesses, communities, and individuals to the table is a priority of its plan to advance CM development in Canada. This is already standard practice in the NWT.

What we have learned and experienced has placed us on the leading edge of today's conversations around sustainable development, Indigenous partnerships, and importantly ESG (or better yet, something we call ESG-I which is ESG with the addition of an Indigenous consideration.) ESG refers to the environmental, social, and governance criteria that are used by investors to evaluate a company's operations and screen potential developments the company may be proposing. Investing using ESG criteria is also referred to as "sustainable investing" or "socially responsible investing."

Companies applying for permits to develop resources in the NWT must meet the environmental and socio-economic requirements of the MVRMA or the IFA (*Inuvialuit Final Agreement*), depending on the area of jurisdiction where the development is proposed.

Meaningful partnerships with Indigenous governments and organizations, including protocols for the development of legislation around lands and resources are building and rebuilding trust that will accelerate access to commodities and projects in the NWT.

The NWT model – with resource royalty sharing, socio-economic and impact benefit agreements, and co-management regulatory and legislation development – is at the forefront of Indigenous participation in mining, exploration, and development in Canada and likely globally.

Overall, the future is promising. With the federal budget proposing to invest over \$3 billion in the CM sector over the next eight years, interest looks to continue growing for the NWT's CM opportunities and potential.

Finally, there is general acceptance and support for the mining industry in NWT. Indications are that support will continue: a professional survey conducted by Abacus Data and commissioned by the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the Mining Association of Canada found 86% support amongst NWT citizens for the mining sector and its role in the NWT economy.

GNWT's vision for CM

GNWT's vision for CM is to promote and advance responsible exploration and development of CM in the NWT in a manner that respects Indigenous rights & land ownership, maximizes benefits for NWT residents and their communities, and supports and strengthens Canada's commitments to Indigenous reconciliation, implementing UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and addressing climate change.

The GNWT is working to identify specific steps for promoting and developing this vision. Although several CM deposits currently are at the advanced exploration or initial mining stage, they represent only a fraction of the NWT's potential for the development of other deposits and future discoveries that could become proven economic resources.

Actions the GNWT is Taking to Realize this Vision: the Four Pillars

Pillar 1

We are increasing awareness and understanding of CM opportunities in NWT governments and residents by:

1. Incorporating CM into the programs we deliver in the NWT, including:

- **Indigenous Capacity Building (ICB):** The ICB pilot program will help fund opportunities and activities aimed at increasing Indigenous engagement with, participation in, and understanding of the resource industry.
- **Resources and Energy Development Information (REDI):** REDI events were launched in 2017 to respond to an expressed public need for increased transparency and access to balanced information about resource and energy development projects and opportunities within the territory. Staged as "information trade shows", REDI events centre around making fact-based answers and material available to the public from a wide range of experts. The trade show format enables residents to seek out specific topics or information according to their individual interests or concerns, and have their questions addressed in a private one-on-one conversation. CM will now be included.
- **Mining Matters:** Mining Matters is a charitable organization dedicated to delivering awareness and knowledge on geoscience and Canada's geology and mineral resources and their roles in society to Grade 4-12 students. It is supported by the GNWT as part of its commitment under the Mineral Development Strategy to increase community engagement, and its overall dedication to supporting education and career advancement. CM topics are now included.

2. Incorporating CM in our partnered education and awareness of responsible mining to NWT residents:

- **Mining North Works! website:** Mining North Works! highlights the opportunities and benefits of responsible mineral exploration and resource development in the NWT and Nunavut. Creating careers and business benefits, mining is the North's economic advantage.

- **Mining Week:** The GNWT supports Mining Week every year with a series of events designed to engage, educate, and entertain in partnership with the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines. Events celebrate the unique history of mining in the NWT, the geology that made it possible, and the people who drive today's NWT mining industry.

Pillar 2

We are marketing and promoting the NWT's CM potential by:

3. Speaking, presenting, and attending key industry gatherings including:

- **Yellowknife Geoscience Forum:** an in-person setting for delegates from industry, academic organizations, and government to exchange information on resource exploration, mining activities, and geoscience research in Canada's North.
- **AME Roundup:** the mineral exploration industry's best opportunity to connect, exchange ideas and inspire new exploration projects- a key event in NWT's ongoing promotion and marketing of its potential for resource exploration.
- **Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC):** the World's Premier Mineral Exploration & Mining Convention for people, companies and organizations connected to mineral exploration. It attracts up to 30,000 attendees from 130+ countries for its educational programming, networking events and outstanding business opportunities.

