

# ONTARIO

# MINING Review



digital magazine

ISSUE 1 • 2025

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announces 2025 district finalists**

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*Message from the editor*

**SHAYNA  
WIWIERSKI**

Welcome to the latest edition of *Ontario Mining Review*, where we delve into the forces shaping the future of Ontario's vibrant mining sector.

As the industry navigates a landscape of opportunity and complexity, our feature stories highlight the innovation, leadership, and policy shifts driving progress while acknowledging the challenges that demand thoughtful solutions.

One of our lead stories spotlights the Goodman School of Mines (GSM) at Laurentian University, a trailblazer in preparing the next generation of mining professionals. The GSM's Mineral Resources Industry Leadership Certificate is a groundbreaking program that equips students and industry veterans alike with the skills needed to thrive across the mine life cycle. In an era where the demand for a skilled, adaptable, and socially conscious workforce is paramount, GSM's focus on holistic training – blending technical expertise with leadership and sustainability principles – sets a new standard for the industry. This initiative underscores Ontario's commitment to fostering talent that can meet the evolving needs of mineral exploration and development while prioritizing ethical and community-focused practices.

On the policy front, the Chiefs of Ontario explore the Ontario government's bold move with Bill 5, the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*. This proposed legislation aims to accelerate mining and infrastructure development by streamlining approvals and fast-tracking critical mineral extraction. By introducing tools like the

designation of "regions/zones of economic and security interest" and a "one project, one process" approach, the bill seeks to bolster Ontario's anti-tariff strategy and attract investment. For mining proponents, this could unlock significant economic potential, positioning Ontario as a global leader in critical minerals. However, the legislation has sparked concerns among some First Nations, who fear it may sideline their rights and environmental priorities. Their coverage on page 10 examines both the promise and the tensions of this transformative policy, emphasizing the need for dialogue to balance economic growth with reconciliation and sustainability.

These stories reflect the broader narrative of Ontario's mining sector: a dynamic industry at a crossroads, driven by innovation and ambition yet challenged by the imperative to act responsibly. As we highlight these developments, we also celebrate the resilience of the communities, workers, and leaders who are shaping a future where mining not only fuels economic prosperity but also respects the land and its people.

We invite you to also explore our official site at [www.ontariominingnews.ca](http://www.ontariominingnews.ca), which features more in-depth articles, expert insights, and updates on the technologies and trends redefining mining in Ontario.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

**Shayna Wiwierski**

Shayna@DELCommunications.com 



# Valard works with mining companies to bring energy projects to life

## Project showcases Valard's engineering excellence



*The Côte Gold High Voltage Substation Project, executed by the Valard Construction Substation team, features a 115kV interconnect substation and a Static VAR Compensator (SVC) yard, as well as a revolutionary Synchronous Condenser system from Hitachi.*

Throughout history, significant technological advancements have helped humanity overcome challenges, driving progress across industries and communities.

The Côte Gold High Voltage

Substation Project, executed by the Valard Construction Substation team, exemplifies this progress. Completed in August 2023 for IAMGOLD and Wood PLC, the project showcases engineering excellence in electric power

infrastructure. At its core is a 115kV interconnect substation and a Static VAR Compensator (SVC) yard, featuring a revolutionary Synchronous Condenser system from Hitachi. This advanced technology enhances power

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### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Four 115kV breakers:** Ensuring robust and reliable power distribution.
- **Modern Control Building:** Equipped with the latest in control technology.
- **Two transformers and two station service transformers:** Enhancing power management capabilities.
- **Two Synchronous Condensers:** A game-changer for operational efficiency.
- **Top-notch SVC Yard equipment:** Elevating the standard of power infrastructure.

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The project is located an hour and 45 minutes from Timmins and two hours from Sudbury.

stability and reliability, ensuring seamless operations for years to come.

Located in a remote area – an hour and 45 minutes from Timmins and two hours from Sudbury – the construction site posed logistical challenges. Despite this, the Valard Substation team remained dedicated to safety

and environmental responsibility. Their approach resulted in an outstanding safety record: zero lost-time injuries, zero high-potential near misses, and zero environmental incidents. This achievement reinforces Valard's reputation for delivering high-quality, safe, and environmentally responsible projects while setting a new industry standard. The Côté

Gold High Voltage Substation Project demonstrates what can be achieved through precision and planning.

More than just a completed build, the project reflects technical expertise and steady progress, proving that even the most complex challenges can be managed with the right team and a clear vision for the future.

#### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Four 115kV breakers: Ensuring robust and reliable power distribution;
- Modern control building: Equipped with state-of-the-art control technology;
- Two transformers and two station service transformers: Enhancing power management capabilities;
- Two synchronous condensers: A key component for operational efficiency; and
- Top-tier SVC yard equipment: Improving power infrastructure standards. ⚡

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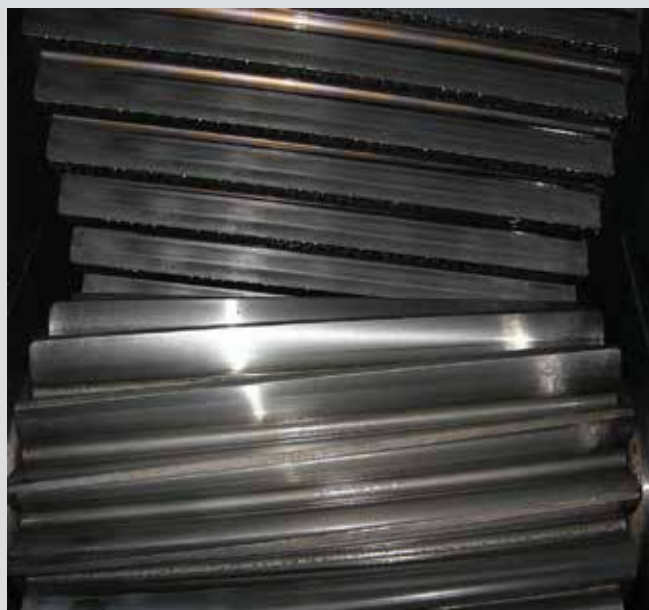





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# Precious and critical: Relationships of reciprocity in mining development

By Tess James

The Ontario government recently tabled Bill 5, legislation aimed at speeding up mining and infrastructure development in the province by fast-tracking critical mineral extraction and streamlining resource development approvals. The *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, will, if passed, empower the government with a host of new tools including the ability to amend current legislation and regulations it says are slowing projects and designate “regions/zones of economic and security interest” to allow the government to speed up the permitting process while legislating a “one project, one process approach” as part of its anti-tariff strategy.

While this may be welcome news to mining proponents and investors, it is seen as threatening to some First Nations. The government’s proposed plans are “a direct attack on the inherent, Treaty, and Aboriginal rights of First Nations who have governed and stewarded these lands since time immemorial,” said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler in a February press release. “The unilateral will of the day’s government will not dictate the speed of development

on our lands, and continuing to disregard our legal rights serves to reinforce the colonial and racist approach that we have always had to fight against.”

Policies to expedite resource development should not be made without prior, informed knowledge and consent of the First Nations. And rules and regulations that govern mining must be enforced and respected.

In this time of international trade uncertainty, it is more important than ever for provincial and federal governments to work together to reinforce and build independent supply chains, grow the economy, and bolster national security. But it cannot come at the expense of First Nations’ inherent or Treaty rights. Governments and proponents must act in good faith when working with First Nations to undertake and fulfill the duty to consult and accommodate. This means forging business partnerships and providing meaningful benefits to affected First Nations. Proponents should not shy away from the principles of free, prior, and informed consent. Early, meaningful engagement with First Nations with the goal of building long-term trust and economic

participation is the only way to reduce delays, develop stable mineral development projects and, ultimately, be successful.

First Nations need resources to meaningfully participate and benefit from the mineral development industry. To that end, Premier Ford has also pledged an additional \$70 million to the Aboriginal Participation Fund, which aims to build capacity within First Nations so they can assess and monitor mining activities within their traditional territories. It appears promising that Premier Ford realizes the importance of the duty to consult with Treaty and Aboriginal rights holders. Relationships of reciprocity in mining development are paramount to efficient and increased critical mineral production. But that \$70 million pledge has yet to be fulfilled. This funding should be top order for this government if they truly want to speed up development. It will give First Nations the ability to hire mineral development advisors who can help First Nations assess and advise on the ever-increasing mineral extraction activities on their lands and serve as a conduit between First Nations, the government, and industry





representatives. This means First Nations will be better equipped to process requests for the permit reviews that are required during early and advanced exploration. This will help both industry and First Nations and, in turn, companies would be better able to fulfill their regulatory and consultation obligations.

