



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For professional services to assist NSTMC in completion of a in New Brunswick including technical support related to mining and critical minerals, GIS and spatial analysis, and communications materials in support of outreach to First Nations communities. The overall project will take place between October 2025 and March 2027, and includes the following:

PHASE 1: Environmental Scan of Mining Sector Opportunities in NB (October 2025 - April 2026)

- 1) New Brunswick critical minerals opportunities map and project directory, including global, national, regional, and provincial contexts; known and estimated reserves of all critical minerals in NB; transportation/infrastructure and potential value-added activities; interested parties including Indigenous communities and businesses, private sector/industrial actors, and federal and provincial government agencies;
- 2) Database of key rightsholders and stakeholders including Indigenous community representatives, private sector prospecting and mining companies, sector-specific consultancies, NB provincial government representatives, federal government representatives, etc.
- 3) Communication materials to support meetings to gauge level of interest in and support of critical minerals mining in First Nations communities, including a spatial analysis of the relationships between critical mineral deposits, Indigenous communities in NB, and other attribute maps of interest to our member communities (e.g. forest cover, wetlands, water and watercourses, hunting areas, sites of traditional use and occupancy, etc).
- 4) Attend and support 8-10 outreach meetings and NSMTC Critical Minerals Mining Summit.

PHASE 2: Strategic Analysis of Critical Minerals Based Economic Opportunities and Related Indigenous Business Development Opportunities (April 2026 - March 2027)

- 1) Conduct environmental scan of collateral market opportunities in or related to mining sector (BAU + value added and innovative product development, etc.)
- 2) Compile information and examples of different business models (individual entrepreneur, social enterprise, co-operative, equity partner, etc.), including case studies/examples from elsewhere;
- 3) Attend and support NSTMC in presentation of relevant examples of business models in meetings in each NSTMC member community;
- 4) Work with NSMTC staff to identify best investments for our member communities;
- 5) Work with NSMTC staff to select and map out and present to our member communities up to three pilot projects for business development
- 6) Work with NSMTC staff to identify and approach potential funders/investors for both primary mining and collateral, secondary business development

PHASE 3: Synthesis and Feasibility Study (January 2027 – March 2027)

- 1) Work with NSMTC staff to integrate findings of Phases 1 and 2 into Feasibility Study: identify biophysical, social, and economic opportunities and constraints
- 2) Produce final report: ***Feasibility Study: Critical Minerals Mining Sector for First Nations Community in New Brunswick***

This effort will support NSTMC's *North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC) Critical Minerals Assessment and Feasibility Study*, funded by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Indigenous Natural Resources Partnership (INRP) program.

RFP Reference Number: NSMTC-ES-RFP-25.002

RFP Title: Critical Minerals Assessment and Feasibility Study

Release Date: September 20, 2025

Closing Date: October 9, 2025

RFP Contact:

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North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council

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1. INTRODUCTION

The **North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC)** is engaged in a two-year initiative titled *North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC) Critical Minerals Assessment and Feasibility Study*. Responsible development of natural resources, to support economic growth while providing materials required for ensuring quality of life and reducing carbon emissions, is in the best interests of First Nations, all Canadians, and the world. However, several key missing pieces are needed to enable this development in NB.

Funded by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Indigenous Natural Resources Partnership program (INRP), this project will produce and advance: 1) a desktop environmental scan of the critical minerals space in New Brunswick, including known and estimated reserves, interested parties including Indigenous communities and businesses, private sector/industrial actors, and federal and provincial government agencies; 2) presentation of easily accessible and understandable information on proven and estimated reserves of critical minerals in New Brunswick, including a spatial analysis of the relationships between critical mineral deposits and Indigenous communities in NB; 3) assessment of levels of support for critical minerals mining within Indigenous communities; 4) education and technical capacity building among First Nations communities, necessary both for project approvals and for workforce inclusion and development; and 5) determining and documenting next steps in terms of marketing of opportunities to Canadian and global industry partners and investors, to attract partnerships and investment.

2. ABOUT US

NSMTC is a not-for-profit First Nations Tribal Council formed in 1987 and acts as a technical and capacity resource hub supporting the communities of Ugpi'ganjig (Eel River Bar), Oinpegitjoig (Pabineau), Natoaganeg (Eel Ground), Metepenagiag (Red Bank), L'nui Menikuk (Indian Island), Tjipogtotjig (Buctouche), and Amlamgog (Fort Folly) First Nations.

