

Framework for a Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials between Canada and the European Union

Ensuring the security of supply chains for the minerals and metals critical to the transition to a climate-neutral and digitized economy is a priority for Canada and the European Union. To reduce supply chain risks and foster a competitive Canada-EU value chain, Canada and the European Union have agreed to establish a *Canada-EU Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials* (Strategic Partnership). The Strategic Partnership will focus on the integration of Canada-EU raw material value chains; science, technology and innovation collaboration; and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria and standards. The Strategic Partnership will advance the value, security, and sustainability of trade and investment into raw materials and downstream value chains across both Canada and the EU, to support the green and digital transition.

This partnership is established within the mandate of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, notably of the bilateral dialogue of raw materials (Art. 25.4).

Framework for a Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials		
Overarching Goal		
<i>To advance the value, security, and sustainability of trade and investment into resilient raw materials and downstream value chains across both Canada and the EU</i>		
Areas		
Integration of Canada-EU Raw Materials Value Chains	Science, Technology and Innovation Collaboration	Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria, and Standards
Objectives		
Bring investors (including downstream industry end-users of critical raw materials) and raw material project proponents together, share information on opportunities; and identify and leverage private and public investment into a pipeline of projects at various stages of the raw material value chain.	Collaborate with industry and other stakeholders to advance critical raw materials supply chain research and innovation, including extraction and processing from low footprint, economic ore deposits to low waste streams, supporting end-to-end value chain sustainability and circularity.	Lead by example in advancing world-class ESG credentials in a Canada-EU integrated critical raw material value chain; while advocating in multilateral fora for strong and effective practices internationally.
Actions for 2021-2022		
1. Work with industry, and through the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) to identify and facilitate the commercial development of at least one critical raw material project or activity in Canada or in the EU (i.e. integrated upstream extraction and midstream processing projects, and/or end-of-life recycling and reprocessing) that further secures the supply chain and supports resilient industrial ecosystems for Canada and the European Union.	1. Facilitate information exchange between Canadian and European researchers working on various topics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sourcing critical raw materials from new mineral deposits, exploration, and waste streams (e.g. tailings); • Case studies and best practices on critical raw material circularity and mine waste reprocessing projects; • Processing and separation technologies for critical raw materials; and Geoscience collaboration 	1. Collaborate in international fora to advance best practices related to resource and reserve classification and mapping, including the mapping of mineral potential from waste sources.
2. Align European and Canadian financial supports for projects (e.g. sharing information on potential cross-border opportunities and priorities) and support matchmaking, to leverage and de-risk private investments and ensure mutual benefits are achieved between Canadian and European project proponents. To support this goal, partners could explore the organization of business-to-government investment seminars to increase awareness of funding opportunities in both jurisdictions and create opportunities for firms to meet with public or private funding organizations from both Canada and the EU.	2. Explore the opportunity to facilitate a joint prize-based innovation challenge program on mining critical raw materials from waste sources. Following this, partners could explore the opportunity to jointly fund a demonstration and/or pilot project in Canada or in the EU for new leading-edge critical raw material extraction, processing, and/or recycling technologies, with Canadian and European industry participation.	2. Organize a joint “Tracing Net-Zero Battery Minerals” seminar with government, industry, and academic participants from Canada, the EU, and invited allies (i.e. the US, Australia, Japan), to support research/innovation exchange and learning in this area. 3. Enhance information sharing between Canada and the EU on respective policies and best practices to support mutual engagement at the ISO and between national standards agencies on matters related to critical raw materials.