The duty to consult and accommodate is enshrined in colonial law and cannot be circumvented or disregarded. The Canadian Constitution recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Indigenous people in Canada. Consultation and accommodation can be seen as a spectrum based on Section 35 rights and the nature of the proposed infringement upon those rights. But these rights are not absolute. Several landmark Supreme Court cases have pondered the extent of these rights and when they may be infringed upon. *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* identifies the threshold for justified infringement as very high. The framework established by in *R. v. Sparrow* case offers clear objectives of the duty to consult which, among other things, are to ensure there is as little infringement as possible on a given right and that “compensation is available” to the rights-holding collective. Exploration companies are wise to consult early with potentially impacted First Nations and negotiate fair compensatory terms in an exploration agreement. Meaningful reciprocation for being on the homelands of a First Nation can include offering shares in the company, employment opportunities, monetary compensation (for example, per

drill hole or trenching activity) and a commitment to enter into a full impact-benefit agreement should advanced exploration be sought.

Another factor to consider is the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the concept of free, prior, and informed consent. In February 2025, the federal court released its decision on *Kabaowek First Nation v. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories*, which found courts and other decision makers must consider UNDRIP when assessing whether the Crown has met its duty to consult and accommodate Indigenous groups – and this includes free, prior, and informed consent. The concept of free, prior, and informed consent is international jurisprudence and speaks to a single universal ‘standard’ that does not consider the limitations of a Section 35 right in question. Instead, as *Kabaowek* established, it means that a proponent or government consulting with an Indigenous group must do so “according to their customs and traditions ... with the objective of reaching an agreement.” Consultation must occur “at the early stages of a development or investment plan, not only when the need arises to obtain approval from the community” and all parties must have “time to consider the environmental and health impacts and risks” in order for a project to be accepted “knowingly and voluntarily.” It does not, however, provide general veto power; rather, it is “a right to a robust process ... [with] meaningful dialogue to find pathways forward through a process of balancing interests, of give and take.”

Acting in good faith is the core of both the duty to consult and the concept of free, prior, and informed consent. In *Delgamuukw*, Chief Justice Lamer identified that the “basic purpose of s. 35(1)[is] ‘the reconciliation of the pre-existence of Aboriginal societies with the sovereignty of the Crown.’” The duty to consult and free, prior, and informed consent are, by law, the fiduciary responsibility of governments. This responsibility is often delegated to industry proponents, and this seems to make sense most of the time. The proponents know their businesses and are the ones with ‘skin in the game.’ They are more eager to negotiate, know the limits of what they can offer, and what they consider reasonable. It offers ground-level relationship building and can alleviate interference from bureaucracy.

But relationships only work if they are respectful, transparent, and equitable. Fast-tracking mineral development may be a priority right now but without these values, reciprocity cannot be realized, projects are stalled, and governments or courts must intervene. And that benefits no one.

*Tiffany (Tess) James is a senior policy analyst with Chiefs of Ontario in the Policy and Communications Sector. She has a master’s degree in public administration and is a forester in training. James has worked over 25 years in the field of natural resource management. She is an Irish-Indigenous professional who is dedicated to supporting First Nations communities and advancing reconciliation.* ✂



# Preparing the next generation of mining leaders

## The Mineral Resources Industry Leadership Program at Laurentian University

By Nicole Tardif, Program Coordinator, Goodman School of Mines, Laurentian University

As Ontario's mineral exploration and development industry evolves, the need for a skilled, adaptable, and socially conscious workforce is more urgent than ever. The Goodman School of Mines (GSM) at Laurentian University is meeting this demand through its innovative Mineral Resources Industry Leadership Certificate – a unique program designed to prepare both

students and professionals for dynamic careers spanning the full mine life cycle.

Today's mining sector requires more than technical expertise. Workers must also navigate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) challenges, health and safety standards, community engagement, project management, and reconciliation.

*Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk (back right) and Nicole Tardif (front centre) from the Goodman School of Mines, with Dr. Patricia Orozco (front left), from the Faculty of Management, and six MRILC cohort 1 graduates at Laurentian University (BACK: Bwenzem-Wende Nadembega, Elijah Jeffery, Julian David Melo-Gomez; FRONT: Beatriz Fores Moreira, Paige Pilote, Heather Lee). A total of 19 students and three industry professionals have graduated from the MRILC program since it began in 2021.*

GSM's certificate program aims to produce graduates who are not only technically competent but also industry-aware and socially responsible.

### **BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY NEEDS**

Ontario's mining sector faces ongoing talent shortages and growing expectations for





*Participants in the MRILC program on a field trip to Dynamic Earth to learn about the Mining Industry and Sudbury's rich geological and environmental history.*



*MRILC participants in Wahnapiatae, witnessing a ceremonial partnership agreement between members from the Wahnapiatae First Nations and Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations (Glencore).*

ESG leadership. Employers consistently emphasize the value of communication, collaboration, and leadership skills, as well as broader awareness of the mining industry. GSM's certificate responds directly to these needs.

Offered alongside a student's primary degree over four academic semesters (fall and winter), the certificate is open to both undergraduate and graduate students from various academic disciplines. This structure allows

participants to enhance their education without extending their time at university.

The program also welcomes industry professionals, particularly newcomers to Canada or those early in their careers. For these



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individuals, the certificate provides essential insights into Canadian mining operations, industry culture, and workplace expectations.

Participants come from engineering, earth sciences, environmental studies, Indigenous studies, health, business, and more, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of real-world mining teams.

### **A HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

Experiential learning is central to the program. Participants attend field trips, networking events, and local mining industry functions. A highlight of the program is a formal completion celebration with invited industry guests.

Each participant is also matched with an experienced mentor from the mining industry, offering personalized guidance on career development and the soft skills critical to professional success.

To provide participants with tangible credentials, GSM partners with top organizations to offer industry-recognized certifications, including:

- Project Management Essentials (Procept Associates Ltd.)
- Standard First Aid and CPR (St. John Ambulance)
- Health & Safety Training (Minerva Canada)
- Intercultural Awareness, Gender Equity, and Indigenous Awareness (Mining Industry Human Resources Council – MiHR)

Resume workshops, mock interviews, and site visits help participants build confidence and make meaningful connections across the sector.

### **REDEFINING MINING CAREERS**

The program broadens participants' understanding of what it means to work in mining today.

Key focus areas include:

- Environmental stewardship and regulation
- Occupational health and safety
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)
- Engagement with Indigenous communities

- Sustainable development and community impact
- Mining and exploration business and industry regulations

These aren't side topics; they're central to the future of Canada's mineral sector. GSM is training future leaders to place these priorities at the heart of their work.

### **SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

As Ontario advances its critical minerals strategy and invests in every stage of the mining life cycle, programs like this are essential. GSM's leadership certificate doesn't just prepare job-ready graduates – it nurtures responsible, forward-thinking professionals ready to lead.

Whether you're a student, a newcomer to Canada, or early in your mining career, this program offers an unmatched opportunity to build the skills and confidence to thrive in one of Canada's most vital industries. 🛠️



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# Virtual reality helps aspiring mining engineers process their surroundings

*Now, over 100 students use VR as part of their mining engineering education.*

Visits to actual processing facilities are an important part of the learning process for mining students. It exposes them to the places they could work someday and provides hands-on learning opportunities that illuminate classroom lectures.

During the COVID pandemic, those field trips became much more difficult to organize so, in 2021, Charlotte Gibson – the assistant professor and associate head of the Robert M. Buchan Department of Mining – began to consider how virtual reality (VR) could help students obtain hands-on experience another way.

“As we started to build out the VR over the subsequent years, we realized it’s a really good tool to augment field trips,” Gibson said. “The real-life experience of the field trips, coupled with this opportunity to interact and engage in that environment in a way that they can’t when they’re just on a tour, has been really interesting.”

First incorporated in two courses, MINE 201: Introduction to Mining and Mineral Processing, and MINE 331: Methods of Mineral Separation, the program has expanded in recent years so that now over 100 students

use VR as part of their mining engineering education.

“The second-year students complete a mill discharge sampling scenario where they have to put an instrument into a slurry stream, take a sample out, and use a scale to measure some of its characteristics,” Gibson said. “The third-year students are faced with a plant troubleshooting problem where the product quality starts to drop and they need to investigate and figure out what they can do to correct that.”

Gibson says the student feedback has been positive, and the early results showed a noticeable jump in evaluation scores for students who had the VR experience. The technology has continued to advance since its initial deployment with more detailed and realistic virtual environments. Minecraft, this is not.

## **THE ROLE OF EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE OF MINING**

The Robert Buchan Department of Mining recognizes that the mining sector, much like any other sector of the economy, is impacted by the perception of prospective students who are seeking good career opportunities.



*The student feedback has been positive, and the early results showed a noticeable jump in evaluation scores for students who had the VR experience.*

Mining can often be seen as a cyclical sector of the economy and perceptions of career instability and risk. It is part of the role of educators and industry to communicate a longer-term perspective on the strategic importance of mining to the overall global economy.


Our approach is to tap into the full potential of our program graduates and their ambitions to make a meaningful impact on solving the world's most complex problems, such as sustainability in mining.

"These are exciting times at the Robert Buchan Department of Mining. The recent appointment of Vlad Kecojevic to head the department includes the benefit he brings to the role with his considerable depth in mining safety and environmental protection," said Kevin Deluzio, dean of Smith Engineering. "It is a pattern this department established more than 15 years ago when we began to incorporate a new curriculum focused on



community and social aspects of sustainability. That work continues today. We have recently expanded this effort by bringing in more concepts around lifecycle analysis, environmental sustainability, and decarbonization into our curriculum, as well as data analytics that support how these concepts can be successfully applied to mining planning, development, and operations."

