

Mining and Critical Minerals

Mining innovative products for a clean future



British Columbia, *Naturally.*

A tier-1 mining jurisdiction, British Columbia (B.C.), Canada is a leading producer of the minerals and metals needed to transition to a low-carbon future.

As global demand increases for the minerals and metals essential to economic and energy security, B.C. is at the forefront, with more than 1,000 exploration and mining companies headquartered in Vancouver. B.C.'s abundant mountains and valleys throughout the province contain a variety of minerals and metals in global demand, from copper and molybdenum to gold and silver. B.C. based mining companies have adopted high tech and clean tech solutions to minimize waste and enhance environmental stewardship. Plus, B.C.'s West Coast location offers the fastest shipping times to Asia, opening a world of opportunity with growing global markets.

Throughout B.C., Provincial and First Nation governments, industry and communities are working together to support an innovative, competitive and responsible mineral exploration and mining sector. These advantages, together with geoscientific expertise, sophisticated geological data systems, clean electricity and our supportive business environment, attract investors from around the world to B.C.'s mining sector.

With over 150 years of mining history, mineral products have long been one of B.C.'s top exports. In 2025, B.C. produced an estimated \$17.12 billion worth of mine products, from high value metals to metallurgical coal and construction aggregates. Mining represents almost 30 percent of British Columbia goods exports with copper and metallurgical coal as its top export products.

B.C.'s Top Critical Mineral Annual Exports (2025)	
Copper Ores and Concentrates	\$5.3 billion
Unwrought Aluminum	\$1.2 billion
Unwrought Zinc	\$920 million



Explore British Columbia's Vast Resources

British Columbia holds minerals the world needs, from vital building blocks for green technologies such as cobalt, nickel and copper to precious metals such as gold and silver.

There are currently eleven metal mines operating in B.C. The key metals mined in B.C. are copper, gold, silver and molybdenum. There are currently five metallurgical coal mines operating in B.C.—providing coal used for steelmaking. B.C. also produced more than 30 industrial minerals including gypsum, magnesite, limestone and dimension stone. Many quarries in the province produce sand and gravel or crushed aggregate. More than 1,000 aggregate mines and quarries and approximately 30 industrial mineral mines were in operation in 2024. The province also has more than 300 active mineral exploration projects.

B.C. also has two smelters, in Kitimat and Trail, which produce aluminum, zinc, lead and a variety of precious and specialty metals, such as germanium, chemicals and fertilizer products.



Access Global Markets from British Columbia

Efficient supply chains, superior transportation linkages and the shortest sea route between North America and Asia make B.C. a reliable supplier and partner of choice for minerals and metals.

B.C. is highly capable of supplying growing economies, specifically in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, with the metals, minerals and energy they demand. With locations up to three days closer than U.S. west coast ports, B.C. ports reduce the shipping costs for mineral resources destined for Asia. Continuous investment in port facilities increases their capacities and improves handling efficiencies, resulting in modern, high-throughput terminals connected to an efficient rail and road network.

B.C. is a gateway on the west coast of the Americas served by three Class 1 railways. The Canadian National Railway, Canadian Pacific Railway and U.S.'s Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway connect B.C. ports with double-stack capability, linking key markets throughout Canada, the United States and into Mexico. Our terminals connect directly into the Northwest Transportation Corridor, a modern rail and road network engineered and built to carry massive volumes.

Tap into British Columbia's Top Talent

British Columbia is internationally recognized as a centre of expertise in mining and related fields, such as metallurgy, environmental engineering, mine safety and the geosciences, with top universities and research centres that continue to develop new knowledge and information. B.C. has an educated and skilled labour force of more than 2.9 million people, with over 40,000 people working in the mining sector.

As part of the B.C. Critical Minerals Strategy, Look West Strategy, and the StrongerBC Future Skills Grant program, the Government of B.C. will optimize programs to meet workers and critical minerals sector skills and training needs.