As advocates and champions for the betterment of lives for First Nations people in New Brunswick, NSMTC recognizes the importance of the New Brunswick mining industry and the increasing urgency to develop the Canadian critical minerals sector. In the coming years, NSMTC will develop opportunities for our member Nations in the critical minerals and energy economies in New Brunswick. To support this commitment, we have established an Energy technical resource hub that:

- Positions First Nation communities in New Brunswick for opportunities associated with energy and mining sectors development;
- Engages the current and future Indigenous labour force in New Brunswick and promotes opportunities directly and indirectly associated with energy and mining sectors development;
- Works with industry partners to create local, long-lasting employment opportunities for First Nations in New Brunswick within the evolving energy and mining sectors.
- Supports the expansion of the energy and mining supply chains within New Brunswick, including fostering opportunities for existing and yet-to-be-established Indigenous owned businesses.
- Publicly promote and foster renewable/clean energy projects and initiatives in support of New Brunswick and Canada achieving the target of Net-Zero Emissions by 2050.

3. RFP OVERVIEW AND CLARIFICATIONS

NSMTC solicits proposals from qualified professional services firms (the “Consultant”) to support the design, analysis and execution of project deliverables over the full cycle of this project, October 2025 – March 2027.

The Consultant will provide technical Support to NSMTC staff for execution of the project including:

- 1) subject matter expertise in the mining sector with emphasis on critical minerals;
- 2) database (Excel, Access or similar) and report on key rightsholders and stakeholders in the mining sector in NB (“lay of the land”)
- 3) compilation of geographic information system layers (based on publicly available data sources) and spatial analyses related to mining (known and estimated reserves, critical minerals inventory, related infrastructure, etc.) and other areas of interest to First Nations communities in NB;
- 4) communications materials for presentation to First Nations community representatives and project partners;
- 5) attend and support project-related meetings as needed

Phase 1 Deliverable

Report: Environmental Scan & Community Feedback, including opportunities map and project directory

Phase 2 Deliverable

Report: Comparative analysis of markets, business opportunities and workforce capacity in First Nations Communities

Phase 3 Deliverable

Feasibility Study and Path Forward Report

4. QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

NSMTC will accept content-related questions from interested applicants on an ongoing basis until October 3. All questions and clarifications can be submitted via email to Shawn Dalton at shawndalton@nsmtc.ca.

5. PROJECT SCHEDULE

The RFP Process Schedule is defined in Table 1 below.

Item	Date
RFP Release	September 20 2025
Register as proposed bidder by email to shawndalton@nsmtc.ca	September 26 2025
Question period (submit questions to shawndalton@nsmtc.ca)	September 29-October 3 2025
Responses to questions (all registered bidders will receive responses to all questions)	October 6 2025
RFP Closing	October 9 2025

Table 1. RFP Process Schedule

The RFP and Project Schedule are defined in Table 2 below. The Consultant will be responsible for development of a detailed milestones and deliverables schedule, in consultation with NSMTC, as part of Project Kick-off.

The Project Completion deadline is firm and is non-negotiable.

Item	Date
RFP Release	September 20 2025
RFP Closing	October 9 2025
Project Award	October 24 2025
Project Kickoff	November 7 2025
Phase 1: Environmental Scan	
Phase 1: Critical Minerals Database and GIS Layers	December 31 2025
Phase 1: Communication Tools/Presentation Materials	January 31 2026
Phase 1: Meetings in First Nations Communities	Feb-March 2026
Phase 1: Attend NSMTC Critical Minerals Summit	March/April 2026
Phase 1 Deliverable: Environmental Scan, including Opportunities Map & Project Directory	Winter/Spring 2026
Phase 2: Strategic Analysis of Critical Minerals-Based Economic Opportunities and Related Indigenous Business Development Opportunities	
Environmental scan of collateral market opportunities	Feb-April 2026
Inventory of business models	April 2026

