

Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2025



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan published in 2024. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jagrup Brar". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
August 15, 2025

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Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals 2024/25 Annual Service Plan Report. This is the first report for the Ministry, which was established in November 2024 to provide dedicated leadership and oversight for British Columbia's mineral exploration, mining, and critical minerals sectors. The Ministry supports the sustainable development of these sectors, which are vital to B.C.'s economy, communities, and the transition to a low-carbon future.

This past year, the Ministry has continued to advance government's priorities by fostering a strong, sustainable mining sector that supports good jobs for people across British Columbia, advances reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and ensures responsible stewardship of the province's natural resources.

B.C.'s mining sector plays a critical role in supporting our provincial economy and advancing the global transition to a clean energy future. The growing demand for responsibly sourced critical minerals presents significant opportunities for British Columbia. These minerals and metals are essential to economic security and are key components of the modern and clean technologies that help reduce emissions and address the impacts of climate change - including electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electricity transmission, and battery storage technologies. With its rich natural resources and high environmental standards, B.C. is well positioned to be a reliable supplier of the materials needed for a low-carbon and sustainable future.

In 2024/25, the Ministry made progress in implementing B.C.'s Critical Minerals Strategy, which supports the responsible growth of the sector while creating good, long-term jobs for people in communities throughout the province. Through partnerships with First Nations, industry, and other levels of government, we are working to attract investment, strengthen B.C.'s position as a global supplier of responsibly produced critical minerals, and ensure that development is aligned with the standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Ministry also advanced important work to improve the permitting system by improving guidance documents, reducing backlogs and enhancing certainty and transparency for industry, Indigenous partners, and communities. Through these efforts, we are ensuring that B.C. remains a global leader in responsible mining practices while protecting the environment for future generations. The accomplishments highlighted in this Annual Service Plan Report reflect the Ministry's commitment to supporting British Columbians and delivering on government's priorities. I would like to recognize the dedication and expertise of Ministry staff who continue to serve the people of B.C. and support this important work.



Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
August 15, 2025

Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

This annual service plan report has been developed to meet the requirements of the [Budget Transparency and Accountability Act](#) (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Minister is required to report on the actual results of the Ministry's performance related to the forecasted targets stated in the service plan for the reported year.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020, along with the [2022 Mandate Letter for the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation](#), informed the goals, objectives, performance measures, and financial plans outlined in both the [Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation 2024/25 – 2026/27 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported in this annual report for the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals.

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals is responsible for British Columbia's strategy for mining and critical mineral projects. The Ministry facilitates mining and mineral exploration that is globally competitive, environmentally responsible, and advances reconciliation with First Nations, while creating opportunities and quality jobs for British Columbians and ensuring a fair return on resources to support provincial priorities. The Ministry is responsible for ensuring a sector that upholds worker health and safety requirements.

The Ministry's work supports B.C.'s climate goals and commitments under the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#). In fulfilling its mandate, the Ministry engages and collaborates with other ministries, all levels of government, First Nations, private sector stakeholders, communities, regulators, environmental organizations, labour unions, and the public.

Operating Environment

Global demand for responsibly sourced minerals, especially those critical to clean technologies, remains high. Although recent market conditions have been affected by inflation and global uncertainty, experts expect long-term demand for copper, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements to keep growing. B.C. remains Canada's largest copper producer and only molybdenum producer, with additional projects that, in the future, could contribute other critical minerals not yet mined in the province.

In 2024/25, prices for the province's primary mineral commodities were mostly higher. Gold prices increased as investors sought financial security amid heightened geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty. Central banks also accelerated gold purchases to diversify reserves and reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar. Copper prices increased due to heightened demand from manufacturers of renewable energy and digital infrastructure in combination with supply constraints caused by declining ore grades and a lack of new copper mines entering production. While metal prices surged in 2024/25, metallurgical coal prices declined as steel demand from China and other major economies slowed. While the outlook for metallurgical coal prices remains subdued due to an expected decline in China's future steel output, demand for critical minerals is expected to grow significantly.

