

CRITICAL MINERALS



BACKGROUND INFO

A central focus of the 2026–2027 provincial business plan includes the key priority of “Growing our Economy – Powering our Future,” which has an emphasis on specific harnessing natural resource sectors, including growing Nova Scotia’s mining industry.

As part of the Department of Natural Resource’s Critical Minerals Strategy, the Province aims to support research focused on increasing our understanding of Nova Scotia’s 16 targeted critical minerals that are required for clean technologies and transitioning to net-zero by 2050.

IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE

Mining exploration and development activities will occur within municipalities across Nova Scotia. Since the Province repealed its ban on uranium exploration on March 2025, NSFM has heard from municipalities seeking greater access to information regarding resource development activities.

Municipalities require timely information to support land-use planning, protect watersheds, address community concerns with evidence-based information, and engage meaningfully with residents.

As the Province advances its Critical Minerals Strategy, municipalities are key partners and should be engaged early and meaningfully.

NSFM ADVOCACY & ANALYSIS

In 2025–2026, NSFM hired a Policy Advisor dedicated to Economic Development and Natural Resources. A key objective of this work is to improve communication between the Province and municipalities, ensuring communities have the information needed to plan effectively and address local concerns.

NSFM wrote to the Minister of Natural Resources requesting an opportunity for the Department to engage with members on the Province's Critical Minerals Strategy. The Department subsequently presented at the Spring 2026 NSFM Conference and responded to questions from municipal leaders.

NEXT STEPS

In Fall 2026, NSFM will host the Department of Natural Resources for an educational session on critical minerals, including how municipalities can use available online tools to identify minerals within their boundaries.

NSFM will survey elected municipal officials to better understand the concerns and questions they are hearing from residents and to identify areas where additional education and information are needed.



NSFM will also continue to research frameworks that will benefit communities, including royalty-sharing models and community benefit agreements.