Community presentations (business models and collateral market opportunities) to First Nations community representatives	May-June 2026
Work with NSTMC staff to select and map out up to three pilot projects for business development	July-Nov 2026
Work with NSMTC staff to identify and approach potential funders/investors for both primary mining and collateral, secondary business development	Nov 2026 – Feb 2027
Phase 3: Synthesis and Feasibility Study	
Work with NSMTC staff to integrate findings from Phases 1 and 2 into Feasibility Study and Path Forward report	Feb 2027

Table 2. RFP and Project Schedule

6. PROJECT FUNDING

Funding available for this project is capped:

At a maximum of \$95,000 CAD for Phase 1

At a maximum of \$75,000 CAD for Phases 2 and 3

Taxes are exempt for this project. Proposals that exceed this amount will not be considered.

7. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

To ensure a proposal is considered for evaluation it must include all the information requested below. The maximum page limit for proposal submissions is 10 pages not including the cover page, project team and references.

7.1. Cover Letter

- 7.1.1. The Consultant shall provide a Cover Letter, dated and signed by a person authorized to negotiate and make commitments on behalf of the Consultant.
- 7.1.2. Within the Cover Letter, provide:
 - A statement indicating the Consultant's understanding of the proposed project,
 - Acknowledgement of the deliverables required within the defined timelines,
 - A list of sub-Consultant(s), if applicable, that will be used to form the Consultant Team, and the role that each firm will play in this project,
 - Any clarifications or points to be highlighted with respect to the submitted proposal.

7.2. Project Understanding and Indigenous Project Experience

- 7.2.1. The Consultant shall demonstrate their understanding of the project scope and how the project objectives shall be met.
- 7.2.2. The Consultant shall demonstrate experience working with First Nation/Indigenous communities and organizations, and are asked to provide a summary of projects undertaken with First Nation/Indigenous communities and organizations in the past five (5) years.
- 7.2.3. The Consultant shall demonstrate their knowledge of the mining sector in general, and critical minerals mining in particular.
- 7.2.4. The Consultant shall demonstrate their knowledge of contemporary **sustainable** mining practice.
- 7.2.5. The Consultant shall demonstrate their knowledge and expertise in geographic information systems, spatial analysis, and database development and management.

- 7.2.6. The Consultant shall demonstrate their knowledge communications and First Nations engagement with particular emphasis on the mining sector.

7.3. Proposed Project Plan

- 7.3.1. The Consultant will provide a proposed project plan. The proposed plan should be concisely worded with clearly described objectives, methods, budget, schedule, and deliverables. The proposal should include a workplan outlining how all the tasks will be approached.
- 7.3.2. The project plan will also show the assignment of specific team members to project tasks/deliverables. The use of sub-Consultants and/or specialized services (where applicable) should also be shown.
- 7.3.3. The Consultant will designate one individual as the single contact between The Consultant and NSMTC throughout the project.
- 7.3.4. The project should be broken into three distinct Phases as defined by the RFP with a clear description of the objectives, scope, deliverables, and timelines associated with each Phase.
- 7.3.5. Proposed costs must be divided by and categorized according to the three distinct project Phases and their distinct deliverables. Each Phase should include a summary of costs by deliverable.

7.4. Consultant Team Qualifications and Experience

- 7.4.1. The Consultant must identify the lead project manager and provide a breakdown of qualifications for each member of the project team including:
- Name.
 - Role.
 - Responsibility.
 - Resume showing:
 - Education.
 - Professional Certifications; and
 - Type and length of experience.
- 7.4.2. If the Consultant employs a sub-consultant, a copy of the sub-consultant resume(s) must also be included in the Consultant's proposal. The Consultant should clearly demonstrate their experience working with selected sub-consultant(s), and the role that each organization will play in this project

7.5. Reference Projects

- 7.5.1. The Consultant shall provide Project Summaries for three (3) reference projects completed in the past five (5) years, with similar complexity and scope.
- 7.5.2. For each Project Summary, provide the name, address, phone number and email address for at least one contact person who can speak to the project success.

8. EVALUATION

NSMTC will form a Bid Evaluation Committee. Evaluation criteria are established by Table 2 below.