4. Attracting interest and investment in NWT CM:

- **Advancing CM marketing initiatives and products** targeted at mining investors, mining companies and influencers under the following brands:
- **Unlocking Our Potential:** an integrated campaign of in print, in person, and online platforms and channels that represents the opportunity and potential of the NWT resource sector to target audiences.
- **Invest Canada North:** connecting global investors with the competitive advantages and opportunities in Canada's North, encompassing all three northern territories at the annual PDAC Convention and beyond.
- **Advancing CM opportunities by collaborating with Canada** on programs and services delivered by the federal government that support CM development in the NWT.

5. Delivering and promoting the Mining Incentive Program offering:

- Funding for exploration companies that propose new exploration projects or are already conducting NWT mineral exploration work. Application is open to exploration projects from any stage of development from grassroots to advanced projects, including CM.

6. Assisting developing CM projects with pathfinding services:

- The Client Service and Community Relations (CSCR) Unit is the consistent first point of contact within the GNWT for anyone needing information on non-renewable resource exploration and development in the NWT.

Pillar 3

We are growing and expanding our own knowledge about NWT CM by:

7. Investing in public geoscience and developing our CM database:

- The Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) is applying new technologies to the NWT's unexplored and under-mapped areas and building on historic knowledge and previous mapping projects to respond to the increased interest in the NWT's known and potential deposits of CM.

8. Developing a renewed NWT Mineral Development Strategy (MDS):

- Just in time to accommodate CM ventures, the GNWT is reviewing its MDS to provide even-greater certainty to investors, and increase public confidence and support for responsible mining while supporting and boosting future work of CM-related ventures in the NWT.



Pillar 4

We are building relationships with Indigenous Governments and partners, the federal government, and industry around CM by:

9. Seeking leadership direction on CM:

- In November 2021, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) hosted representatives of federal, territorial, provincial, and Indigenous governments, Indigenous development corporations, industry, regulatory bodies, and academics in a workshop to discuss the NWT's CM potential and how to advance CM development while increasing exploration and geological knowledge.

10. Engaging the federal government on CMs using:

- Regional Energy and Resource Tables (RERT): These are a key part of the Government of Canada's efforts to seize and ensure Canadians realize the economic benefits of climate action; and to develop actions that align required resources, investments, regulatory processes, and policies in key priority areas in the NWT including critical mineral development.

- Enhancing NWT regulatory environment: Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD): The objective of the MVOD is to seek out operational improvements in the NWT regulatory system through dialogues rather than solely through legislative amendments or changes. Partners include: GNWT, Federal Government, Indigenous Governments and Stakeholders, Regulatory Boards, and Industry.

11. Co-developing regulations for a 'made in the NWT' Mineral Resources Act:

- The commitment to co-development was formalized by the GNWT in December 2020. The first agreement of its kind in Canada, it provides a mechanism for collaboration and consensus-building designed to respect the jurisdictions and authorities of Indigenous governments and organizations as well as the GNWT.

12. Including MC in regional strategies:

- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council have developed regional strategies that will encourage, guide, and support mineral exploration and development specific to their regions.



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Conclusion

The market for critical minerals needed for the green energy transition, both in Canada and worldwide, is set to grow exponentially in the decades ahead.

The NWT is one of the few regions in Canada that can already call itself a producer of CM. The territory is now building a strong position to work with industry and advance its pace.

With critical mineral exploration and production trending upward, a skilled workforce, new modern legislation, key infrastructure development, Indigenous partnership and a solid track record of environmental and socio-economic management, the NWT is well positioned to attract ESG-conscious investors and project developers.

Our collaborative model for resource development sets the NWT apart from global competitors — and makes it a great place to invest and do business. Resource availability, technology, market demand and global interest are coming together to create a truly positive climate for investment in CM exploration and development.

It is clearly a pivotal time for the NWT.

Notes

Priorities
for Critical
Minerals in
the NWT

AN OVERVIEW

Priorités pour
les minéraux
critiques aux
TNO

APERÇU

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