At Smith Engineering, we believe engineering exists to serve humanity. Since 2023, with the support of a \$100 million gift, we have been redefining how we prepare engineers – not just as technical experts, but as problem-solvers attuned to the social, environmental, and ethical dimensions of their work. Our faculty, now the Stephen Smith Faculty of Engineering at Queen's University, is committed to embedding these values into our curriculum, research, and student experiences to shape a new generation of engineers who drive meaningful impact in the world.

"In short, we are changing the way we educate engineers so that they can change the world," Deluzio said. "Mining education is a flagship example of what we seek to accomplish with these changes." 



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# PDAC 2025 draws 27,353 participants to Toronto

The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) proudly celebrated another landmark gathering with PDAC 2025, which brought together 27,353 participants to explore premier business prospects, investment opportunities, and professional networks in the global mineral exploration and mining sphere. Showcasing more than 1,100 exhibitors—including government representatives, corporate leaders, and technical specialists from across the world—PDAC 2025 upheld its reputation as the industry's most influential convention.

"Year after year, the PDAC Convention is the place to be for unveiling the latest market insights, advances in technology, and for fostering essential partnerships," said Raymond Goldie, PDAC president. "In 2025, we continued that legacy by bringing together not only a wide array of educational programming focused on crucial areas such as capital markets,

Indigenous engagement, career development, and sustainability, but also a dynamic trade show and company presentations to investors, offering exhibitors and attendees invaluable opportunities for business growth and collaboration."

Beyond highlighting trailblazing innovation and thought leadership, PDAC 2025 provided a vital platform for dialogue between industry stakeholders and government officials. PDAC's leaders used this forum to emphasize the impact of forward-looking public policy on maintaining Canada's competitive edge in the mineral sector.

"Minerals are the backbone of modern technology and are indispensable to our daily lives, highlighting the essential role of mineral exploration and mining in Canada's economic strength and resilience," Goldie noted. "This week, PDAC was encouraged by the federal government's commitment to extend the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) for two years. Our

priority now is to ensure that this commitment becomes law, and we'll continue pushing for it to have a permanent place in Canada's fiscal framework."

Goldie extended his heartfelt appreciation to everyone who helped make PDAC 2025 such a success—volunteers, speakers, sponsors, delegates, and PDAC's staff. The association eagerly anticipates welcoming participants back for PDAC 2026 on March 1-4, 2026.

## ABOUT PDAC

The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) is the leading voice of the mineral exploration and development community, an industry that employs more than 664,000 individuals, and contributed \$132 billion to Canada's GDP in 2021. Currently representing over 8,000 members around the world, PDAC's work centres on supporting a competitive, responsible, and sustainable mineral sector. ♦





# Catalys Extreme XV Hydraulic Fluid: Built for peak performance

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- Protects against wear, rust, and corrosion;
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- Resists oxidation to keep systems clean; and
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### *High shear stability*

Designed to handle high-speed, high-pressure operations, it maintains its viscosity under heavy stress, ensuring efficient, smooth machinery performance.

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Anti-wear additives reduce friction and prevent premature wear, protecting your machinery and cutting down on repair costs.



### *Cleaner systems*

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### *Versatile across industries*

From construction and agriculture to forestry and snow removal, Catalys Extreme XV adapts to a wide range of applications, making it an essential for any professional.

## APPLICATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Catalys Extreme XV is ideal for mobile and stationary hydraulic equipment operating in extreme conditions. It shines in:

- Excavators working in freezing temperatures;
- Cranes and tractors on rugged construction sites;
- Forestry equipment in harsh environments; and
- Snowplows tackling icy winters.

It also meets or exceeds standards like Vickers I-286-S, Denison HF-0, Cincinnati Milacron P-70, and more.

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# The future of Ontario's mining sector: Knowledge transfer and holistic decarbonization

Ontario's mining sector is at a critical juncture. With lower ore grades, shifting community and investor expectations, and growing pressure to reduce emissions, operators must rethink how they work. Two urgent challenges stand out: the loss of operational knowledge as experienced workers retire, and the misconception that decarbonization is only about adopting new technology. Real progress depends on a broader, more sustainable approach.

While automation and AI can improve efficiency, they can't replace experience. These tools must rely on proven data to be effective. Skilled workers remain central to long-term success – those who learn, adapt, and pass on their knowledge are the true drivers of innovation.

## BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

Years of underinvestment have left Ontario's mining industry with fewer mid-career professionals to mentor new employees. While many new workers are highly educated, they often lack hands-on experience. Meanwhile, veteran workers are retiring, taking with them practical knowledge that was never formally recorded or shared.

This knowledge gap poses real risks. Without structured knowledge-sharing systems, the insights and intuition that keep complex operations running smoothly

are lost. As companies work to extend mine life and maximize existing assets, protecting and passing on this knowledge becomes essential.

Many are turning to AI to help bridge this gap. But while it has potential, its value depends on the quality of the data it is fed. Without correct, reliable, and usable data, AI can't deliver meaningful insights or replicate seasoned human judgement.

Formal mentoring, documentation, and collaboration across teams are critical to preserving long-term value and ensuring operational continuity.

## DECARBONIZATION TAKES MORE THAN TECHNOLOGY

Mining companies are electrifying equipment, improving energy efficiency, and exploring alternative fuels, but technology alone won't cut it. Lasting emission reductions require a broader, integrated approach that includes solid governance, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

Decarbonization means rethinking how mines are designed, built, and operated. Strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance goes beyond compliance; it influences financing, public trust, and long-term support. A project that lowers emissions but harms ecosystems, affects water resources, or limits



Indigenous land use risks delays or resistance, even when climate goals are clear.

To gain long-term support and build credibility, companies must be transparent and inclusive from the start. Local communities expect accountability and meaningful involvement. This means involving Indigenous nations early in project planning, designing for climate resilience and biodiversity, and ensuring transparent reporting.

Creating shared value through collaboration is no longer optional – it's a necessity. A strong decarbonization plan requires expertise from power, mining, process, infrastructure, and environmental fields. It must not be an afterthought.

### THE PATH FORWARD

To remain future-ready, Ontario's mining sector must prioritize knowledge sharing and view decarbonization as both a human and technical challenge. Addressing these two areas together will help the industry move forward with confidence.

Long-term success will come from people – from the expertise and knowledge-sharing systems of consulting engineering partners who can support companies through all stages, from planning to execution and beyond. By taking a holistic, people-focused approach, Ontario can lead the way in defining what sustainable mining truly means.

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# Power Metals' Case Lake shapes as one of the world's richest cesium projects



*The Case Lake Property, 100 per cent-owned owned by Power Metals Corp., is poised to become the fourth-known cesium deposit in the world.*

In northeast Ontario, a team of geologists from Power Metals Corp. (TSX-V: PWM) has uncovered an enriched deposit of an extremely rare but remarkably versatile commodity that is increasingly in demand by global industries.

Power Metals Corp.'s 100 per cent-owned Case Lake Property is poised to become the fourth-known cesium deposit in the world, putting the region firmly on the map for this emerging market.

The company has started preparing its maiden mineral resource estimate for the project, following the discovery of cesium in 2018 across the 95-square-kilometre property.

Supporting this estimate will be the outstanding results from Power Metals' December drilling campaign, conducted in partnership with First Nations-owned Black Diamond Drilling.

Shallow intercepts have returned grades of up to 24.70

per cent cesium oxide, 6,211 ppm tantalum, and 2.50 per cent lithium oxide, while further lab analysis produced a high-quality, high-grade concentrate exceeding 19.9 per cent cesium oxide.

These results not only pave the way for a strong foundation for development but also position the Case Lake asset as a potential contender for the highest-grade cesium mine in the world.

These strong results have been mirrored in the market, with Power Metals' share price on the TSX Venture Exchange surging nearly 320 per cent – rising from 34 cents in November 2024 to a high of \$1.47 by mid-February, delivering significant returns for shareholders.

The development of Case Lake is also expected to bring benefits to Ontario, including local job creation and increased industry investment as demand for the commodity intensifies.





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*The company has started preparing its maiden mineral resource estimate for the project, following the discovery of cesium in 2018 across the 95-square-kilometre property.*

Cesium is a highly versatile commodity used in a variety of applications, but as Power Metals Corp.'s director and CEO Haydn Dexter explains, its scarcity makes it highly sought after by industry.

"From cancer treatments to spacecraft and drilling components for the energy sector, cesium has become a vital material for a range of industries," Dexter said. "Attention on the cesium market has also grown during the past few months, which presents an exciting opportunity to broaden industry awareness about its potential."

To assist with educating industry and the market, Power Metals established a Cesium Advisory Committee, led by renowned cesium expert Dr. Nigel Brand.

"As more companies begin exploring their own projects for cesium, it is important for industry leaders to have a comprehensive understanding of the element and its potential," Dexter said. "Our Cesium Advisory Committee will work with industry to identify prospective supply chains and discover real investment opportunities, especially as more explorers enter this emerging market."

