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Todd Stone, President and CEO
Association for Mineral Exploration
Suite 800-889 West Pender St.,
Vancouver, BC V6C 3B

Ontario's Support for Expanding Canadian Exploration Expense Eligibility to Advance Mineral Projects

Dear Todd Stone,

Thank you for your letter outlining the Association for Mineral Exploration (AME)'s recommendation that the Government of Canada expand eligible activities under the Canadian Exploration Expense (CEE) framework to include technical studies, engineering, feasibility, environmental baseline, and related project-advancement costs for eligible mineral projects.

As Canada's leading mineral-producing province, I am proud to announce Ontario's support of AME's recommendation to expand the CEE criteria to include engineering and feasibility studies needed to advance mineral projects.

Our government has taken bold action to build out Ontario's critical minerals and mining sectors through initiatives including permitting reform through our "One Project, One Process," and targeted programming such as the Critical Minerals Processing Fund and the Ontario Junior Exploration Program (OJEP). Expanding CEE would complement these efforts by helping promising mineral discoveries move through the technical, geotechnical, and economic evaluations required to demonstrate commercial viability, attract global capital, and advance toward production. As the world races for critical minerals, expanding CEE will strengthen Ontario and Canada's economic resilience and sovereignty, helping ensure mineral production and investment remain here at home.

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This Team Canada approach would strengthen mineral development, attract investment, and build secure Made-in-Canada supply chains. Expanding CEE eligibility to include engineering and feasibility studies would help more projects move from early-stage exploration toward the critical work needed to get shovels in the ground. For Ontario, this proposal would protect our economic advantage, provide investors with greater opportunities, and help more critical mineral projects move through development pipeline, keeping Ontario open for business.

I appreciate AME's leadership and support their efforts to advance this recommendation with the Government of Canada and I encourage the Minister of Finance to give this measure full consideration as part of upcoming federal budget and policy discussions.

Sincerely,



Stephen Lecce
Minister

c. The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance