

# Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

## 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan

March 2025



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## 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 blue ink that reads "Jagrup Brar". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

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

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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 <sup>1</sup>	2025/26 Estimates	2026/27 Plan	2027/28 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,596</b>	<b>61,012</b>	<b>60,793</b>	<b>60,793</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Executive and Support Services	545	548	548	548
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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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- **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.

- 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.

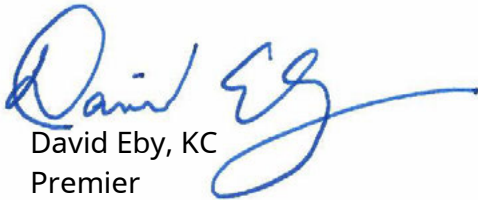
The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and

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 blue ink, appearing to read "David Eby", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Eby, KC  
Premier