As a pioneer in the North American cesium market,

Power Metals is uniquely positioned to lead industry education and advance Case Lake as a valuable asset.

Compounding the global race to secure cesium supply has been the market uncertainty caused by the fluctuating tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

"Initially, this triggered a rush by industry players to shore up local supplies of critical minerals, including cesium, within trade-friendly jurisdictions like North America," Dexter said. "As a result, interest in the prospectivity of our Case Lake Project has increased, which is exciting for both Power Metals and Ontario from a global trade sense."

In addition to Case Lake, Power Metals' portfolio includes the Pelletier Property in Ontario and the Decelles and Mazerac Properties near Val-D'Or, QC.

Together, these assets cover 1,265 claims across more than 600 square kilometres of lithium-cesium-tantalum (LCT) prospective ground.

"We are entering an exciting new era in North America, and Power Metals looks forward to leading the way for the emerging global cesium market," Dexter said. ⚒

# Bold Ventures Inc. poised for discovery

Bold Ventures Inc. (BOL:TSX.V) is a junior mining exploration company with gold and critical mineral projects in Ontario and Québec. Bold is committed to making new discoveries and advancing its projects through responsible exploration while building relationships with stakeholders, including First Nations communities, at all stages of exploration.

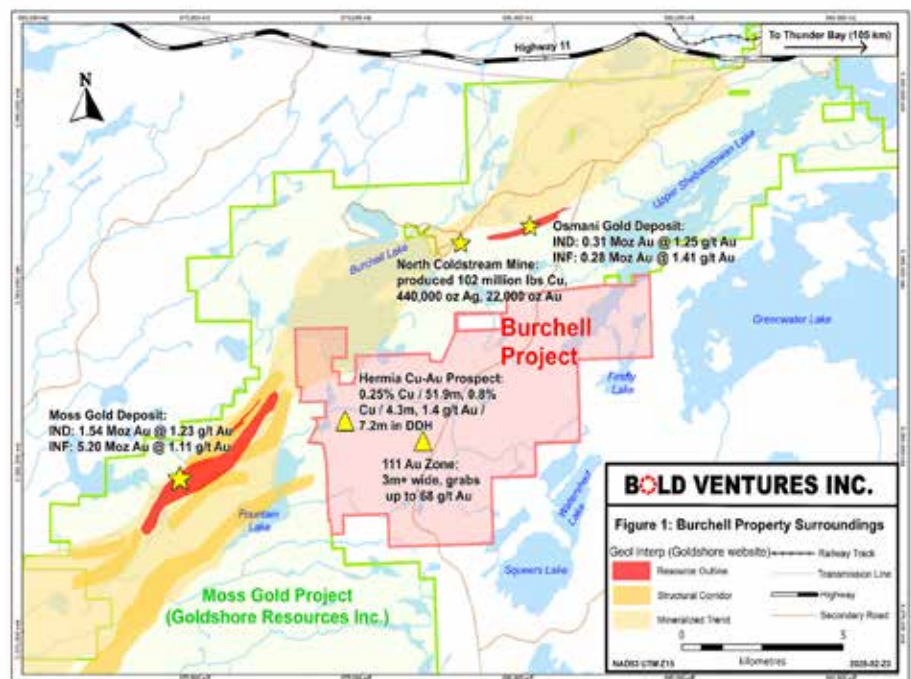
Bold is currently focused on its flagship Burchell Gold and Copper Property located approximately 100 kilometres west of Thunder Bay, Ont., where the company made a high-grade gold discovery in November of last year, with grab samples returning between 10 ppb Au and 68 g/t Au. This brand-new discovery, named the 111 Zone, has never been drilled or sampled to Bold's knowledge. This area will be the focus of work during the upcoming 2025 field season. Less than five kilometres west of the property boundary lies the Moss Gold Deposit owned by Goldshore Resources Inc., which hosts an inferred resource of 5.20 Moz Au and an indicated resource of 1.54 Moz Au (2024 mineral resource estimate). The Moss Trend strikes northeast onto the Burchell Property, where soil sampling last fall yielded gold, molybdenum, copper, and zinc anomalies.

Bold's Traxxin Gold Project is the company's next priority asset and

is located 30 kilometres northwest of the Burchell Property and 40 kilometres east of Agnico Eagle's Hammond Reef deposit (proven and probable reserves of 3.3 Moz Au, measured and indicated resources of 2.3 Moz Au – Agnico website 2025), in a similar geological environment: gold is related to a northeast trending splay off the east-west regional Quetico Fault. The Traxxin Main Zone was discovered in 2016, with one grab sample returning 1281 g/t Au. 2021 drilling by Bold yielded the best intersection to date of 3.6 g/t Au over 12.3 metres, including 6.1 g/t Au over 4.9 metres. Further exploration is planned along strike to the north and south of the Main Zone, as well as further drilling to expand the Main Zone.

Bold's other assets include four additional early-stage gold and critical mineral projects: the Wilcorp Gold Project near Atikokan, Ont.; the Farwell Gold and Copper Project in the Wawa region of Ontario; the Springpole East Gold Project east of Red Lake, Ont. (next to First Mining Gold Corp's Springpole Property hosting the Springpole Gold Deposit [4.9 Moz Au indicated and inferred – First Mining website 2025]); and the Joutel Base Metal and Gold Project in Québec.

The company also owns legacy assets in the Ring of Fire region of Ontario. Bold has a vested 10 per cent carried interest (to production) in the Black Horse Chromite NI-43-101 inferred resource of 85.9 Mt at 34.5 per cent Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> at a cutoff







Traxxin Discovery Outcrop 1281 g/t Au




grade of 20 per cent Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (KWG/CACR website 2023). Bold has a 40 per cent working interest in all other metals found within the claims and is the All Other Metals' project operator. Bold also owns a right of first refusal on a one per cent net smelter royalty covering all metals produced from the property. The Koper Lake Property is located adjacent to and contiguous with Wyloo Ring of Fire's (formerly Noront Resources Ltd.) Blackbird Chromite deposit and within 300

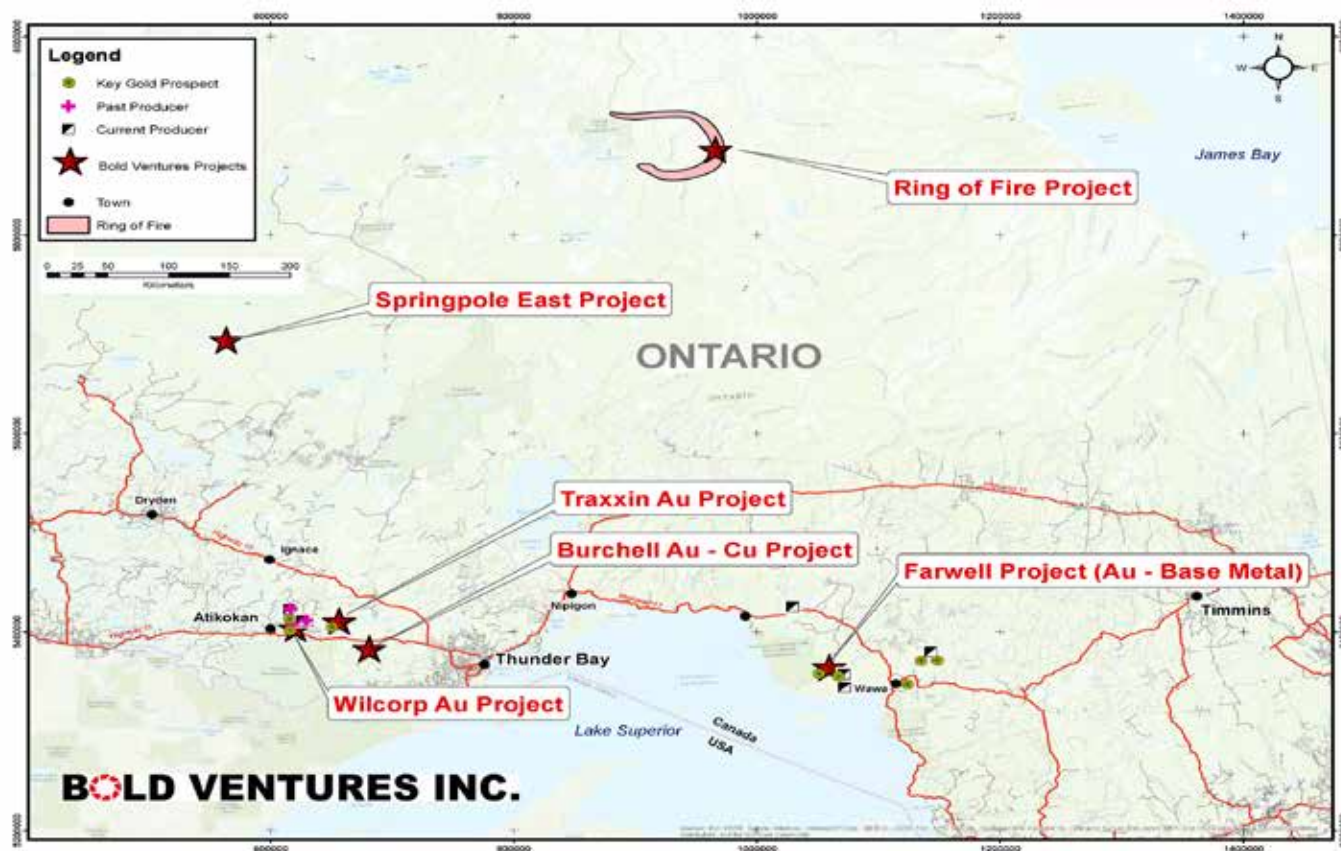
metres of the Eagles Nest Nickel-Copper Massive Sulphide Deposit in the permit stage.

