

Media Release

NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines Welcomes the Creation of the new Nunavut Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Land (MNRL)

Ottawa, June 29, 2026 - The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (the Chamber) was very pleased to hear Premier John Main announce the creation of a Government of Nunavut Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Land (MNRL) to oversee the territory's post-devolution natural resource responsibilities. The potential for the MNRL to act as a single point of access for land and resource development could help improve coordination, reduce duplication, support timely and predictable regulatory processes, and strengthen Nunavut's position as an attractive destination for responsible mineral investment.

The Chamber congratulates the Government of Nunavut on this achievement and recognizes the collaborative efforts of Nunavut Tunngvaik Inc, the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada, in successfully advancing Devolution and establishing this new department. Building a department with responsibility for Nunavut's mineral and natural resources is a substantial undertaking and reflects years of cooperation and commitment.

The Chamber looks forward to working with the Government of Nunavut to share practical experience and technical expertise to help support the development of an effective and efficient MNRL that facilitates the efficient and responsible development of Nunavut's natural resources for the benefit of all Nunavummiut and all Canadians. The Chamber sees an exciting opportunity to build on the successes of Devolution by creating a modern department that reflects Nunavut's unique needs.

For decades now, the mining industry has been providing some of the highest-paying jobs in Nunavut. Mining is one of the few private sector employment options in a territory with limited economic diversity, and it provides opportunities for skills training and career development to people across the North. Mining generates billions of dollars in public revenues that help support territorial services, while Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements deliver direct benefits to

Inuit communities through employment, business opportunities, training, scholarships, and financial commitments.

“An appropriately structured and efficiently functioning MNRL could build on Nunavut’s successes in mining and position the Territory as world-class destination for investment. We are excited about the prospect of being able to provide input into the design and implementation process. Nunavut is home to world class deposits of gold and iron ore, but the prospects for critical minerals in the Territory are just as great. The world needs Nunavut’s mineral resources and we stand ready to work with Government to ensure development is done responsibly and at the speed of business.” said Paul Hébert, CEO of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines.

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About the NWT and NU Chamber of Mines - The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines has been the voice of the Northern mining and exploration industry since 1967. The overall goal of the Chamber is to promote the industry and the north to Northerners, Canadians and the world at large. The Chamber advises governments, regulatory agencies, investors, Aboriginal groups, the media, schools and universities, and the public on industry positions and initiatives. The Chamber’s primary objective is to encourage, assist and stimulate the prosperous, orderly and environmentally responsible development and growth of mining and mineral exploration in the NWT and Nunavut.

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