In 2024/25, the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals implemented the [B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy](#) and launched the Critical Minerals Office, supporting our clean energy future and strengthening collaboration with industry, unions, stakeholders and First Nations.

In 2024/25, the Ministry advanced implementation of the B.C. [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#), including initiating work to modernize the [Mineral Tenure Act](#). This ongoing work is being undertaken through consultation and cooperation with First Nations to support alignment with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People](#) and reflects shared priorities for long-term land stewardship, reconciliation, and economic opportunity. The Ministry is also engaging the mineral exploration and mining sectors, local governments, and other interested groups to help shape an inclusive, modern mineral exploration legislative framework that supports sustainable development and economic prosperity for British Columbians. Columbians.

Investor and market expectations around [environmental, social and governance](#) (ESG) performance continue to grow, driving demand for transparent, responsible sourcing. In 2024/25, the Ministry advanced ESG-focused audit work through the Mine Audit Unit and supported mine electrification and decarbonization efforts with partners like the [Foresight Mining Cluster](#) as part of the BC Net Zero Innovation Network.

The recent release of the [International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's \(IPSASB\) draft climate-related disclosure standard](#), along with the development of the [Consolidated Mining Standard Initiative](#) by major global mining standards, reflects a shift toward unified, comparable ESG reporting for resource industries. This work supports B.C.'s leadership in responsible mining, including initiatives like the Mines Digital Trust, which uses digital tools to securely and efficiently provide where products originated and how they were produced.

The Major Mines Office continues to work to reduce permitting timelines. In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the Environmental Assessment Office, the Ministry initiated a permitting efficiency review process to address the Minister's mandate on faster permitting timelines, which will include input from industry and indigenous nations. In 2024/25, the Cariboo Gold Project received its permits after a 13-month process.

Regional Operations Branch issued 268 permits in 2024-2025 fiscal year for exploration and regional mines. The Branch has focused resources in support of mineral exploration for critical minerals, as well as the aggregate sector, which is imperative for housing and infrastructure development, while continuing to advance permitting across all its business areas.

B.C. has over 3,000 permitted mine sites, from large-scale operations to exploration projects. The Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines continued to apply a risk-informed inspection model while increasing Indigenous collaboration. [MineSpace](#), the Ministry's digital platform, was further expanded to improve transparency and permitting efficiency.

Federal investments supported growth in 2024/25, with more than \$124 million secured through the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund for 11 provincial, Indigenous, and private sector-led projects. Examples include \$75 million to [co-fund upgrades to Highway 37, complementing a \\$120 million investment from the Province](#), \$25 million to BC Hydro to support transmission line upgrades to serve mines in Northwest B.C. and [\\$20 million to Galore Creek Mining Corporation](#) to support access road development. The Ministry also worked with the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills to assess labour gaps and begin development of a Mining Sector Labour Market Strategy to support future workforce needs and growth of the mining sector.

Economic Statement

After several years of strong growth, economic activity in British Columbia moderated in 2024 amid high interest rates, persistent price pressures, and ongoing global economic uncertainty. B.C.'s real GDP increased by 1.2 per cent in 2024 and ranked 8th (tied with Ontario) among the provinces following growth of 2.4 per cent in 2023. Last year, economic growth was driven by B.C.'s service-producing industries such as real estate, rental and leasing; health care and social assistance services; transportation and warehousing; public administration; and educational services. Output for goods-producing industries declined in 2024 due to lower construction and manufacturing activity, which was partly offset by growth in the mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction; utilities; and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors.