Bold's management team played a key role in the original discovery of the Ring of Fire, Ont. deposits with Noront Resources, as well as in Noront's discovery of the Windfall Gold Deposit in Québec, now owned by Gold Fields Ltd. It also played a key role in the discovery of the Eagle River deposit owned by Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd. in the

Wawa region of Ontario.

The technical information in this article was reviewed and approved by Coleman Robertson, B.Sc., P. Geo., V.P. of exploration for Bold Ventures Inc. and a qualified person (QP) for the purposes of NI 43-101.

For additional information about Bold Ventures and our projects, please visit [www.boldventuresinc.com](http://www.boldventuresinc.com), or contact us at 416-864-1456 or by email at [info@boldventuresinc.com](mailto:info@boldventuresinc.com). 





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*David Hurd - Vice President International Sales Latin America, Managing Director Jennmar Canada*



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# Preventive maintenance for peak productivity

Choose a condition monitoring system to minimize downtime and maximize ROI

By Thiago Henrique Buoso,  
Haver & Boecker Niagara

As the saying goes, a watched pot never boils. Rather than idling by the stove, gathering the meal's ingredients first can yield a bubbling pot upon your return, enhancing efficiency.

While the idea of leaving things alone applies to many activities beyond cooking, it is not an effective approach to the screening

process within mineral processing environments. Undetected issues with vibrating screens can allow out-of-spec material to pass through in addition to causing further damage over time. Plus, any downtime for repairs can lead to production losses.

It's not viable for operators to monitor vibrating screens all the time. Fortunately, using a condition monitoring system takes this task off their hands, ensuring screens

stay healthy without constant attention.

## PROACTIVE PERFORMANCE OVER REACTIONARY REPAIRS

Any mineral production plant faces the challenges of maintaining the uptime of its equipment while reducing the cost of corrective maintenance. The information that condition monitoring systems provide can therefore be an invaluable asset to quarry and mine managers. However, not all systems are made equally.

Most of the available options on the market are reactive and unable to prevent unscheduled shutdowns and costly reduction in output. This is typically because these systems send only very specific information, and often in a format that is difficult for operators to understand.

Condition monitoring systems that stand out from the pack are those that use modern algorithms

*Condition monitoring systems use modern algorithms and artificial intelligence to monitor the health of the vibrating screens on site by forecasting the equipment's dynamic condition, predicting necessary maintenance and providing critical downtime alerts.*



*Thiago Henrique Buoso is a project and sales engineer for Haver & Boecker Niagara's Diagnostics and Aftermarket Department. He has more than 15 years of industry experience.*



ALL IMAGES  
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*Inset: Condition monitoring systems offer 24/7 equipment surveillance through permanently installed sensors that can be installed at any time on the equipment. Above right: A good manufacturer provides a skilled technician that evaluates screening equipment through a detailed checklist, trains personnel on proper installation and operation of condition monitoring systems and works with the customer to develop a preventative maintenance plan.*

and artificial intelligence to monitor the health of the vibrating screens on site. These condition monitoring systems use their advanced technology to forecast the equipment's dynamic condition, as well as predict necessary maintenance and provide critical downtime alerts. They can identify common types of failures such as lubrication faults, contamination, and bearing damage, as well as loose or broken structural parts of the vibrating screen body. Over time, a condition monitoring system should be getting "smarter" by using its artificial intelligence to improve the accuracy of the alerts it sends.

Understandably, purchasing any monitoring system can seem like an additional cost on top of other operational expenses. However, it is important to note that a well-chosen condition monitoring system almost eliminates unscheduled downtimes, significantly reduces corrective maintenance hours, and consequently increases equipment performance. Typically, most operations encounter an average of

one significant issue each month, with a total of 10 to 12 per year. In some cases, just one critical alert effectively pays for an entire three years of a condition monitoring system. And when you consider that certain condition monitoring systems prevent critical failure for just \$22 per day, it's hard to refute that the investment is worth the reward.

### **DIAGRAMING THE DIAGNOSTICS**

While monitoring systems for vibrating screen bearings are common in the market, more advanced options offer 24/7 equipment condition monitoring through permanently installed sensors on both the bearings and the body of the vibrating screens. Although the sensor configurations are customizable, the typical setup involves four body sensors placed on each corner of the vibrating screen with the addition of two bearing sensors. For larger screens, eight body sensors and six bearing sensors are used. In just one day, it is possible to install

sensors on multiple machines in case of a plant stoppage. Since receptors do not require the screen to be stopped, they can be installed any time. Condition monitoring can be installed at any point on the equipment, but the sooner the better is the optional time for quick dividends from the service.

Once installed, condition monitoring quickly gets to work scanning the vibrating screen for deviations that may lead to damage or loss of production. From there, artificial intelligence is used to predict the dynamic conditions of the equipment. For many operations, maintenance time is optimized by noting probable causes of potential failure of the equipment, such as loss of stiffness or uneven spreading of material feed on the screen media. Last but not least, customer focus is central to high-quality condition monitoring by providing easily interpreted information every five minutes.

Not only can information be provided continuously, it can be

accessed online and remotely. While these systems are compatible with any WiFi network, integrating data via cable or Application Programming Interface is a good backup in case of any outages. Other benefits of high-tier condition monitoring systems include quality hardware such as industry-leading sensors, as well as a long battery life of more than two years, which is noteworthy given the daily use of vibrating screens.

Condition monitoring is most effective for 24/7 operations, as well as those who process high-priced materials, work in aggressive or hazardous environments, or only have a small maintenance team. Partnering with an OEM-certified technician is a cost-effective first step toward identifying whether such a system is the best fit for your operations.

### ALL-INCLUSIVE INSPECTION

Countless companies have thrown their hat in the ring with a condition

monitoring system to gain the business of producers. Some of these companies specialize only in technology with no direct aggregate or mining connections. Others are original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that serve the industries but have limited coverage or service capabilities after initial installation. Those who rise above are manufacturers with the complete package – the equipment and extensive industry knowledge, an experienced team that offers insight and service to customers, and a condition monitoring system with the features those customers need to stay competitive.

Part of the value of condition monitoring systems lies in the service that producers receive from the OEM. Even the best systems require a human element when questions arise, training is required or upon new installation. Considering the history and experience level of a

manufacturer when selecting a condition monitoring system will undoubtedly save time and prevent future headaches. Start by looking at whether the company has dedicated experience in the mining and aggregates industries. Then, determine how long they have been involved in the industry, what their customer service commitment is like, and their territory coverage. A global company that has an expansive service team is much more likely to be able to send someone for a consult, to troubleshoot, or to install sensors on a new screen you got than a regional company without that depth of personnel.

Having a deep bench and industry expertise is half of the equation, but the technology and condition monitoring system itself plays a vital role as well. The best manufacturer will not just sell you the system but will partner with you to offer a comprehensive evaluation experience for your production plant. In these cases, an in-depth, eight-point inspection can be provided that thoroughly assesses the efficiency of your operation. Diagnostics are often the first step, which can involve impact tests, vibration analysis, and condition monitoring. Impact tests ensure each machine is properly calibrated to avoid operating in resonance, which can diminish productivity, incur damage to vibrating screens, and pose safety risks. Vibration analysis examines the real-time health of vibrating screens by detecting irregularities. Condition monitoring elevates these results by not just identifying and fixing current issues, but emergent ones. The remaining steps of



