

Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report

August 2026



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Minister's Accountability Statement



The Ministry of Mining and Critical Mineral's 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the 2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan published in 2025. 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
July 30, 2026

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Letter from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals 2025/26 Annual Service Plan Report. This is the first report for the Ministry, which was established in November 2024 to provide dedicated leadership and continue oversight for British Columbia's mineral exploration, mining, and critical minerals sectors.

British Columbia's mining and critical minerals sector continues to play a vital role in supporting the province's economy, communities, and the transition to a low-carbon future. Over the reporting period, the sector demonstrated strong performance, with high levels of exploration investment and significant projected mineral production values. These results reflect continued global confidence in British Columbia as a leading and responsible mining jurisdiction.

This past year, the Ministry has advanced government's priorities by supporting a strong, sustainable mining sector that creates good jobs, fosters economic opportunity and certainty, and ensures environmental stewardship and safe, healthy workplaces. Advancing reconciliation with First Nations remains central to this work, with partnerships and collaboration continuing to support responsible resource development and shared economic benefits across the province.

Throughout 2025/26, the Ministry continued to implement the Mineral Claim Consultation Framework in response to the 2023 Supreme Court ruling, *Gitxaala v B.C.* The framework replaces automatic claim registration with an application-based system that includes consultation with First Nations. The Ministry continues to review and introduce business improvements to the framework.

The Ministry has also made progress in improving permitting processes to enhance efficiency, certainty, and transparency. Significant work was done throughout 2025/26 to enable the introduction of fixed timelines on April 1, 2026 for mineral exploration permits and additional investments to strengthen permitting capacity and reduce delays, while maintaining rigorous environmental and safety standards. In addition, several major mining projects were approved during the year, representing significant investments that support employment and regional economic development.

These permitting improvements, along with 1,851 inspections, response to 598 reportable incidents, and advancements in the regulatory framework related to the health and safety of workers and environmental protection, demonstrate the continued strength of the sector and the effectiveness of British Columbia's regulatory framework in enabling responsible development.

The achievements highlighted reflect the Ministry's ongoing commitment to delivering on government's priorities and supporting the wellbeing of British Columbians. Looking ahead, the Ministry will continue to build on this progress by strengthening regulatory processes, supporting innovation, and ensuring that British Columbia remains a competitive and responsible leader in mining and critical minerals development.

Honourable Jagrup Brar
Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals
July 30, 2026

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 2024 and Minister Brar's 2025 [Mandate Letter](#) shaped the goals, objectives, performance measures and financial plan outlined in the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals [2025/26 – 2027/28 Service Plan](#) and the actual results reported on in this annual report.

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.

Economic Statement

Economic activity in British Columbia advanced in 2025, after modest growth in 2024, despite facing notable headwinds. Last year, homebuilding activity in the province continued at a steady pace, and lower interest rates and easing inflation supported household spending. Meanwhile, high uncertainty around the impacts of U.S. tariffs and significantly lower population growth tempered economic activity in B.C., and across many provinces. Overall, B.C.'s real GDP rose by 2.0 percent in 2025, up from 1.2 percent growth in 2024. B.C. was one of only two provinces that saw an increase in the rate of real GDP growth from 2024 to 2025. On an industry basis, B.C.'s economic growth in 2025 was led by real estate, rental and leasing; health care and social assistance services; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and construction.

B.C.'s labour market moderated in 2025, amid slower population growth and trade-related economic uncertainty. Total employment rose by 1.1 percent (+32,200 jobs), while wages and salaries rose by 3.1 percent. The unemployment rate averaged 6.2 percent in 2025, up from

5.6 percent in 2024, as labour force growth outpaced job creation. Despite rising last year, B.C.'s unemployment rate remained below the national average of 6.8 percent. B.C. housing starts totalled 44,193 units in 2025, down 3.6 percent from 2024, but remained above the 10-year historical average. Meanwhile, B.C. home sales activity declined by 5.7 percent compared to 2024, with muted demand contributing to a 2.9 percent decrease in the average home price. Inflationary pressures continued to moderate in 2025, reflecting slower price growth for services and subdued inflation for goods. Shelter inflation was the largest contributor to headline inflation last year but slowed substantially for both rented and owned accommodation compared to recent years. Lower gasoline prices, partly due to the removal of the B.C. consumer carbon tax, also helped ease headline inflation. Overall, B.C.'s consumer price inflation averaged 2.1 percent in 2025, down from 2.6 percent in 2024. Lower inflation and easing interest rates supported robust retail sales, which grew by 6.4 percent in 2025. On the trade front, B.C.'s merchandise exports remained relatively flat as markets adjusted to shifting global trade conditions. Overall, the value of B.C.'s goods exports edged down 0.1 percent compared to 2024 as increased exports to non-U.S. destinations were offset by a continued decline in goods exports to the U.S.

Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, and Results

In the [2025/26-2027/28 Service Plan](#), the Ministry stated that it would “continue to develop specific objectives and performance measures of inclusion in our [2026/27-2028/29 Service Plan](#)”. The goals, objectives and performance measures developed are:

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.

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

Performance Measure 1a: Growth of Total Mineral Resource Development Investment in B.C., as reported by Natural Resources Canada.

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.

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.

Performance Measure 2a: Minimum mine inspections.

Performance Measure 2b: Rate of serious injury for heavy industries in B.C., as rated by WorkSafeBC.

The [2026/27-2028/29 Service Plan](#) includes additional information, such as performance targets for 2026/27 and future years.

Areas of Focus and Accomplishments

A strong, responsible, low carbon and innovative mining sector that creates well-paying, family supporting jobs.

- In 2025, B.C. saw mineral exploration expenditures totalling an estimated historic high of \$750.9 million, an increase of \$198.8 million from the previous year value of \$552.1 million and \$10.5 million greater than the previous record expenditure of \$740.4 million in 2022. We saw copper exploration expenditures outpace gold, and we saw a near doubling of exploration dollars spent searching for critical minerals.
- Total mineral export value has increased by 27 percent from around \$12 billion in 2017 to around \$15 billion in 2025.
- Successfully approved permits for six major mining projects, three of which were identified as priority projects in 2025.
- As of February 25, 2026, investment dollars in mineral resource development in 2025 increased 50 percent over the ten-year average and are the third highest in ten years.
- In 2025, mineral asset transactions in British Columbia totaled about \$2.3 billion across 25 transactions, including financings, debt facilities, private placements, acquisitions, and strategic investments.
- In 2025, the Province and Simpcw First Nation commenced negotiations on a consent-based decision-making agreement for co-ordinated and efficient assessments of the proposed Yellowhead Copper mine project in Simpcw territory.
- In partnership with the Environmental Assessment Office and Ministry of Environment and Parks, the Major Mines Office successfully implemented two consent-based agreements with the Tahltan Central Government under Section 7 of the Declaration Act for the Environmental Assessment of the Eskay Creek and the Red Chris mines.
- Completed a combined Environmental Assessment (EA)/permitting process for Mt. Milligan Mine in 10 months, compared to the average of 3.5 years it would normally take if the EA and permitting processes were run separately.
- The total liability for major mines is \$7.37 billion of which \$7.21 billion is held by the Province in reclamation security. This represents a gap of 2.5 percent, down from 8.5 percent the previous year and a 60 percent gap in 2016.

Oversight of the mining industry is continuously improved to protect the environment, health and safety, and the public interest.

- The Chief Auditor published the [Securities for Exploration and Placer Mining Activities Audit Report](#); providing five recommendations to the Ministry; the Ministry accepted the recommendations and released the supplemental action plan.
- The Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines completed 1,526 inspections and 94 percent of inspection reports were complete within 7 days. 32 inspections were completed with the participation of First Nations through the Accompanied Inspection Program.
- MineSpace was developed to provide mining proponents with a single digital location to manage their interactions with the Ministry. Investment in this portal improves submission quality, reduces duplication and administrative effort, increases transparency for proponents and enables more efficient and consistent regulatory decision making. Efforts over the past year to further adoption of this online portal have been successful with an 81 percent growth in industry submissions (9,549 this fiscal compared to 5,284 in the previous fiscal).
- The inspectorate responded directly to complaints, concerns or inquiries from the public during the fiscal year, a key contribution to ensuring public concerns related to mining are heard and mitigated wherever possible.
- Mines Digital Services delivered several new digital features and enhancements, including: the digital permit extraction tool and digital condition library search; Notice of Work Tier assignment and tracking; full implementation of MineSpace for major mine application submission; and several enhancements supporting efficiency in drafting regional mine permits.

Financial Report

Financial Summary

	Estimated (\$000)	Other Authoriz- ations ¹ (\$000)	Total Estimated (\$000)	Actual (\$000)	Variance ³ (\$000)
Operating Expenses					
Responsible Mining and Competitiveness	30,676	83,770	114,446	114,913	467
Mines Health, Safety and Enforcement	14,251	105	14,356	14,612	256
Strategic and Indigenous Partnerships	3,630	99	3,729	4,322	593
Executive and Support Services	12,455	(2,988)	9,467	8,151	(1,316)
Mines Act	0	13,528	13,528	13,528	0
Sub-total	61,012	94,514	155,526	155,526	0
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual ²	0	0	0	(4)	(4)
Total	61,012	94,514	155,526	155,522	(4)
Ministry Capital Expenditures					
Executive and Support Services	548	0	548	223	(325)
Total	548	0	548	223	(325)

¹ "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations, Contingencies and Government Reorganizations. Supplementary Estimates and Government Reorganization amounts in this column are included in the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

² The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of [\$004] million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

³ Variance represents "Actual" minus "Total Estimated". If the Actual is greater than the Total Estimated, the Variance will be displayed as a positive number.