B.C.'s labour market continued to expand in 2024. Employment in B.C. increased by 66,100 jobs (+2.3 per cent), supported by high immigration, and wages and salaries rose by 6.3 per cent. B.C.'s unemployment rate averaged 5.6 per cent in 2024, up from 5.2 per cent in 2023 as strong population and labour force growth outpaced job gains. Elevated interest rates, rising construction costs, and ongoing labour shortages weighed on the construction sector last year. Housing starts totaled 45,828 units in 2024, down 9.2 per cent from the record high in 2023, but remained above the ten-year historical average. B.C. home sales increased by 2.1 per cent and the average home sale price increased by 1.0 per cent compared to 2023. Price pressures in B.C. continued to broadly moderate last year, but shelter price growth remained elevated. Overall, B.C.'s inflation rate averaged 2.6 per cent in 2024, down from 3.9 per cent in 2023. Despite strong population growth, nominal retail sales increased by just 0.6 per cent in 2024, following a 0.1 per cent decline in 2023. On the trade front, weak global demand and lower commodity prices (primarily natural gas and coal prices) last year contributed to a 2.7 per cent decline in B.C.'s merchandise exports relative to 2023 despite increased exports to non-U.S. destinations including China, South Korea, and Australia.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

The following goals, objectives and performance measures have been restated from the [Ministry of Energy, Mining and Low Carbon Innovation 2024/25 – 2026/27 service plan](#). For forward-looking planning information for this recently formed Ministry, please refer to the [Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#).

Goal 1: A sustainable and competitive mining sector that supports Indigenous 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.

A sustainable sector provides opportunities for all British Columbians, while contributing to a clean economy that combats climate change.

Objective 1.1: A strong, responsible, low carbon and innovative mining sector that creates good, family supporting jobs.

Innovation in mining contributes to the sector's competitiveness and fosters technological change which supports sustainable development.

Key results

- In April 2024, the Ministry released an updated [Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines](#) in BC, establishing a safety framework for emerging technologies on mine sites. In June 2024, the Ministry launched the [Critical Minerals Office](#) to support project proponents in navigating B.C.'s regulatory processes, coordinate across governments and with First Nations, and attract investment through capital market engagement.
- In July 2024, the governments of B.C. and Canada invested \$195 million into Highway 37 upgrades (including \$75 million from the federal [Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund](#)), improving road safety, community access, and critical minerals development in the region.
- In November 2024, the Province issued an operating permit under the Mines Act for the Cariboo Gold Project, located adjacent to Wells. The project will have the capacity to process approximately 1.1 million tonnes per year of gold-bearing ore. The permitting process for the project was completed in 13 months, following a rigorous technical review conducted by a qualified team of technical experts in collaboration with First Nations.

- In January 2025, the Ministry worked with BloombergNEF to host its first-ever [Critical Minerals Forum in Vancouver](#), helping to raise global industry and investor awareness of B.C.'s critical minerals opportunities. The event featured a fireside chat with Premier Eby and participation by two Ministers, showcasing the Province's commitment to responsible resource development and economic security. [Learn more about the event](#)
- In March 2025, the Ministry, in partnership with the [BC Net Zero Innovation Network](#) and the Foresight [Mining](#) Cluster, completed a detailed assessment of mine electrification and decarbonization, evaluating baseline energy demand and scenarios for increased clean technology adoption.
- Implementation of the [Critical Minerals Strategy](#) advanced throughout 2024/25. As of March 31, 2025, five of eleven actions were completed. Key milestones included launching the [Critical Mineral Office](#), completing a fiscal environment assessment, and securing \$195 million to support upgrades to Highway 37.
- \$75 million of funding the Highway 37 project came from the federal Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF). Over \$49 million in additional funding from CMIF was also secured to support ten other B.C.-based critical mineral projects.

Objective 1.2: Oversight of the mining industry is continually improved to protect the environment, health and safety, and the public interest.

Industry oversight contributes to both a safe and sustainable mining sector that produces the minerals needed to transition to a low carbon economy.

Key results

- In June 2024, the Ministry co-hosted the [66th Annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition](#) with the [Mining Association of British Columbia](#) at the Britannia Mine near Squamish. The event showcased leading industry health, safety, and rescue practices, highlighting capabilities that exceed regulatory requirements.
- The Ministry conducted risk mitigation at 11 abandoned mine sites, installing fencing, signage, and closing underground openings to protect public safety. An additional eight abandoned tailings storage facilities underwent geotechnical and environmental assessments and maintenance.
- In collaboration with [Geoscience BC](#), the Ministry provided in-kind support to assess emerging technologies for remediating historic mine waste.
- The [Mine Audit Unit](#) continued to advance four audits evaluating the effectiveness of B.C.'s regulatory framework for mining. Three audits entered the final reporting phase in 2024/25.

