

# AGENDA

8-11 October 2024 | Greater Sudbury, Canada

## 2024 OECD Conference of Mining Regions and Cities

*A shared vision for well-being in mining regions*



# 2024 OECD Conference of Mining Regions and Cities

## What's the issue?

The global demand for mineral raw materials is rapidly increasing due to the need for renewable energy technologies to drive the green transition. This paired with recent global disruptions in mineral supply chains due to geo-political events has led many OECD governments to place the autonomy in critical minerals as a strategic policy goal, boosting mining-related projects across the globe.

The surge for minerals and the growing attention to private sector's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) activities offers an opportunity to forge a new engagement model between mining and community development. Given that mineral deposits are concentrated in specific territories, the interaction between the mining sector and local communities and governments is highly relevant to attain a sustained mineral supply as well as support regional development and environmental protection. This is of particular importance for Indigenous communities, where the resource sector has historically been associated with dispossession and dependency.

This conference aims to forge a new stakeholder engagement model in mining regions by exchanging and identifying strategies for long-term cooperation to ensure inclusive and resilient development.

The [OECD Mining Regions and Cities Initiative](#) was created in 2016 to provide policy advice in improving well-being in regions and cities specialised in mining, through i) analysis and evidence, including a data and policy toolbox for mining regions' well-being; ii) case studies with tailored recommendations for individual mining regions; and iii) promotion of knowledge sharing and dialogue with events and an annual international conference. This Initiative is part of the broader work of the [OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities \(CFE\)](#) and is overseen by the OECD's [Regional Development Policy Committee \(RDPC\)](#) which undertakes extensive work on improving economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of local communities including Indigenous peoples. Alongside the Mining Regions and Cities Initiative, this includes the programme [Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development](#) which has produced a [global thematic report](#) as well as country specific [case studies](#).

## About the event

This year's Conference in Greater Sudbury, Canada focuses on two key pillars:

- I. **Partnering for meaningful development in mining regions:** Mining companies are increasingly adopting ESG approaches to support the well-being of local communities, driven by demand from society, investors, and regulators. At the same time, subnational governments and communities, including Indigenous peoples, are gaining decision-making power in mining projects, for example through land use planning tools or legal veto powers. An improved interaction with the mining sector is of special importance for Indigenous communities, given that many mining projects for critical minerals worldwide are likely to occur on or near their traditional lands. Relevant topics of discussion under this pillar include:
  - Indigenous-centred pathways for sustainable futures in mining regions.
  - Aligning ESG initiatives with community and Indigenous-led activities.
  - The role of regions and local actors in supporting national mineral strategies
  - Partnering to enhance education and liveability: the role of universities and land use planning.
- II. **Future-proofing regional mineral supply for the energy transition:** Attaining global climate goals requires balancing the increasing demand for minerals with the need to advance sustainable practices in the mining value chain. Subnational governments and communities are instrumental actors in supporting these dual objectives. They are proponents of environmental protection and can enhance local ecosystems to support sustainable mining businesses, value-added activities in mineral processing, circular economy initiatives, and mining transition pathways. Relevant topics of discussion under this pillar include:
  - The role of local actors and Indigenous peoples in improving environmental outcomes of mining.
  - Advancing circular practices to increase local value-added.
  - Planning for resilient mining economies and transition pathways.
  - Leveraging medium-size mining companies and local value for the green transition.

## Location

Greater Sudbury, the regional capital of northeastern Ontario, has vast natural assets including 330 lakes, more than any other municipality in Canada as well as a rich Indigenous heritage and culture. Greater Sudbury is renowned for its environmental stewardship as well as its expertise in modern mining practices, quality health care, and the presence of advanced research. It is home to a globally leading integrated mining complex and is located on a unique geological area with one of the largest nickel-copper sulphide concentrations on the planet.

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.oecd.org/regional/> on Twitter [@OECD\\_local](#) #miningregions

## TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER

**16.00-18.00**

### **Pre-registration and informal dinner (optional)**

Participants are invited to attend the conference venue, Holiday Inn Sudbury, to register for the Conference and receive their passes and further information for the three-day agenda.

An informal dinner at the participants' own expense will be held to allow for interaction prior to the formal start of the Conference.

## WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER

08:00 – 9:00	<b>Registration and welcome coffee/tea</b>
9:00 – 9:45	<b>Opening session: Welcome remarks</b>
	<p>Welcoming session with high-level political representation.</p> <p>The session will engage with the two key pillars of the conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering for meaningful development in mining regions</li> <li>• Future-proofing regional mineral supply for the energy transition</li> </ul>
9:45 - 10:45	<b>Panel: Lessons from 8 years of the OECD Mining Regions Initiative</b>
	<p>The OECD Mining Regions and Cities Initiative has conducted five case studies and numerous events over the past eight years, sharing best practices across regions specialised in mining activities. This panel will reflect on key lessons from the Initiative including preliminary findings from Northern Ontario and the pressing issues for the future, with speakers from case study regions and public and private sector.</p>
10:45 - 11:00	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>Pillar 1: Partnering for meaningful development in mining regions</b>	
11:00-11:30	<p><b>Keynote Speaker:</b> TBC, ESG focus</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> The role of private sector in improving long-term well-being in mining regions.</p>
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Panel: Indigenous-centred pathways for sustainable futures in mining regions</b>
	<p>Many mining projects worldwide occur on or near Indigenous traditional lands. There is a need to ensure existing and new mining projects do not repeat previous patterns of dispossession and dependency and strive for meaningful consultation, ownership, and benefits for Indigenous peoples. This panel will present the key takeaways of the Indigenous-led preconference focused on new Indigenous-centred pathways for sustainable futures in mining regions.</p>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30-14:30	<b>Panel: Aligning ESG initiatives with community and Indigenous-led activities to maximise benefits in mining regions</b>
	<p>Mining regions are home to a diverse range of stakeholders with varying perspectives and interests. This panel aims to identify practices to better coordinate actors and their initiatives to improve wellbeing. Initiatives to be discussed include Indigenous-led and community-led initiatives, educational programs in the region and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) approaches of companies. Panellists will be encouraged to discuss how their project measures success and how it aligns with broader regional goals.</p>
14:30-15:30	<b>Panel: Navigating global mineral shifts: regional responses to national policies</b>
	<p>Recent global changes in industrial policy such as the Inflation Reduction Act in the US and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act encourages the acceleration of critical minerals projects to onshore mineral supply and support the green transition. This panel will explore how regions</p>

	and local actors can adapt and support the rapid and increasing demand for mineral-related projects, while ensuring sustainable processes and local benefits.	
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Afternoon coffee</b>	
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	<b>Parallel sessions: Partnering to enhance education and liveability</b>	
	<p><b>A: Strengthening education for local skills of the future and addressing misconceptions about mining</b></p> <p>Many mining regions face skills shortages in the wake of new mining and energy projects for the green transition. There are widespread poor perceptions of the mining industry and a lack of knowledge regarding the importance of critical minerals mining for the green transition, leading to a low appetite to join the sector. This panel will discuss approaches to education that can address both skills shortages and misconceptions regarding mining.</p>	<p><b>B: Enhancing liveability in mining regions: land use planning and FIFO management</b></p> <p>Mining tends to represent most of the economic activity in remote or small towns, adding pressures on land use for other economic activities or service provision. It can impact on local quality of life and reduce attractiveness for permanent living. This panel will consider local strategies in land use planning for services and economic diversification, while managing fly-in fly-out workers to improve liveability of mining regions.</p>
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	<b>Drawing policy lessons from parallel session</b>	
<b>18h30-21h30</b>	<b>Dinner with tickets.</b>	

# THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Welcome Coffee</b>	
<b>Pillar 2: Future-proofing regional mineral supply for the energy transition</b>		
09:00-9:30	<b>Keynote Speaker:</b> TBC  <b>Topic:</b> Making the most of the green transition to unlock development opportunities for mining regions.	
09:30-10:30	<b>Panel: The role of local actors and Indigenous peoples in improving environmental outcomes of mining</b>	
	Understanding and monitoring environmental impacts of mining is a concern for many stakeholders. Transparency and community trust of environmental measurements can affect the social perception of mining. This panel will discuss participatory strategies to measure the direct and indirect environmental impacts of mining such as greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, biodiversity, and land use and the initiatives to mitigate negative externalities.	
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee</b>	
11:00-12:00	<b>Panel: Advancing circular practices to increase local added-value</b>	
	The green transition presents opportunities for mining regions to unlock new business opportunities and value-added jobs. This panel will discuss various industries and activities available for mining regions, most notably, circular economy strategies such as recycling, repurposing, and remanufacturing.	
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:00-14:00	<b>Panel: Planning for resilient mining economies and transition pathways</b>	
	Overreliance in one single sector or the mining of one mineral increases the vulnerability of local and regional economies to external shocks. This panel will discuss experiences in planning for resilient development in mining towns and regions, to support diversified local economies and the repurposing of mining areas for transition to other economic activities.	
14:00-15:00	<b>Parallel sessions: Leveraging medium-size mining companies and local value for the green transition</b>	
	<b>A: The role of small and medium mining companies in the green transition</b>  Small and medium mining companies face particular challenges to adapt to the green and digital transition. This panel is an opportunity for global and local stakeholders to discuss the unique	<b>B: Creating local business opportunities through midstream activities</b>  Mining is more than extraction. While most regions benefit economically from upstream activities (e.g. construction, equipment, and maintenance), not all have the conditions to leverage downstream activities- e.g refining and distribution. What

	challenges facing these companies and how policy and cooperation with larger companies can assist in improving their operations.	strategies can support intermediate local value-added after extraction? Midstream activities, such as ore or tailings valorisation could boost economic value and sustainability for mining regions. This panel will explore experiences in implementing intermediate value-added activities post-extraction and their implications for local development.
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>Afternoon coffee</b>	
<b>15:15-15:45</b>	<b>Drawing policy lessons from parallel sessions</b>	
<b>15:45-16:15</b>	<b>Closing remarks.</b>	

## FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER

### **8h30-16h Field Trip (optional)**

Participants will have the opportunity to choose from two tours showcasing all that Greater Sudbury has to offer, including mining-related visits and cultural sites.

Further details to be provided.

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