Table 1 - Bid Evaluation Criteria

Factor	Weight
Experience and Knowledge: Qualifications, experience and capabilities of the company and delivery team. Demonstration of knowledge relevant to this project.	30%
Project Plan, Approach and Methodology: Respondent demonstrates an understanding of the project requirements and has outlined a comprehensive and effective work plan. Proposal describes the objectives, methodology, milestones and deliverables, and a sound approach in undertaking this project. Communication format and frequency between the Respondent and Project Leads are clearly described. Respondent describes an achievable schedule and demonstrates the ability to complete the work on or before the desired completion date.	40%
Indigenous Project Experience: Demonstrated experience working with Indigenous organizations and businesses.	10%
Value: Value proposed activities contribute to project success is demonstrated in the methodology.	10%
Proposal Presentation and Organization: The proposal includes all RFP requirements and tasks, demonstrates attention to clarity, grammar, presentation, and comprehensibility.	10%
Total	100%

9. SUBMISSIONS

Proposals are to be submitted to shawndalton@nsmtc.ca on or before 4:00pm Atlantic time on October 9, 2025.

A single electronic document is sufficient. Please ensure the proposal or cover letter is signed by an officer or equivalent with authority to bind the respondent to the statements made in the proposal.

9.1. Evaluation and Acceptance of Proposals

- 9.1.1. The RFP neither expresses nor implies any obligation on the part of NSMTC to enter a contract with any consultant submitting a proposal or proposals for this RFP
- 9.1.2. The Planning Committee will review the proposals submitted within fifteen (15) days of the deadline date and make a recommendation for awarding based on the proposals received.
- 9.1.3. NSMTC will not be responsible for any costs incurred by The Consultant in preparing and submitting proposals and / or attending interviews.
- 9.1.4. NSMTC accepts no liability of any kind to the Consultant prior to the signing of a contract.
- 9.1.5. After the submission of a proposal for this event NSMTC may request further information from the consultants for the basis of decisions in awarding a contract to a consultant.
- 9.1.6. NSMTC hold the right to negotiate further with any consultant(s) that have submitted a proposal for acceptance to this RFP, if necessary, in successfully awarding a contract with a consultant(s).

- 9.1.7. RFP Amendments: NSMTC reserve the right to amend or supplement this RFP, giving equal information and cooperation by way of issued addendum to the consultants due to such an amendment.
- 9.1.8. Prices quoted are to be held firm for a minimum of 120 days following the RFP closing date and shall remain in effect through the duration of an agreement.
- 9.1.9. Submission of a proposal shall not obligate, nor should it be construed as obligating NSMTC to accept any such proposal or to proceed further with the project. NSMTC may, in their sole discretion, elect not to proceed with the project, and may elect not to accept any or all proposals for any reason.
- 9.1.10. Proposals submitted shall be final and may not be altered by subsequent offerings, discussions, or commitments unless The Consultant is requested to do so by NSMTC.
- 9.1.11. Consultants may withdraw their proposals by way of emailed notice to NSMTC.
- 9.1.12. NSMTC reserves the right to cancel and / or re-issue this RFP at any time for any reason without penalty.
- 9.1.13. The Consultant must identify any information in its proposal that it considers to be confidential or proprietary.
- 9.1.14. By submitting a proposal, the Consultant acknowledges and accepts all terms and conditions outlined in this Request for Proposal, and these terms shall be deemed incorporated into the Consultant's submission

9.2. Rejection of Proposals

- 9.2.1. NSMTC has the right to reject or accept any or all proposals submitted for this RFP.
- 9.2.2. Consultants may be eliminated from consideration if there is a failure to comply with any of the specifications of this RFP.

9.3. Budget Specifics

- 9.3.1. The Consultant's proposed budget must be inclusive of all costs required to complete the work outlined in this RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, professional fees, travel expenses, engagement activities, materials, accommodation, administrative costs, and any applicable sub-consultant costs.
- 9.3.2. No additional funding beyond the stated maximum allocation for each project Phase will be made available. Proposals that do not account for all costs within the specified budget may not be considered.
- 9.3.3. The Consultant shall be responsible for any cost overages incurred during the project.

9.4. Method of Payment

- 9.4.1. Payment will be made on the basis of invoices submitted for work completed. The proposal should suggest a payment schedule linked to specific steps in the planning and delivery of the project
- 9.4.2. A final payment schedule will be negotiated between the Consultant and NSMTC and will be included in the project contract.