# Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

# 2026/27 – 2028/29
# Service Plan

**February 2026**

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

Deputy Minister's Office

PO Box 9313, STN PROV GOVT

V8W 9N3

778-405-4091

Or visit our website at

www.gov.bc.ca/MCM

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# Minister's Accountability Statement

The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals 2026/27 – 2028/29 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.

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
February 6, 2026

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# Strategic Direction

In 2026/27, the Government of British Columbia will prioritize support for people by taking action to make life better for everyone.

Despite a challenging fiscal environment due to global uncertainty, trade relationship reordering, and low resource prices, over the past year Government made significant progress on efforts to reduce costs for British Columbians, hire more doctors and nurses, and build more homes, hospitals and schools, faster. Government will continue to advance these key priorities even as tariffs, trade policies, and instability outside of the province's borders continue to put pressure on the province's finances.

Ongoing fiscal pressure means all parts of Government must continue to do their part to maximize efficiencies and make sure every dollar counts.

To respond to these extraordinary times, Government will focus on expanding trade and investment both within Canada and abroad and delivering major projects that offer good jobs and opportunities for people and communities. This focus on economic growth and prosperity is critical to delivering the revenue needed to provide services and infrastructure.

Good relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with First Nations are critical to building a better future for everyone in British Columbia. Government will continue working diligently to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan. Through collaboration and open dialogue, we aim to foster trust, stability and certainty for all.

This 2026/27 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 most recent 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, is protective of worker health & safety, 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 economic growth, creating well-paying family supporting jobs throughout the province and 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.

# Economic Statement

B.C.'s economy saw mixed performance among sectors in 2025 amid U.S. tariffs and related global economic uncertainty and declining B.C. population growth. Consumer spending was strong through the first half of the year, supported by front-loaded spending ahead of U.S. tariffs (particularly for automobiles), lower inflation and interest rates, but spending has slowed in recent months. Residential construction remained above average in 2025 despite declining from the high levels of activity seen in recent years, and home sales were subdued in 2025. Meanwhile other investment indicators (such as public sector investment and commercial building permits) saw steady growth despite headwinds from economic uncertainty. B.C.'s exports have been resilient amid U.S. tariffs. The value of international exports was unchanged as lower forestry exports and coal prices offset higher values of natural gas and copper exports.

The Economic Forecast Council (EFC) estimates that B.C. real GDP grew by 1.5 per cent in 2025. In the near-term, the EFC expects B.C.'s economy to also grow by 1.5 per cent in 2026 and by 1.9 per cent in 2027, similar to the national average. For Canada, the EFC estimates growth of 1.6 per cent in 2025 and projects national real GDP growth of 1.3 per cent in 2026 and 1.9 per cent in 2027.

A volatile global trade conflict as well as immigration and population fluctuations are the main risks to the outlook. Other risks include commodity price instability, renewed inflationary pressures leading to elevated interest rates, prolonged housing market weakness, and climate change impacts.

# Performance Planning

## Goal 1: A globally competitive mining and mineral exploration sector that contributes to a strong economy, supports First Nations reconciliation, and reflects high environmental standards with responsibly produced minerals and metals.

### Performance Measures

| Performance Measure | 2025/26 Forecast | 2026/27 Target | 2027/28 Target | 2028/29 Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [1a] Growth of Total Mineral Resource Development Investment in B.C.[1] | 6% year-over-year | 6% year-over-year | 6% year-over-year | 6% year-over-year |

Data source: Natural Resources Canada

[1]Investment is measured by dollars spent by companies for mineral exploration and mine development.

### Objective 1.1: Maintain a competitive, responsible, and inclusive mining sector that creates well-paying, family supporting jobs.

### Discussion of Changes

The creation of a Ministry dedicated to mining and critical minerals has provided the opportunity to review and refine goals, objectives, and performance measures. Performance Measure 1a reflects B.C.'s priority of having a globally competitive mining sector in both capital and labour markets, making B.C. a world-class place to invest and helping the province succeed in the face of global challenges. This may be influenced by overall global market conditions.

# Goal 2: Continuous improvement of regulatory oversight of the mining and mineral exploration industry to protect the environment, worker health and safety, and the public interest.

## Performance Measures

| Performance Measure | 2025/26 Forecast | 2026/27 Target | 2027/28 Target | 2028/29 Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [2a] Minimum mine inspections | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 |

Data source: Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

| Performance Measure | 2025/26 Forecast | 2026/27 Target | 2027/28 Target | 2028/29 Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [2b] Rate of serious injury for heavy industries in B.C., as rated by WorkSafeBC.[1] | Lowest | Lowest | Lowest | Lowest |

Data source: WorkSafeBC. Injury rates can be calculated from this page by choosing Injury Rate from the top header, and then the specific heavy industry from the "subsector" column.

[1] The heavy industries that are the basis of comparison are: Wood + Paper, Heavy Construction, Road Construction, General Construction, Forestry

## Objective 2.1: Evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of B.C.'s regulatory framework for mining and mineral exploration by continuing the work of the Mine Audits Unit, the Standing Code Review Committee, and the inspectorate.

## Objective 2.2: Verify compliance and enable effective enforcement activities through the continuation of risk-based inspections.

## Discussion of Changes

To reflect the Ministry's ongoing commitment to worker health and safety, Objective 2.2 and Performance Measure 2b from the 2024/25 Service Plan of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation have informed Goal 2, Objectives 2.1 and 2.2 of this Service Plan and Performance Measure 2b has been added. Performance Measure 2a remains unchanged from the 2024/25 Service Plan of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.

# Financial Summary

| ($000s) | 2025/26 Restated Estimates[1] | 2026/27 Estimates | 2027/28 Plan | 2028/29 Plan |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Operating Expenses** | | | | |
| Responsible Mining and Competitiveness | 30,435 | 28,871 | 28,871 | 28,871 |
| Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement | 14,127 | 13,694 | 13,694 | 13,694 |
| Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships | 3,615 | 5,219 | 5,219 | 5,219 |
| Executive and Support Services | 9,280 | 9,520 | 9,520 | 9,520 |
| **Total** | **57,457** | **57,304** | **57,304** | **57,304** |
| **Capital Expenditures** | | | | |
| Executive and Support Services | 548 | 548 | 548 | 548 |
| **Total** | **548** | **548** | **548** | **548** |

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2025/26 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the *2026/27 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.

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- 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.

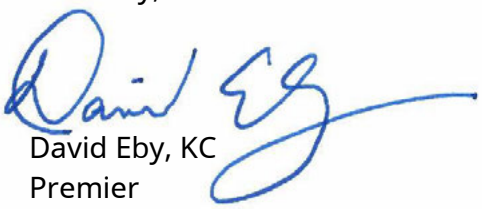
The good news is that we have everything we need to succeed, and we will succeed. British Columbia's people – our workers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, and

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,



David Eby, KC
Premier