Appendix A: Progress on Mandate Letter Priorities

The following is a summary of progress made on priorities as stated in Minister Jagrup Brar's 2025 Mandate Letter.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
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.	Ongoing - Governments around the world are facing higher costs, global instability and growing demand for services, creating challenging fiscal situations. In response, the B.C. Government introduced expenditure management targets in Budget 2025, with a goal of \$300 million saved over the 2025-26 fiscal year. Ministries have exceeded that goal with more than \$400 million in savings through reduced discretionary spending including travel, office and business expenses, conferences and events, as well as staffing adjustments, voluntary retirements and hiring restrictions. - The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals has reviewed spending and program delivery to ensure they remain efficient and make the best use of public dollars while growing B.C.'s economy to create good, family-supporting jobs across the province.
Work with industry, First Nations, and across ministries to establish fixed timelines for mining approval permits across British Columbia.	Ongoing The Ministry has implemented fixed timelines for mineral exploration permitting, committing to specific service timeline targets for applications received on or after April 1, 2026. Timelines have been determined based on technical and consultation best practice and informed by consultative agreements.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
Ensure B.C. 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.	Ongoing • Issued 34 percent more mineral exploration permits prior to the 2025 field season, compared to the previous year. • Implemented a streamlined major mine application screening process which resulted in a 65 percent reduction compared to the average screening phase duration for similarly scoped applications from the past 5 years (31 vs. 89 days). • Completed a combined Environmental Assessment (EA)/permitting process for Mt. Milligan Mine in 10 months, compared to the average of 3.5 years for separate processes - a 65 percent reduction in overall timelines. • The Chief Auditor released the Securities for Exploration and Placer Mining Activities Audit Report, as described earlier in the report. • The Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines completed 1,526 inspections and 94 percent of inspection reports were complete within 7 days. 32 inspections were completed with participation of First Nations through the Accompanied Inspection Program.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
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.	Ongoing • The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals is undertaking internal planning and assessment on strategy development, while pursuing investment attraction outreach opportunities. • International investors were engaged via high-level Provincial attendance at key events and trade missions, e.g. Precious Metals Summit Beaver Creek together with industry and First Nations (Colorado, Sept 2025) and mining & critical minerals related missions (Asia and Europe, Jun 2025; New York, Sept 2025; India, Jan 2026). • B.C. Critical Minerals Office (CMO) engaged with more than 25 projects and provided tailored support to four projects to highlight B.C. opportunities, encourage investment, undertake early engagement with First Nations and help advance projects.
Work with provincial and territorial counterparts to advance a northwestern Canadian critical mineral strategy.	Ongoing • Executed a cross jurisdictional MOU between western and northern jurisdictions to co-develop a strategy in 2026.
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.	Ongoing • In June 2025, the T̓silhqot̓in Nation, the Province and Taseko Mines Limited announced the signing of the Te̓tan Biny Gagaghut̓i Agreement to resolve the long-standing conflict over the “New Prosperity” mineral tenures in the Te̓tan Biny (Fish Lake) area of T̓silhqot̓in territory.

2025 Mandate Letter Priority	Status as of March 31, 2026
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.	Ongoing • This work is ongoing and being advanced within a complex and evolving legal and policy context. • On March 25, 2026, the Ministry implemented the Mineral Claim Consultation Framework. This new program area was subject to a 6-month review, resulting in actions published in January 2026 to support improvements including resourcing, increased transparency and information sharing, and achieving stated service standards. • During 2025/26, the Ministry focused on developing policy ideas to support future consultation and cooperation with First Nations and engagement with industry. Engagement focused on targeted bilateral discussions as part of seeking early input to inform these potential approaches. •
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 percent of lands and waters by 2030 and creates economic growth and opportunity in the region.	Ongoing • On June 3, 2025, B.C. Initiated four Land Use Planning projects in partnership with the Tahltan, Taku River Tlingit, Gitanyow, Nisga'a and Kaska Dena First Nations throughout Northwest and North Central B.C. • Since launching the planning projects, the Ministry has engaged with local governments, the public, industry, and organizations to inform the development of draft plan products.