

Minister of Energy
and Natural Resources



Ministre de l'Énergie et
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

February 16, 2026

Penny Rankin
National Council of Women of Canada
presncwc@gmail.com

Dear Penny Rankin:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 2, 2025, regarding the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy and concerns related to environmental impacts and indigenous consultation. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

As you have noted, advancing economic reconciliation and responsible mining requires the continued partnership of governments with Indigenous peoples. The Government remains focused on upholding Indigenous and treaty rights, which are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The Government of Canada is committed to responsible resource development, balancing economic growth with environmental protection and respect for Indigenous peoples, including through the implementation of the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy and addressing the recommendations of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

Under the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy, the federal government is collaborating with Indigenous communities to increase Indigenous participation and leadership in the critical minerals sector through funding initiatives, such as the Indigenous Natural Resources Partnerships program, the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund's Indigenous Grants stream, and the Northern Regulatory Initiative. The Department continues to support mechanisms that enhance Indigenous engagement and capacity as new initiatives are introduced.

The Government also recognizes that increasing women's participation strengthens the resilience and innovation of Canada's mining workforce. Ongoing efforts across governments and industry to support inclusive and safe workplaces are complemented by collaborative federal-provincial-territorial work to advance diversity and inclusion across the mining sector.

With regards to your comments on Bill C-5, I have copied my colleague, the Honourable Dominic Leblanc, President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs, Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy. He would be well-positioned to respond to your comments pertaining to Bill C-5, and the Major Projects Office.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Tim Hodgson, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Dominic Leblanc, P.C., M.P.
President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for
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