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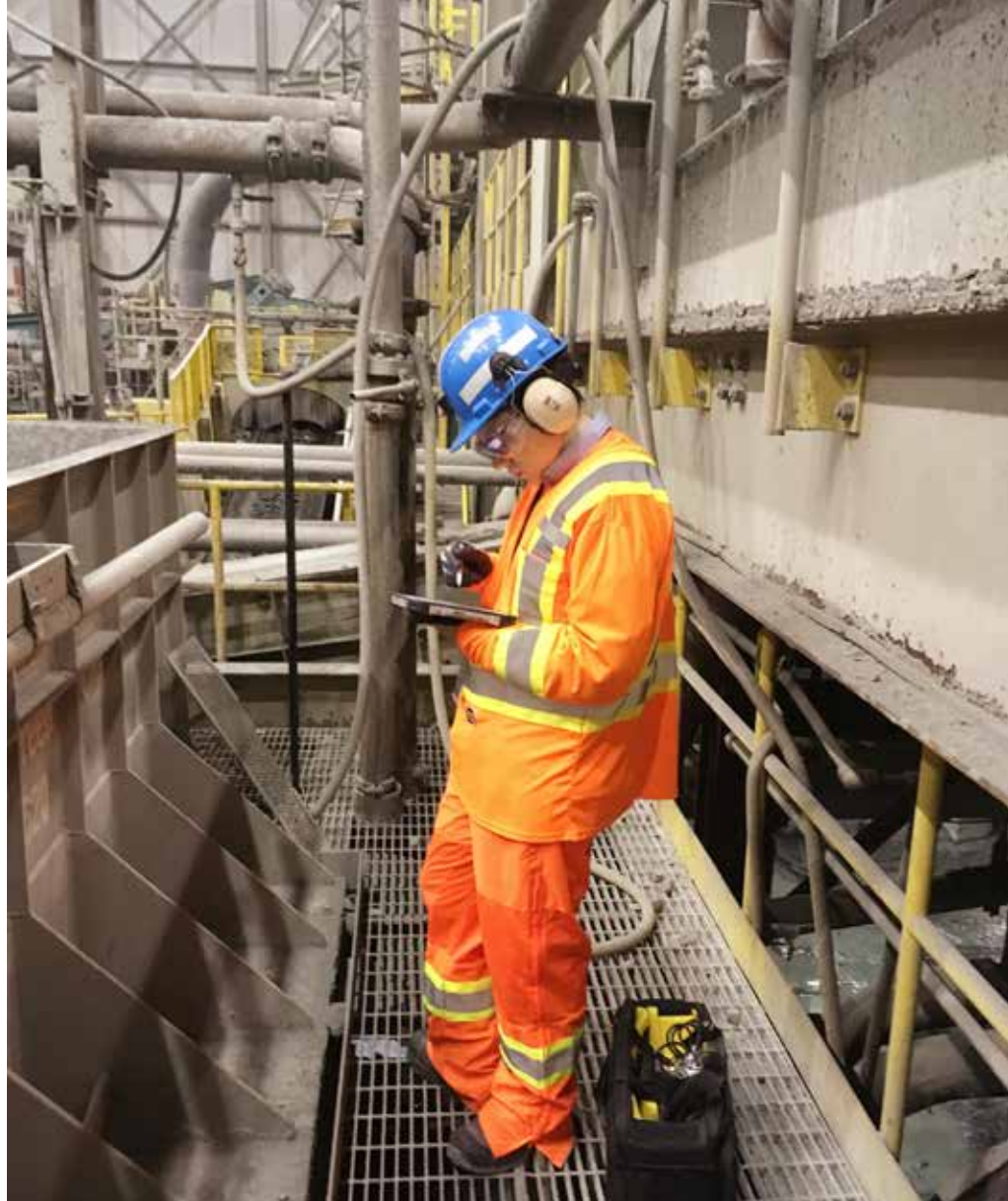


the inspection can involve using the manufacturer's expertise in processing equipment, engineered screen media, original parts, rebuilds and upgrades, services, plants and process engineering to inspect customers' screening processes in order to recommend best practices for processing proficiency.

Reputable manufacturers will ensure all information to install the condition monitoring system is available before the components are shipped so that the customer's personnel can install the system themselves. However, it is always good to consider the presence of an OEM technician to help during that process, not only for troubleshooting reasons but also to register personnel and make certain they all have proper access to and training on the system, so they know where to find necessary information.

### **DON'T LET PRODUCTION PROBLEMS BOIL OVER**

While a pot on the stove does require an occasional glance, mineral processing equipment needs more immediate attention. Smaller issues like wears or damage to the vibrating screen that are not caught quickly can lead to bigger production headaches – and losses – later on. This is why monitoring systems in line with the latest industry advancements in smart technology are vital for the health of any efficient operation. Finding the right system and manufacturer to partner with can provide the strongest ROI and ensures keeping up with – or beating out – the competition.



*The best manufacturer will not just sell you the system but will partner with you to offer a comprehensive evaluation experience for your production plant. Diagnostics are often the first step, which can involve impact tests, vibration analysis and condition monitoring.*

### **ABOUT HAVER & BOECKER NIAGARA**

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### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Thiago Henrique Buoso is a project and sales engineer for Haver & Boecker Niagara's diagnostics and aftermarket department. He has more than 15 years of industry experience. ⚒*

# Career awareness campaign aims to support Canadian critical mineral resource development

The mining industry is grappling with a growing talent crisis, driven by a combination of factors: an aging workforce and increasing retirements, a sharp decline in new entrants – particularly among younger generations – shrinking enrollment in post-secondary mining programs (with undergraduate mining engineering enrollment down 50 per cent from 2012 to 2023), a persistently low unemployment rate within the sector, and ongoing challenges in attracting and retaining talent from underrepresented groups.

A tight labour market is an increasingly significant obstacle for mining employers, driving up recruitment costs, wages, and increasing talent poaching among companies. Additionally, with changing geo-political and trading alliances, Canada needs to rapidly develop its critical mineral capacity to support

itself and its allies. In fact, on March 4, 2025, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial mines ministers issued a joint statement calling for the "acceleration of resource development to unlock new opportunities to meet the growing global demand for critical minerals." Canada is well positioned to produce some of these key minerals and metals but requires a highly skilled and mobile workforce to be able to capitalize on these opportunities.

Yet, with a tight Canadian mining labour market and a shrinking talent pipeline, efforts to engage young people in mining have not worked. In 2024, the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) looked to take a different approach to engage youth and potential job seekers by aiming to establish a coalition of partners to fund a five-year national mining career awareness campaign anchored

by its successful *Mining Needs You* initiative. *Mining Needs You* showcases modern mining to youth with the goals of raising awareness of mining and its profile, supporting industry human resource efforts, and making mining a career of choice for students.

Members of the Mining Association of Canada (MAC), the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC), the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), and the World Gold Council partnered with the MiHR to expand *Mining Needs You* in 2025 to more broadly showcase to youth where they can build a career that aligns with their skills, passions, and values.

Young people aged 15 to 24 today are searching for where they belong – and the new *Mining Needs You* and its messaging focused on "find your place in mining" is designed to showcase the mining industry as a dynamic, innovative, and fulfilling career choice. By reframing mining as a high-tech, diverse, and evolving sector, the campaign aims to dismantle outdated perceptions and demonstrate that mining offers a place for everyone.

*The campaign will begin with a pilot project during May and June in Kamloops, B.C. and Saskatoon, Sask., where new ads will be displayed near schools through public transit and digital displays, along with geotargeted social media and audio streaming advertising.*





The new campaign will begin with a pilot project during May and June in Kamloops, B.C. and Saskatoon, Sask., where new ads will be displayed near schools through public transit and digital displays, along with geotargeted social media and audio streaming advertising to shift the focus from the industry's needs to the potential of young people – empowering them to see how they can make an impact in a sector that fuels the modern world.

Results of the pilot project will be incorporated into a national roll-out of the campaign in September. In addition to the advertising and social media component, *Mining Needs You* will be featured at numerous career events and podcasts. It will also include a Career Ambassador Program, whereby industry representatives are recruited and trained to deliver presentations to elementary and high school students on their journeys in mining. The goal in 2025 is to have a minimum of 75 ambassadors who each deliver two presentations. The campaign's *I Chose Mining. Mining Chose Me.* scholarship program also aims to showcase post-secondary youth and assist them on their journeys to rewarding mining careers.

By addressing the lack of awareness and the negative perceptions among youth of mining, creating materials that link to and support industry recruitment initiatives, and aligning with the objectives of Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy and its Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan, the *Mining Needs You* campaign aims to increase the mining talent pipeline



*Mining Industry Human Resources Council's has launched a new awareness campaign encouraging young peoples to consider a career in mining.*

through a sustained campaign that stretches beyond 2025. Results of the first year of the campaign will be presented to current and potential partners in November and December 2025 with the aim to sustain funding into the new year. Visit [www.MiningNeedsYou.ca](http://www.MiningNeedsYou.ca) for more information about the campaign and how to collaborate with MiHR on the initiative.

MiHR is Canada's knowledge

centre for mining labour market information. An independent, non-profit organization, MiHR leads collaboration among mining and exploration companies, organized labour, contractors, educational institutions, industry associations, and Indigenous groups to identify opportunities and address the human resource and labour market challenges facing the Canadian minerals and metals sector. Visit [www.MiHR.ca](http://www.MiHR.ca) to learn more. ⚒



# AST: The experts on dust collection in the mining industry



The Cote Gold Mine has poured its first gold bar as IAmGold's new flagship operation near Gogama swings into production after nearly a decade of development.

One of the key aspects in the massive project's construction – a 210-hectare open-pit mine with an 18-year operational expectancy – was satisfying federal and provincial environmental assessments, which called for "significant measures to be taken to minimize dust creation at the plant site and to utilize dust collection devices where practical," according to the IAmGold project summary.

Air Separation Technologies Inc., part of the AST Group of Companies, a Burlington, Ont.-based operation offering turnkey air quality solutions, took a lead role in spearheading the project's dust collection systems – which included engineering, planning, installation,

and commissioning of 12 Donaldson dust collectors and associated ductwork.

