

First Nations Release Critical Minerals Strategy in British Columbia to Facilitate Net Zero by 2050

March 4, 2024

First Nations in BC announce a proactive critical minerals strategy for their territories in British Columbia. The First Nations Critical Minerals Strategy was facilitated by the BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council and supported by the First Nations Leadership Council. This strategy was developed at four half-day interactive webinars between October 2023 and January 2024 with more than 250 participants from First Nation communities throughout the province. Federal and Provincial Ministers also presented at these meetings, committing to working in partnership with First Nations.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia have also developed critical minerals strategies to facilitate the global net zero carbon energy transition by 2050.

BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Terry Teegee states, *“the First Nations strategy is a grassroots plan developed by community members about their critical mineral priorities. We value the community input facilitated by the First Nations Energy and Mining Council.”*

173 years after gold was first discovered on Haida Gwaii, in what is now British Columbia, the time has arrived for the governments of Canada and British Columbia to work on a trilateral basis with First Nations on the extraction of critical minerals from Indigenous lands. First Nations Summit Task Group Member Robert Phillips says, *“I attended all the sessions with the communities as well as acted as a co-chair to the BC government advisory committee on the development of their critical minerals strategy. A priority action of the BC plan is to*

align our collective initiatives and I fully expect we will achieve success.”

A resolution from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs was passed at their Council of Chiefs assembly on February 22, 2024. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip echoes the commitments of the strategy and says, *“the strategy contains 50 recommendations – we will support them all and seek to collaborate with Canada and BC to align their strategies with those recommendations from First Nations in BC”*.

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