



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Chamber of Mines Applauds Arctic Defense Initiatives, Calls for Focus on Critical Minerals Development**

(Yellowknife, NT – March 20, 2025) The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (the “Chamber”) commends the Government of Canada and the territorial governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories for their continued commitment to strengthening Arctic defense and security. The recent investments in radar systems, military presence, and infrastructure are critical steps in asserting Canada’s sovereignty in the North and ensuring the safety of our communities.

“These investments send a strong message that Canada is serious about its presence in the Arctic,” said Kenny Ruptash, President of the Chamber. “We applaud the leadership of Premier P.J. Akeeagok and Premier R.J. Simpson. Their advocacy for the North, combined with federal support, reinforces the critical role our territories play in Canada’s national security.”

The Chamber emphasizes that beyond defense, the North is home to vast mineral resources that are essential to Canada’s technological and defense capabilities. From rare earth elements to strategic minerals like cobalt, lithium, tungsten, zinc, uranium, and high purity iron the resources found in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are vital to national security, clean technology, and advanced manufacturing.

“As we develop defense infrastructure in the Arctic, we must also recognize that minerals essential for defense, technology and energy are all found right here in the North,” Ruptash continued. “Investment in multi-purpose northern infrastructure—roads, ports, and power—will not only support security initiatives but also communities and facilitate responsible mineral development. A strong and secure North is one that leverages its natural resources for economic and strategic advantage.”

The Chamber urges the federal and territorial governments to integrate critical minerals development into Arctic security strategies, ensuring that future investments provide long-term economic benefits to northern communities while strengthening Canada’s supply chain resilience.

“The people of the North have always been on the frontlines of Canadian sovereignty,” said Ruptash. “By aligning defense priorities with sustainable resource development, we can create lasting opportunities for northern residents, support Indigenous partnerships, and contribute to a stronger, more self-sufficient Canada.”

For more information on the NWT and Nunavut minerals industry, please visit the website at [www.miningnorth.com](http://www.miningnorth.com) or contact Karen Costello, Executive Director at Tel: 867-222-5281 or email [karen.costello@miningnorth.com](mailto:karen.costello@miningnorth.com).