With its team of engineers, service, and mechanical technicians offering more than 35 years of industry expertise, AST Group is a leader in steering industrial air-quality projects to the finish line and beyond.

"We are able to provide the whole package from start to finish – from engineering to ductwork, installation, electrical, commissioning, and aftermarket service," said Ricardo Collantes, an AST project manager. "Very few companies can supply the whole package. Some companies supply equipment, but don't install it; others may not provide engineering or support. In our case, we can do the whole thing."

AST Group is the exclusive supplier of Donaldson dust collectors in

Ontario, with a growing list of clients in the mining industry that includes Vale, GoldCorp, Harte Gold, and others.

As Donaldson stays up to date with dust collection technologies and equipment, AST Group can offer refined or retrofitted solutions tailored to any project. In the mining industry, which typically features difficult environments operating around the clock, these refined solutions can lead to operational efficiencies and cost savings.

While traditional (box-shaped) baghouse dust collectors are in place in many industrial facilities, AST Group can utilize Donaldson's RF Baghouse Dust Collectors – energy-efficient, high-volume collectors well-suited to mining environments.

The RF collector's cylindrical shape prohibits dust accumulation and utilizes the Cyclonic Pre-Separation

**The RF collector's cleaning system uses 62 per cent less energy than similar compressed-air cleaning systems and results in energy-cost savings of nearly 50 per cent.**

process to separate large volumes of heavy dust before reaching the filters, allowing the collector to handle higher dust volumes.

The single-valve RF collector combines a cyclone pre-cleaner and baghouse into one unit, and features its own powerful and energy-efficient cleaning system, eliminating the need for installation of an external air compressor to clean the bag filters. The use of oval-shaped Dura-Life "Twice the Life" bag filters, as opposed to rounded bags that cannot flex and can be prone to ripping, means more operating efficiency.


The result is often a dust collector with a smaller footprint that works more efficiently and requires less maintenance. The RF collector's cleaning system uses 62 per cent less energy than similar compressed-air cleaning systems and results in energy-cost savings of nearly 50 per cent.

AST Group also has expertise in tailoring projects to make use of an existing dust collection system. As a common example, if a dust collector is in place but plant capacity has expanded to exceed the collector's capacity, AST Group can retrofit a collector by changing

filtration from bags to pleated cartridge filters that allow the collector to handle more air without changing the vessel itself.

Since AST Group's portion of the Cote Gold site preparation was completed, Collantes has found himself more in demand in the mining industry.

"We're spending more time training and providing education to more companies in the industry so they can implement better projects," Collantes said. "There are not a lot of people who stay in this industry for a long time, but we've been doing this for more than 30 years."

For more information, visit [www.astcanada.ca](http://www.astcanada.ca). 



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[www.astgroup.ca](http://www.astgroup.ca)



# Strengthening health and safety in Ontario's natural resources sector

## Funding announced to protect workers from invisible health hazards



During the 27th annual Mining Health and Safety Conference at Science North, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) announced \$6.78 million in funding to protect people in Ontario's natural resources sectors.

In a strategic, province-wide collaboration, the WSIB has partnered with Workplace Safety North (WSN) and the Institute for Work and Health (IWH) to lead a proactive campaign aimed at enhancing hygiene monitoring practices and reducing exposure to harmful workplace hazards.

"We're not satisfied with the status quo so we're putting up investments to find ways to improve health and safety," said Janine Dyck, chief service excellence officer at the WSIB. "This partnership will help create lasting change in Ontario's natural resources sector and provide people confidence that they're working in healthy and safe environments each day they come in to work."

Spearheaded by WSN, the initiative focuses on high-risk sectors like mining and forestry,

where workers continue to face some of the highest rates of occupational illness fatalities in Ontario. The WSIB is not only funding the initiative but is also championing this partnership as a key part of its ongoing commitment to safer, healthier workplaces across the province.

"This collaboration is about empowering Ontario workplaces to take proactive control of the invisible health hazards workers face every day," said Mike Parent, president and CEO of Workplace Safety North. "We're proud to lead

this important work alongside our health and safety partners.”

WSN has developed a suite of specialized training materials and will work directly with employers and workers through hands-on coaching and real-time use of hygiene monitoring equipment. The initiative aims to build capacity in workplaces, enabling front-line teams to actively identify and mitigate exposure risks.

The IWH will support the initiative by applying its expertise in health and safety research to assess the effectiveness of the training programs and their impact on improving worker safety.

“The IWH’s role in this project is to provide an independent evaluation


of the impacts of this initiative,” said Peter Smith, Institute for Work and Health president and senior scientist. “Studying how these training programs influence behaviour and reduce exposures to harmful substances in the workplace will provide evidence on the potential impact of expanding prevention efforts across other high-risk sectors.”

This initiative marks another major milestone for WSN’s vision: ensuring every worker returns home safe and healthy – every day.

#### **ABOUT WORKPLACE SAFETY NORTH**

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is

one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario. Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN administers the Ontario mine rescue program and provides province-wide ministry-approved workplace health and safety training, and services for the mining and forest products industries. With health and safety specialists and mine rescue officers located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years. A leading provider of health and safety training and consulting, businesses call upon WSN for expert advice and information.

For more information, visit [www.workplacesafetynorth.ca](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca). 

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# Ontario Mine Rescue announces district finalists of 2025



## Top mine rescue teams to compete for provincial title

As Ontario Mine Rescue District Competitions came to a close on May 9th, each of the eight districts celebrated their winning team during the evening ceremonies. The winners are expected to compete at the Provincial Competition in June, where only one team will return home with the coveted gold hard hats.

This year's district competition was packed with new and unexpected events – malfunctioning gear and last resort solutions during an active emergency kept competitors on their feet.

Teams began their scenario with a vehicle crash blocking their way to a fuel bay on fire, no water available, and a casualty trapped by their seatbelt. Too hot to use a fire extinguisher, they worked quickly to free the casualty and pulled the vehicle out of the doorway. Once completed, a built-in fire suppression system activated and extinguished the fire, which allowed the team to search for the next casualty.

*Vice-Captain of Glencore SINO team, Shawn O'Brien, preparing the hydraulic cutters used to free the first casualty.*

However, they were still expected to use a fire extinguisher on a volatile fuel spill – while not the best method, it was necessary under the circumstances.

Aside from extinguishing fires and rescuing casualties, certain mine rescue volunteers are trained to troubleshoot, repair, and maintain breathing apparatus. These volunteers, known as Technicians, are actively on standby during emergencies to service equipment. Technicians were called to action when the captain's breathing apparatus failed a basic field test at the start of the competition.

That doesn't mean all equipment is repairable on demand – it's natural for old technology to become obsolete, and parts discontinued. In the first aid section, teams faced yet another equipment failure and were forced to use an alternative breathing apparatus on their casualty. Their backup plan was a new open circuit breathing apparatus, known as the MSA G1.

This firefighting staple, introduced to volunteers in the Surface Mine Rescue program, is a viable way to transport casualties through dangerous environments.

“Even if we’re prepared for any emergency, the least ideal solution could be the only one available,” said Shawn Rideout, Chief Mine Rescue Officer at Workplace Safety North. “Paying attention to your surroundings, problem-solving under pressure, and adapting as the situation unfolds is critical in mine rescue work.”

The finalists moving on to the provincial competition are as follows:

## **ALGOMA DISTRICT**

### ***Alamos – Island Gold***

Captain Jessy Dechamplain

#2 Thomas Brand

#3 Veronique Humphries

#4 Cody Lessard

Vice-Captain Daniel Webb

#6 Dave Ouellet

#7 Jake Brousseau

Briefing Officer (B.O.) Justin Krueger

Winning technician: Kyle Ouellet – Alamos

## **SUDBURY DISTRICT**

### ***Vale – East Mines***

Captain Kordell Hull

#2 Jason Cook

#3 Jeremy Faulkner

#4 Tyler Eady

Vice-Captain Mario Ceccon

#6 Will Langois

#7 Adam Widder

B.O. Shawn St. Louis

Winning technician: Nick Fram – Vale West

## **ONAPING DISTRICT**

### ***Glencore – Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations***

Captain Julien Lalande

#2 Aaron Boutet

#3 Neil Poulin

#4 Patrick Legris

Vice-Captain Shawn O’Brien

#6 Steven Hrycay

#7 Mario Seguin

B.O. Bleir Millions

Winning technician: Daniel Rioux – Glencore

## **THUNDER BAY DISTRICT**

### ***New Gold Inc. – Rainy River Mine***

Captain Hannah Marcotte

#2 Mackenzie Mahon

#3 Mitchell Hearn

#4 Tyler Roy

Vice Captain Tyler Venerus

#6 Chris Matechuk

B.O. Justin Borger

Winning technician: Jarid Sandelovich – New Gold Inc.

