





Critical minerals initiatives: powering innovation

The Government of Canada supports exploration, research, development and innovation across a broad range of sectors, including the critical minerals value chains. This document provides an overview of key initiatives and funding opportunities to enable critical minerals innovation.

	Initiative	Lead	Description	Amount	Timeframe	Eligibility
Research grant 	Alliance Missions Grants: Critical Minerals Research	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Target research projects that will support the growth of Canadian expertise at every point along the value chain of the fifteen prioritized critical minerals — from exploration to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100K to \$500K per year available as grants over 3 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Report on results achieved is required 	2024–27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University researchers collaborating with private-sector, public-sector and/or not-for-profit organizations; college faculty can participate as co-applicants. • At least one partner organization must have a demonstrated ability to exploit research results. • Other partners may participate for their ability to generate or mobilize knowledge.
Programs 	Critical Minerals Research, Development and Demonstration program (CMRDD — Wave 2)	Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	<p>Develop green and innovative processing technologies, intermediate materials and recovery routes from secondary sources for the critical minerals industry; advance Canadian mining projects toward production and further develop domestic critical minerals value chains.</p> <p>This program extends the R&D support provided by federal laboratories to upstream and midstream projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40M (Budget 2022) available in contributions over 3 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Up to \$5M per project ▶ Non-repayable contribution • Supports collaborative federal R&D 	2024–27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal entities validly incorporated/registered in Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ for-profit and not-for-profit companies ▶ Canadian academic institutions ▶ Indigenous organizations, groups or communities ▶ provincial, territorial, regional and municipal governments, and their departments and agencies
	Critical Battery Materials Initiative	National Research Council of Canada (NRC)	<p>Grow targeted capabilities and partnerships under the NRC Advanced Clean Energy program in order to accelerate the impact in battery mineral processing and battery materials discovery.</p> <p>This initiative will combine the unique platforms and expertise of the NRC advanced materials research facility in Mississauga with grants and contributions for eligible partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10M available in research grants • Supports collaborative federal R&D 	2023–27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic institutions • Not-for-profit organizations • Small and medium-sized companies of <500 employees • Provincial, territorial, regional and municipal governments and agencies • Indigenous groups, governments and representative organizations • International collaborators if results benefit Canada and Canadians • Companies of >500 employees generally not eligible but may collaborate

	Initiative	Lead	Description	Amount	Timeframe	Eligibility
Programs 	Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data (CMGD) Initiative	Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	Enhance the quality and availability of data and digital technologies to support geoscience and mapping through analysis of legacy samples and targeted fieldwork, predictive modelling using AI and other tools, and working with provinces and territories to effectively reduce the time required to develop critical minerals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10M available in contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Up to \$500K per project • Supports collaborative federal R&D 	2023–27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial and territorial governments • Thematic criteria 2023–24: Strengthening acquisition and sharing of data pertaining to the priority critical minerals
	Geological Survey of Canada — Targeted Geoscience Initiative (GSC-TGI)	Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	<p>Improve mineral exploration effectiveness by developing next-generation geological knowledge, data, leading edge tools, innovative techniques and predictive models of Canada’s mineral potential for key commodities, including critical minerals.</p> <p>This initiative focuses on exploration studies of new or emerging sources of critical minerals and advanced analytics for green critical minerals exploration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500K per year in research grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Non-repayable contribution • Supports collaborative federal R&D 	2020–27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next round of grant submissions: 2025–27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian and international not-for-profit organizations (including industry, and research and professional associations) • Canadian and international academic institutions • Indigenous organizations, groups and communities • Provincial, territorial, regional and municipal governments, and their departments and agencies
	Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) — critical minerals envelope	Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)	<p>Invest in major projects to encourage innovation across critical minerals manufacturing, processing and recycling applications or innovation-focused mining to support vertical integration to grow domestic value chains.</p> <p>This envelope supports critical mineral commercialization by targeting large projects (>\$20M).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.5B available in contributions from 2023–24 to 2029–30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Minimum of \$20M total eligible project costs ▶ Minimum SIF funding amount of \$10M ▶ Repayable contribution • Supports collaborative federal R&D 	2023–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For-profit businesses or cooperatives incorporated in Canada • Partnerships proposing to carry out business in Canada • Not-for-profit organizations incorporated in Canada • Projects possibly focused on R&D, commercialization and scale-up of related technologies, as well as firm growth and expansion, investment attraction and reinvestment

	Initiative	Lead	Description	Amount	Timeframe	Eligibility
Tax measure 	Scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax incentive	Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)	<p>Encourage businesses of all sizes and in all sectors, including those working in the mining and metals processing fields, to conduct research and development in Canada.</p> <p>Businesses can claim the following types of SR&ED expenditures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salary and wages • materials • overhead* • contracts • third-party payments <p>* Depending on the method used for claiming the SR&ED</p>	<p>There are two tax incentives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A pool of deductible SR&ED expenditures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce your net income for tax purposes in the current year or • deduct them in a future year 2. An investment tax credit (ITC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that can be deducted against your income tax payable • that can be non-refundable or refundable <p>The value of your ITCs will be at least 15% of your qualified SR&ED expenditures, but could possibly be 35% of those expenditures. If you have any current year unused ITCs, you can carry them back 3 years or forward 20 years.</p>	2022–27	<p>For work to be eligible, it must be conducted in Canada and meet both of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducted for the advancement of scientific knowledge or for the purpose of achieving a technological advancement • be a systematic investigation or search that is carried out in a field of science or technology by means of experiment or analysis <p>It must also fall within the categories that follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic research • applied research • experimental development <p>The support work outlined below is eligible if it is performed for the above work categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engineering • design • operations research • mathematical analysis • data collection • testing • computer programming • psychological research
Other complementary funding sources			Regional Development Agencies, Business Development Bank of Canada, Sustainable Development Technology Canada, Canada Innovation Corporation, Export Development Canada			

Types of federal support:

- **Grants:** A transfer payment subject to pre-established eligibility and other entitlement criteria. Recipients may be required to report on results achieved.
- **Contributions:** A transfer payment subject to performance conditions specified in a funding agreement. A contribution is to be accounted for and is subject to audit.
- **Collaborative federal research and development (R&D):** In-kind support, including access to federal expertise, capacity, equipment, materials and/or facilities, to advance collaborative projects between the federal government and partners.

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Initiatives sur les minéraux critiques : Initiatives sur les minéraux critiques : stimuler l'innovation

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Natural Resources, 2024

For information regarding reproduction rights, contact Natural Resources Canada at copyright-droitdauteur@nrca-nrcan.gc.ca.

Cat. No. M34-90/2024E-PDF (PDF) / ISBN 978-0-660-70234-6