Summary of progress made in 2024/25

The Ministry made substantial progress in strengthening regulatory oversight to protect workers, communities, and the environment. Notably, in April 2024, the Ministry revised the [Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia](#) introducing updated provisions related to emerging technologies, contaminant thresholds, equipment safeguarding, tailings and dam safety, and protocols for working near water. Emerging technologies that were addressed in the Code revisions include autonomous systems, battery-electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles, and trolley-assist technology - innovations that significantly cut fossil fuel use and support the mining sector's path to net-zero emissions.

The Ministry completed a four-year investment in digital oversight systems to improve permitting processes and mining oversight. In 2024/25, MineSpace was expanded to support online submission of major mine applications and to publish Mines Act digital credentials, improving transparency and efficiency.

The Mine Audit Unit published its [2024/25 annual audit plan](#), which introduced and initiated work on a new audit related to the Ministry’s management of non-compliances. In its response to audits, the ministry completed all outstanding audit recommendations from previous audits in the fiscal year.

Performance measure(s) and related discussion

Performance Measure	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
[1.a] Minimum mine inspections ^{1,2}	1886	1600	1878

Data source: Ministry inspection management information system
¹PM 2b targets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 were stated in the 2024/25 service plan as 1600 and 1600, respectively.

The Ministry maintained a strong field presence and continued to position itself to effectively lead compliance oversight at all operations in B.C. during fiscal year 2024/25. The target for measure 1a. (minimum number of inspections) was exceeded. The Ministry uses a risk-informed inspection planning approach to prioritize and select sites to be inspected to ensure the most efficient and effective use of compliance management resources. The Ministry continued its efforts to increase Indigenous participation and collaboration in compliance activities, completing over 60 inspections accompanied by Indigenous government representatives.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance ² (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Responsible Mining and Competitiveness (Transfer from Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation)	0,000	32,800	32,800	30,551	(2,249)
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement (Transfer from Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation)	0,000	14,481	14,481	16,202	1,721
Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships (Transfer from of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation)	0,000	4,958	4,958	5,604	646
Executive and Support Services ³	0,000	12,086	12,086	11,968	(118)
Mines Act (Transfer from Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation)	0,000	5,697	5,697	5,697	0,000
Sub-total	0,000	70,022	70,022	70,022	0,000
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000
Total	0,000	70,022	70,022	70,022	0,000
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services (Transfer from Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation)	0,000	545	545	190	(355)
Total	0,000	545	545	190	(355)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganization.

² Variance represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

³ Includes transfers of \$11.296 million from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Low Carbon Innovation, \$0.693 million from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and \$0.097 million from the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

Appendix A: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in [EMLI Minister 2022 Mandate Letter](#).

2022 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2025
<p>Support B.C.'s mining sector by launching the Mining Innovation Hub and expedite a provincial critical minerals strategy that positions British Columbia to take advantage of the emerging clean global economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 2024, the Premier launched the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy to further strengthen the province's mining and critical minerals sector. • Five of eleven actions have been completed, with the remaining six underway. Key milestones included establishing the Critical Mineral Office, completing the Fiscal Environment Assessment, and securing \$175 million in funding to improve Highway 37. • The province supported mining and minerals innovation opportunities, such as the BC Net Zero Innovation Network's Mining Cluster and a \$2 million investment in a Battery Innovation Centre at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.
<p>Advance the co-development of a modernized Mineral Tenure Act with First Nations and Indigenous organizations, in alignment with the DRIPA Action Plan commitment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2024, the Ministry commenced early conversations with First Nations on modernizing the <i>Mineral Tenure Act</i> to align with the UN Declaration. • Feedback from these conversations is informing ongoing policy work, which will be the subject of further consultation and cooperation with First Nations and engagement with industry moving forward in 2025. This work is ongoing.