Sought after programs that are developing the workforce include:

- **British Columbia Institute of Technology:** Mineral Exploration and Mining Technology diploma, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- **Camosun College:** Mining Engineering Bridge to University of British Columbia (UBC), Advanced Diploma
- **Simon Fraser University (SFU):** Environmental Geoscience and Geology, Engineering Geology and Resource Geotechnics
- **University of British Columbia (UBC):** GIS and Mining Engineering, and Geological Sciences
- **UBC Okanagan:** Battery innovation Centre
- **University of Victoria:** Earth and Ocean Sciences
- **Vancouver Island University:** Master of GIS Applications, Advanced Diploma in GIS Applications



British Columbia is a world-class mining jurisdiction that is already producing or has good potential to produce at least 24 of Canada's 34 identified critical minerals in addition to being Canada's largest copper and only molybdenum producer.

Industry Profile

Critical minerals are crucial to modern technologies, economic security and transitioning to a clean energy future. As projected by the International Energy Agency, the energy sector's overall demand for critical minerals could surge by up to six times by 2040. The North American zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) market alone is expected to hit \$174 billion by 2030, and there is international focus on diversifying and strengthening critical minerals supply chains with reliable partners.

Innovation

Many mining methods and technologies that B.C. uses have been emulated around the world, such as incorporating artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, autonomous vehicles and more. In addition, many B.C. mining technology companies offer innovative solutions that enhance sustainability, improve efficiency and recover more materials.

Examples of innovative technologies include Mangrove Lithium, which is pioneering sustainable lithium refining with its patented electrochemical process. This innovative technology directly converts various lithium feedstocks—including brines, hard rock, clays, and recycled batteries—into high-purity battery-grade lithium hydroxide or carbonate. This represents a major step forward in strengthening B.C.'s battery supply chain.

Additionally, pH7 Technologies has created a proprietary closed-loop process using advanced chemistry to extract and refine critical metals that will help the mining sector transition to renewable energy in an environmentally and economically sustainable way.

Rigid Robotics, another B.C. company, is advancing precision mining technology that assists open-pit mining operations in achieving lower variability in shovel digging and loading activities. They significantly boost operational efficiency and human safety while bringing substantial environmental benefits, including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and explosives use.

MineSense was originally conceived at UBC and later incorporated in 2008. As a seven-time Global Cleantech 100 Hall of Fame award recipient, they provide revolutionary technology and data solutions that help mines maximize global metals while minimizing global impacts with their robust sensors that are used at the start of the ore mining process to characterize minerals for optimized metal recovery.

Not to mention, B.C. is home to Metal Tech Alley, a cluster of innovative companies active in the circular economy centred around the Teck Resources Limited smelting and refining complex in Trail, B.C.

Launch Projects with more Efficient, Streamlined Processes

Companies that invest in British Columbia's rich mineral resources benefit from well-defined, transparent review processes for proposed major projects.

Through the Look West Strategy, the Government of B.C. is taking a coordinated approach to speed up approvals, cut duplication, remove barriers and streamline processes so projects can move more quickly from proposal to construction. The Government of B.C. is also creating an expedited environmental assessment process to get major projects reviewed and built faster. A coordinated environmental assessment and permitting process has reduced timelines for major mines applications by at least 35 percent. The critical minerals and mining backlog was reduced by 50 percent overall, with some regional mining backlog reduced even more, by 52 percent. Over the past year, permits were approved for six major mining projects, representing a pace we have never seen before in B.C. and one that no other jurisdiction can match.





Lower Costs with B.C.'s Clean, Reliable Electricity

Over 98 percent of electricity in B.C. originates from renewable sources, providing reliable, environmentally sustainable power at rates that are among the lowest in North America. A robust transmission and distribution system delivers uninterrupted power to all regions, ensuring extraction costs remain low. The North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL) project, which is receiving a \$3.9 billion investment from the federal government, will twin existing transmission lines from Prince George to Terrace and extend north to Bob Quinn substation. This project will support transformative industrial projects including critical minerals developments. NCTL will deliver 2,200 MW to the region and enable economic growth by diversifying Canada's export market for critical minerals and metals. In 2025, the federal government announced that it has referred the North Coast Transmission Line to the Major Projects Office.



Build Lasting Partnerships with First Nations

In British Columbia, First Nations' governments are important partners and play a key role advancing and supporting resource development. It is mandatory for all major land and resource project proposals to consult with First Nations. B.C.'s Critical Minerals Strategy, aims to build a clean economy by expanding the critical minerals sector in alignment with the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

The Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals is committed to transforming B.C.'s mining regulatory system, including modernizing the Mineral Tenure Act (MTA) which regulates how mineral claims are granted in B.C., so that it shares the interests and values of First Nations.

