

March 6, 2026

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
22nd Floor, Place Bell  
160 Elgin Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9V1

**Re: Letter of Support for the Baptiste Nickel Project**

On behalf of the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME), we are writing to express our strong support for the Baptiste Nickel Project currently under review by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office. The Baptiste Nickel Project will strengthen Canada's economic resilience, independence and sovereignty.

AME champions mineral exploration as the foundation of Canada's economic independence. We connect exploration to mineral development, clean technology, and national security. Through member advocacy, we ensure exploration remains central to Canada's sovereignty and economic future.

The Baptiste Nickel Project, advanced by FPX Nickel Corp, stands out as one of the most strategically important critical mineral projects in Canada. In particular, it presents what is widely recognized as the "awaruite advantage" — a unique geological and metallurgical characteristic that differentiates this deposit from many conventional nickel sulphide or laterite operations worldwide.

Awaruite is a naturally occurring nickel-iron alloy that allows for:

- Conventional magnetic separation processing, reducing the need for energy-intensive smelting or high-acid-pressure leaching.
- Potentially lower greenhouse gas intensity, supporting Canada's climate commitments and clean technology supply chains.
- Simplified metallurgical flowsheets, which can enhance operational stability and reduce certain environmental risks associated with complex refining processes.
- Alignment with downstream battery and stainless-steel markets, contributing to secure, responsibly sourced North American supply chains.

In a global context where many new nickel developments face significant carbon intensity, tailings complexity, and geopolitical risk, the awaruite mineralization at Baptiste provides British Columbia with a rare opportunity to lead in lower-impact nickel production.

Beyond its technical merits, the project has the potential to deliver long-term economic benefits to the province, including employment, regional business development, Indigenous economic participation, and sustained government revenues. It also reinforces British Columbia's role as a cornerstone jurisdiction in Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy.

AME supports a rigorous, science-based environmental assessment process. We would like to emphasize the importance of regulatory efficiency, coordination, and predictable timelines. Canada's

competitiveness in critical minerals depends not only on high standards, but also on clarity and timeliness in decision-making.

We respectfully encourage both agencies to continue advancing the assessment of the Baptiste Nickel Project in a coordinated and efficient manner, recognizing both its environmental design strengths and its strategic importance to British Columbia and Canada.

Canada is at a crossroads. From housing and infrastructure to clean energy, technology, and defence, the biggest challenges we face today all share a common foundation: minerals. We hope to see this and many more projects move forward in the coming years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments in support of this important project.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

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Association for Mineral Exploration of BC  
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