

Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

August 20, 2025

Federal Authority Advice Record

Response requested to regionalrof-cdfregionale@iaac-aeic.gc.ca by September 12, 2025

In providing your responses to the items below, please include any relevant information on associated Indigenous, public or other consultation or engagement activities and identify any partners or collaborations.

1. MANDATE AND AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE

Clearly outline the mandate of your department or agency and detail your area(s) of responsibility or expertise that may be related to the regional assessment

- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) helps Canadian businesses grow, innovate and expand so they can create good-quality jobs and wealth for Canadians. It also supports science research and the integration of scientific considerations into investment and policy choices. The Department also works to position Canada as a global centre for innovation where investments support clean and inclusive growth, the middle class prospers through more job opportunities and companies become global leaders.
- ISED's efforts focus on improving conditions for investment, supporting science, helping businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises) grow, building capacity for clean and sustainable technologies and processes, increasing Canada's share of global trade, promoting tourism, and building an efficient and competitive marketplace.
- The Industry Sector (IS) within ISED is the centre for the provision of advice on the government's industrial policy. IS houses economic and technological expertise and undertakes active and ongoing engagement with industry and examination of industry-specific data and trends. In this capacity, Industry Sector undertakes analysis to ensure an ongoing understanding of issues that impact firm competitiveness. The sector also supports the government's delivery of industry-focused programs, including the Strategic Response Fund.

2. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

List and summarize the nature of the regulatory authorities of your department or agency in relation to physical works or activities in the Ring of Fire area.

- ISED continues to work closely with entrepreneurs, businesses and industry sector participants to advance the economic productivity of our natural resource advantage.
- ISED is also integrated into the economic and national security apparatus as a necessary balance and is playing a larger role in initiatives designed to strengthen Canada's economic security, including legislation, frameworks, policies, and

programs. Department regulatory oversight that could be related to the RoF includes the following:

- Foreign direct investment (*Investment Canada Act*)
- Telecommunications and cyber (*Telecommunications Act*)
- Competition Bureau (*Competition Act*)
- Canada Small Business Financing Program (CSBFP) (*Canada Small Business Financing Act*)

3. EXPERT INFORMATION OR KNOWLEDGE

List and summarize the specialists or expert information or knowledge that your department or agency has that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include all research, reports and data sets in this response inventory.

- ISED employees routinely engage with industry participants, other government partners and private sector organizations which serves to maintain expert knowledge. Relevant to the RoF, knowledge within the Department ranges from broad mining developments to midstream industry development (i.e., smelting, refining, conversion to battery chemicals) and downstream manufacturing activities (e.g., automotive, defence manufacturing, etc.). Moreover, ISED maintains access to various industry-specific subscriptions which serve to provide the latest mining sector developments, mineral profiles, and datasets.
- Industry Sector officials undertake in-depth sectoral industry research and analysis reports for Canadian industrial value chains.
- ISED (Innovation Canada, Strategic Innovation Fund Branch) directly engage with industry stakeholders related to program funding applications and project-specific business investments. These engagements often lead to information sharing and the development of project development knowledge in collaboration with other ISED branches.

4. POLICIES, PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES

List and summarize the past, current and planned policies, programs or initiatives of your department or agency that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include an outline of related funding initiatives in this response and provide information on geographic locations, next steps and timing for the program/initiative.

Current Programs and Initiatives

- Budget 2022 announced \$3.8 billion in funding to implement Canada's first Critical Minerals Strategy to secure Canada's place in global critical minerals supply chains. The Strategy remains co-delivered between ISED and NRCan.
- Specific to ISED, \$1.5 billion has been allocated to the Strategic Innovation Fund to advance Canada's industrial capabilities in critical minerals manufacturing, processing

and recycling applications. This will enable Canada to capture the economic benefits of high value-add activities, such as processing critical minerals into battery-grade material.

- In collaboration with NRCan, ISED remains at the forefront of federal efforts to accelerate strategic projects and will directly support the integration of new government objectives into delivering the objectives the Strategy.
5. Outline any additional responsibilities, information or knowledge and any partners or collaborations that have not been specified, above.