



***Address in Recognition of Critical Minerals List alongside
Minister Seamus O Regan, PDAC s Felix Lee and Waubetek
Business Development Corporation's Dawn Madahbee Leach***

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It is a pleasure to be here to speak to the importance of critical minerals development in Canada. Thank you, Minister O'Regan, for your continued leadership in this space.

Mining continues to be one of the only sectors in the Canadian economy where we can boast that we are a global leader.

We are fortunate to have critical minerals – vital in aerospace, healthcare, telecommunications, and an array of clean

technologies such as solar panels and battery electric vehicles – in abundance.

La grande question n'est pas de savoir si nous avons besoin de minéraux et de métaux, mais plutôt de savoir si le Canada deviendra la destination de choix pour l'approvisionnement.

Increasing geopolitical uncertainty has focused attention on the precariousness of existing supply sources for many primary materials including critical minerals, classified by Canada's allies as the primary materials on which their economies and national security depend. They are looking to us to be their trusted partner in co-developing more reliable, secure and environmentally responsible supply chains.

And Canadians sense this too: within Canada, there is a growing desire to source and procure locally where possible, especially

when doing so achieves better environmental and health outcomes. Almost 90% of those surveyed by Abacus Data like the idea of Canada being a preferred global source for critical minerals and would like to see government take action to support this approach.

Le gouvernement a reconnu qu'un secteur minier et métallurgique canadien résilient est essentiel aux technologies à faible empreinte carbone qui contribueront à un avenir plus vert, ce qui comprend l'établissement d'une chaîne d'approvisionnement canadienne pour la fabrication de véhicules électriques à batterie, ou VEB. Si la prospérité de l'économie de transition au Canada dépend de l'établissement d'une chaîne d'approvisionnement nationale pour les VEB, des investissements stratégiques dans les minéraux critiques sont essentiels.

Why is it so important that Canada focus on its domestic critical minerals supply and why must the government position Canada for success in this area? The answer lies in our current reliance on China, the country that for decades has held monopoly-like control over rare earths production and distribution. This dominance is creating a level of risk that deters investors from entering these markets in North America.

For example, what advanced manufacturer would set up shop where they didn't have access to the materials they need to produce their end-use products – BEVs, high-tech, medical or otherwise? Who would invest in a rare earth mine with no access to a downstream facility to create value added finished rare earth products?

The answer is no one. At least, not without strategic government support that prioritizes economic security and autonomy enough to enable companies that play by the rules to thrive.

Fortunately, Canada has the resources, expertise and value-added smelting and refining supply chains to recapture some of this market with the right policy supports.

It's time for Canada to be ambitious. Why shouldn't we be home to a new battery factory to supply North America's next generation automobiles, or capture new market share for the manufacturing of wind-turbines and solar panels?

It is no wonder that companies from around the world are interested in Canada's mineral and metal products. There are no risks when countries use Canadian sourced critical minerals

that there will be accusations of buying metals mined using child or forced labour; that Indigenous rights were ignored; or that companies were operating to weak environmental standards.

Canada produces some of the lowest carbon intensity mineral and metal products globally and has the highest sustainability standards in the world. The world needs more Canadian mining. The question is: Will they get it?

The federal government has been putting a framework in place to position the country for critical minerals success. Policy commitments such as the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan and the Canada–U.S. Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Collaboration have set the stage, and today’s announcement is the latest signal recognizing the opportunity before us.

But more must be done: we need to move from framing to funding.

Yesterday's latest investment by the Quebec and federal governments in the Raglan wind power project is a good example of ensuring a world class off grid supplier of nickel and cobalt is protected from rising carbon costs and is positioned as supplier of choice to battery manufacturers in North America.

With the 2021 Federal Budget expected in a matter of weeks, it is our hope that more initiatives in support of our industry, like funding for programs that de-risk investments currently subject to China's market dominance and investments that strengthen and enhance Canada's current levels of critical and BEV mineral and metal production, will be included.

The ongoing pandemic has put into sharp focus what happens when we let key industries slip away, leaving us at the mercy of global supply chains that, in times of crisis, can fail. Let's seize the tremendous opportunity before us to expand and strengthen our economic future.

Thank you. Merci.