

TRANSFORMING THE CRITICAL MINERALS VALUE CHAIN

May 28, 2026
Sudbury, Ontario

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

'MINING THE FUTURE' WEEK EVENTS May 25th – 28th

Mining the Future Week

Bringing together delegates to explore the future of mining and the critical minerals value chain.

Mining Transformed – The World's Only Tech Exhibition in an Underground Operating Mine - May 25-27, 2026

Mining Transformed 2026 promises a one-of-a-kind, immersive experience for exhibitors and visitors, offering unprecedented access to live, hands-on demonstrations of technologies that are redefining the global mining industry. Hosted by NORCAT in collaboration with CIM, the event is designed to connect the "builders" of innovation with the "buyers" looking to implement cutting-edge solutions in real-world operations.

MICA Sudbury Demo & Networking Night – May 27, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Join the MICA Network in Sudbury for a premier evening where technology meets opportunity. Hosted in collaboration with Mining the Future Week, this event is the ultimate gathering for innovators, mining companies, SMEs, and industry leaders dedicated to the evolution of the mining ecosystem. Discover emerging technologies, engage with the brilliant minds behind them, and explore how strategic collaboration can accelerate adoption across the global mining industry.

BEV In-Depth Conference Program – Thursday, May 28th

REGISTRATION AND AM PLENARY SESSIONS: STUDENT LIFE CENTRE – CAMBRIAN COLLEGE

8:00 a.m. **Registration and Networking**
Coffee and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. **Welcome Remarks and Land Acknowledgement**

Conference Chair:

Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk, President and CEO, MIRARCO; Executive Director, Goodman School of Mines; NOHFC Industrial Research Chair (confirmed)

Remarks:

Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology (tbd)

Paul Lefebvre, Mayor, City of Greater Sudbury (confirmed)

Opening Keynote: Minerals, Markets, and Might: Canada in the New Resource Geopolitics

The global race for critical minerals is reshaping economies and alliances. Canada has a generational opportunity to anchor secure, responsible supply chains—but only if it aligns domestic policy with geopolitical reality. This keynote outlines the path forward: pragmatic, competitive, and grounded in Canada's strengths.

Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot, Senior Fellow and Director of Energy, Natural Resources and Environment, Macdonald-Laurier Institute (confirmed)

Beyond Extraction: Building a Sovereign Critical Minerals Value Chain

Canada stands at a historic crossroads. As the world pivots toward a decarbonized economy and a renewed focus on continental sovereignty, our mineral wealth has become a matter of both climate urgency and national security. This session convenes leaders from across the value chain—from global mining majors and domestic developers to high-level policymakers and international strategists. Together, they will explore how Canada can move 'beyond extraction' to build a resilient, integrated supply chain that powers the next generation of electric vehicles while securing the strategic interests of the North American defence industrial base.

Panelists:

Jeff Gaulin, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Communications, Vale Base Metals (confirmed)

Greg Da Re, Vice President, Corporate Development, Frontier Lithium (confirmed)

Amanda Wilson, Director General, Policy and Economics Branch, Lands and Minerals Sector, Natural Resources Canada (confirmed)

Abigail Hunter, Executive Director of SAFE Center for Critical Minerals Strategy (confirmed)

Moderator:

Deirdra Tindale, Vice President Crestview Strategy and Podcast Host – The Mining and Minerals Show (confirmed)

Indigenous Finance for Critical Minerals Development**Critical Minerals to Critical Markets: Unlocking Canada's Rare Earth Elements Resources**

Insights from market leaders across the value chain on accelerating domestic capability, reducing strategic vulnerabilities, and unlocking competitive advantage in rare earths mining, processing, and recycling.

Panelists:

Alex Tanner, Director Government Affairs, Cyclic Materials (confirmed)

Lisa Riley, Managing Director and CEO, Vital Metals (confirmed)

Moderator:

Abdul Jendi, Kingston Economic Development (confirmed)

Plenary Keynote and Fireside Chat:

The Honourable Stephane Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines, Province of Ontario (invited)

12:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch Student Life Centre

During lunch delegates are encouraged to visit the outdoor display of battery electric consumer vehicles adjacent to the Student Life Centre.

PM PLENARY SESSIONS: STUDENT LIFE CENTRE**Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy – Securing the Supply of Defence-Related Critical Minerals**

Electric Mining Equipment Comes of Age: Scaling, Standardizing, and Competing in a BEV Reality

Underground battery electric mining equipment has moved beyond pilots and proof-of-concepts, it is now operating in production environments around the world. As BEVs become a permanent part of modern mine fleets, OEMs and operators are shifting their focus from if electrification works to how it scales. This panel brings together leading equipment manufacturers and underground mining operators to discuss the opportunities and challenges of delivering, supporting, and evolving electric fleets at commercial scale. Topics will include supply chain maturity, standardization and interoperability, reliability, infrastructure integration, operator expectations, and where competition and innovation are heading next in underground and surface mining.

Panelists:

André Barriault, Regional Applications Specialist, Electrification, Epiroc;

David Jacques, Vice President of Engineering, MacLean Engineering;

Moderator:

Steve Gravel, Manager, Centre for Smart Mining, Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology

Electric Vehicles in Transition and Future Proofing the Canadian Automotive Sector**Panelists:**

David Adams, President, Global Automakers of Canada (confirmed)

(additional automotive sector panelists invited)

Closing Keynote

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development of Quebec Regions (invited)

5:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Conference Chair

5:10 p.m.

Post Conference Reception - Student Life Centre, Fireside Lounge and Outdoor Display