Partnership Agreements:

- B.C. has instituted mineral tax revenue sharing with First Nations through Economic and Community Development Agreements (ECDA).
- The province has 57 signed ECDA with 50 First Nations communities for 28 mines.
- The 57 agreements represent individual revenue streams to First Nations (e.g. revenue from one mine to one nation equals one revenue stream), with over \$550 million shared to date.



By 2040, new and expanded critical minerals projects could represent an investment opportunity of **\$44 billion**.

Associations and Organizations

Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia

is the lead association for the mineral exploration and development industry in B.C.

B.C. Mining Alliance is a partnership between Indigenous groups, industry and provincial government representatives.

B.C. Stone Sand and Gravel Association promotes the sustainable development of B.C.'s aggregate resources through advocacy, education and industry collaboration.

British Columbia First Nations Energy and Mining Council

supports and facilitates responsible energy and mining resource development that protects the environment and ensures the cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations in B.C.

Metal Tech Alley is a cluster of industry, academia and government working together towards a circular economy system for long-term stability and environmental sustainability.

Mining Association of BC is the voice of mining in B.C., speaking on behalf of operating coal, metal, industrial mineral producers and smelters, as well as advanced development companies in the province.

Mining Suppliers Association of British Columbia is committed to promoting the sustainability of mining valuable resources.

Women in Mining BC is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization focused on connecting and inspiring a diverse workforce in the mining industry in B.C.



Centres of Excellence

Bradshaw Research Initiative for Minerals and Mining

connects scientists and engineers across UBC to promote cross-disciplinary research spanning the entire life cycle of mining.

Centre of Training Excellence in Mining is a province-wide virtual hub that facilitates collaborative and innovative training opportunities for the B.C. mining industry.

The Mineral Deposit Research Unit is an international research group based out of UBC committed to solving exploration problems through industry-partnered programs.

The Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering, within the Faculty of Applied Science at UBC, is one of North America's largest and most advanced centres for mining engineering education and research.

In 2025, B.C.'s mining exploration sector saw **\$751 million** in investment, a 36 percent increase from 2024 and the highest ever in the province.





British Columbia's Competitive Advantages



- Prime location on Canada's West Coast
- Streamlined permitting process
- Strong collaboration across all levels of government and with Indigenous partners
- A leader in sustainable practices
- Expert researchers and centres of excellence that produce innovative mining methods
- Renewable, reliable, low-cost power
- World-class geoscience data to identify critical minerals opportunities across the province
- Competitive taxes and strong fiscal incentives
- Diverse, skilled and educated workforce

Supportive Government

British Columbia provides many incentives to encourage business investment and innovation. Royalty credits, tax credits and refunds are available for research and development, machinery and equipment investment, and other sector-specific activities.

Provincial Programs:

- B.C. Mining Flow Through Share Tax Credit
- CleanBC Industry Fund
- Innovative Clean Energy Fund
- Investment Allowance
- The Mining Exploration Tax Credit
- New Mine Allowance
- Reclamation Tax Credit
- Manufacturing Jobs Fund
- Manufacturing and Processing Investment Tax Credit
- Integrated Marketplace

Get Essential Data Anytime, Anywhere

British Columbia's award-winning digital data access systems are readily available online, wherever you are in the world.

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining:

- British Columbia Geological Survey
- MapPlace
- Mine Approval Process

Other Resources:

- British Columbia Mine Information
www.mines.nrs.gov.bc.ca/
- Mineral Titles Online
www.mtonline.gov.bc.ca/mtov/home
- ImapBC
maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/imap4m/



You Are in Good Company

Join these world class mining companies investing in B.C. operations:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Centerra Gold | ■ Hudbay Minerals | ■ Rio Tinto Alcan |
| ■ Coeur Mining | ■ Mangrove Lithium | ■ Teck |
| ■ Glencore | ■ Newmont | ■ Wheaton Precious Metals |

British Columbia, *Naturally.*

Trade and Invest British Columbia

999 Canada Place, Suite 730
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6C 3E1

Phone: +1 604 775-2100
Fax: +1 604 775-2197
international@gov.bc.ca

Published in July 2026. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication at the time of writing; however, the programs referred to, and data cited, are subject to change. All figures are in Canadian dollars.



[BritishColumbia.ca](https://www.britishcolumbia.ca)