## **RED LAKE DISTRICT**

### ***Orla Mining – Musselwhite Mine***

Captain Alexa Dumaine

#2 Matt Arges

#3 Frank Nepveu

#4 Kiyoshi Brayshaw

Vice-Captain Kevin Ireland

#6 Jimmy Sinclair

#7 Riley Bennet

B.O. Steve Uchtenhagen

Winning technician: Gabriel Roy – Orla Mining

## **TIMMINS DISTRICT**

### ***Glencore – Kidd Operations***

Captain Clint Scripnick

#2 Gilles Paradis

#3 Michael Murphy

#4 Matthew Richards

Vice-Captain Randy Gagnon

#6 Reid Murray

B.O. James Comeau

Winning technician: Dominic Gervais – Lake Shore Gold-Panamerican Silver

## **KIRKLAND LAKE DISTRICT**

### ***Agnico Eagle – Macassa Mine***

Captain Jackson Lafrance

#2 Nick Perrier

#3 Denis Dion

#4 Colin Price

Vice-Captain Jean-Francois Racine

#6 Carlie Dewar

#7 Alex Perrault

B.O. April Belecque

Winning technician: Caolan Browne – Agnico Eagle





*The scene of the crashed vehicle during the Sudbury/Onaping District competition. It stood inoperable before a simulated fire and obstructed the fire suppression doors.*

## **SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

### **Compass Minerals – Goderich Mine**

Captain David Kelly

#2 Joel Paquette

#3 Marshall Jeffery

#4 Chris Sallows

Vice-Captain Cody Lobb

#6 Kyle Ropp

#7 Aaron Duckworth

B.O. Ken Nguyen


Winning technician: Dennis Hogan – Compass Minerals

Teams will face a brand new scenario at the Ontario Mine Rescue Provincial Competition set to take place June 3rd to 5th at Glencore Kidd Operations in Timmins. Only one team will take the winning title.

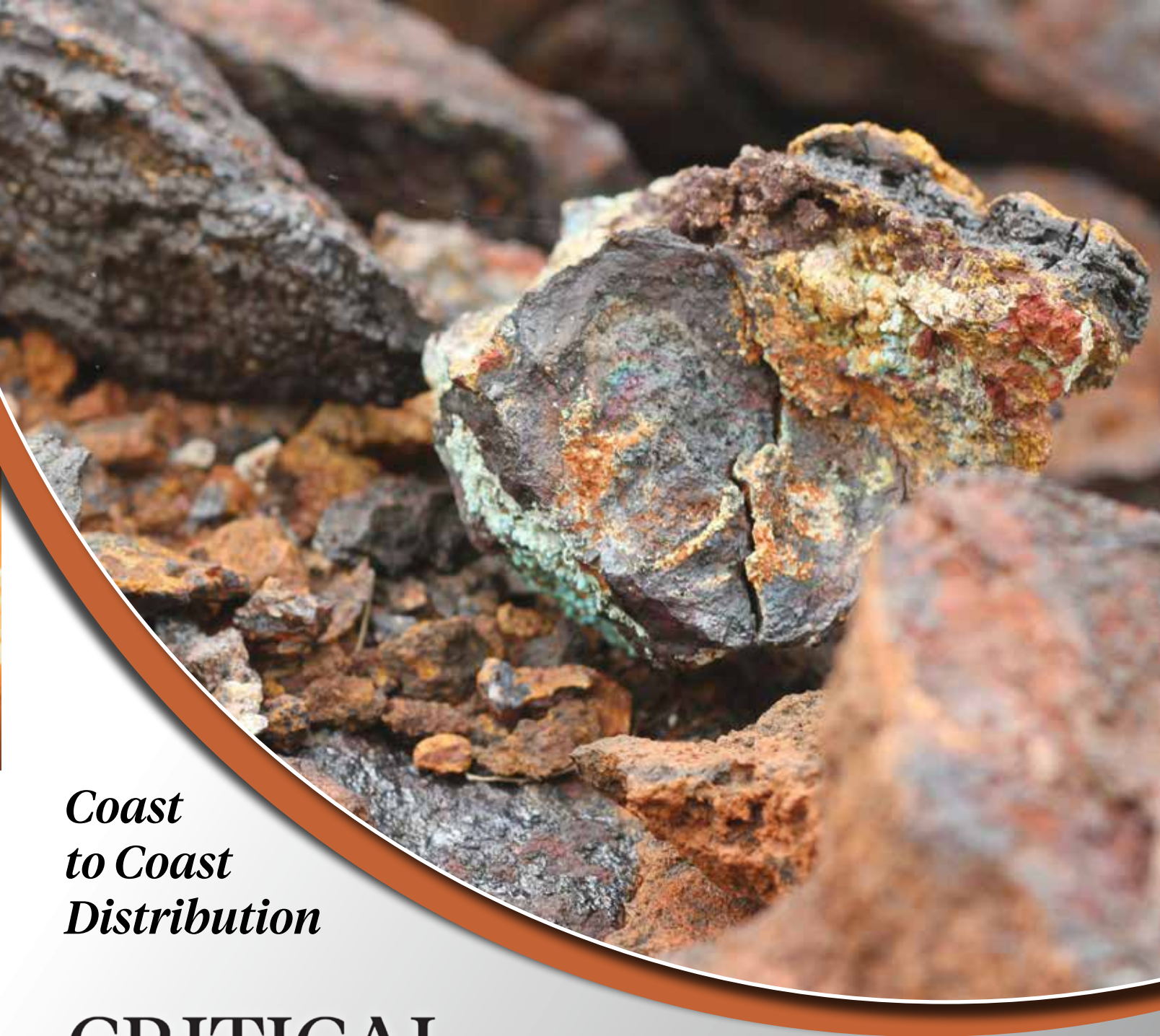
Ontario Mine Rescue (OMR), a part of Workplace

Safety North (WSN), operates under the authority of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. For eight decades, OMR has become a leader in mining emergency preparation and response, by delivering training and ensuring standards are maintained across the province.

### **ABOUT WORKPLACE SAFETY NORTH**

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four health and safety associations in Ontario. WSN provides province-wide government-approved workplace health and safety services for mining and forest products sectors, and administers the Ontario Mine Rescue program. With Health and Safety Specialists and Mine Rescue Officers located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years. Businesses and communities call upon WSN for expert advice. For more information, visit [www.workplacesafetynorth.ca](http://www.workplacesafetynorth.ca). 





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# Record-breaking CIM CONNECT 2025 unites the industry in Montreal

CIM CONNECT 2025, CIM's flagship annual convention and expo, returned to Montreal from May 4th to 7th, with the theme "Minerals, Innovation, and the Energy Transition," and drew record-breaking attendance and unmatched industry energy. Held in rotation between Montreal and Vancouver, this year's edition gathered approximately 7,600 participants – including 1,600 conference delegates – and delivered the largest expo in CIM history.

## **A STANDOUT EXPO: NEW EXHIBITORS, BIG LAUNCHES**

The expo floor was a hub of innovation and connection, featuring 600-plus exhibiting companies, 840 booths,

and 150 first-time exhibitors, including startups and emerging tech players. New product launches, hands-on demos, and nonstop networking made it a can't-miss destination for attendees.

"CIM CONNECT ended in Montreal after three days of intense discussions on innovation, emerging technologies, and the energy transition in the mining sector," said Oseda, a first-time exhibitor. "We are proud to have showcased our expertise at Canada's largest mining gathering."

## **DEEP TECHNICAL PROGRAM, FRESH IDEAS**

This year's technical program was delivered with 280 presentations and 17 panels, covering everything



**“Being able to share what I’ve learned over the years with such a thoughtful and engaged group truly felt like a full circle moment,” said technical program presenter Mark Symon, Hydrocarbon Management from Innoflo Solutions Inc.**

from process optimization to decarbonization and AI implementation.

“Being able to share what I’ve learned over the years with such a thoughtful and engaged group truly felt like a full circle moment,” said technical program presenter Mark Symon, Hydrocarbon Management from Innoflo Solutions Inc. “Here’s to continued growth, learning, and sharing knowledge with the next wave of curious minds.”

The Innovation Exchange, introduced for the first time this year, brought dynamic, quick-hit presentations, and panel discussions on how visionaries are turning ideas into real solutions. From digital twins to autonomous operations, these sessions highlighted strategies that are already reshaping the mining landscape.

#### **POWERFUL KEYNOTES WITH REAL IMPACT**

From Rohitesh Dhawan’s call for ethical transformation and tech integration, to Christine Healy highlighting Canada’s clean energy leadership potential, to Ammar Al-Joundi pushing for better investment practices – this year’s keynote sessions tackled the realities of operating in a shifting global environment. Lucy Potter of Rio Tinto closed with a resonant message: transparency and communication are just as vital as innovation for future growth.

“This year’s convention also had a huge focus on technology,” said Shelby Yee, co-founder and CEO of RockMass Technologies “New solutions are taking shape and being used across industry, and we’re proud to be part of that movement.”

#### **INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION**

This year also saw strong student turnout, with an energized career fair, speed mentorship sessions,

and a dedicated student program connecting emerging talent with industry leaders. Many attendees commented on the sense of shared purpose across generations, and the meaningful conversations that took place both on and off stage.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The connections made, the ideas exchanged, and the innovations launched at CIM CONNECT 2025 will echo throughout the year.

Join us next year when CIM CONNECT 2026 returns to Vancouver from May 3rd to 6th. 🛠️



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