Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) Announces August Masterclass "Playing the American Trump Card"

written by Raj Shah | July 30, 2026

How America's Critical Minerals Spending Spree Is Reshaping Global Markets

Toronto, Ontario – July 30, 2026 – The Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)—a global think tank and central hub for the critical minerals ecosystem, connecting companies, capital markets, and policymakers—is pleased to announce that it will host its next online Masterclass, *Playing the American Trump Card*, on Friday, August 14, 2026, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET.

The United States government is deploying its immense financial power to secure the critical minerals, processing capacity, and industrial capabilities essential to its economic and national security. With the ability to outspend and outbid virtually any competitor, the United States has embarked on a global buying spree—one that could fundamentally reshape critical minerals markets and the availability and cost of strategic resources worldwide.

Building on the recent CMR Podcast episode, *The West Cannot Mine Its Way to Security*, this timely CMI Masterclass will examine how America's purchasing power is changing the global competition for critical minerals, processing capacity, long-term supply agreements, and strategic industrial assets.

“The United States has the financial capacity to move markets, redirect supply chains, and accelerate the development of strategic projects,” said Jack Lifton, Co-Chair of the Critical Minerals Institute. “The critical question is whether this spending will create new production and processing capacity or simply intensify global competition for the limited assets and supplies that already exist.”

What happens when the world’s largest economy enters the market determined to secure whatever it needs? Which countries and companies will benefit from America’s buying power—and which could be priced out? How will governments, producers, manufacturers, and investors respond as competition intensifies for the same limited resources, processing capacity, and long-term supply agreements?

“The Americans can buy anything they want; their purchasing power is undisputed in the market,” said Tracy Hughes, Executive Director of the Critical Minerals Institute and host of the Masterclass. “They have embarked on an extraordinary buying spree. The central questions—and the reason for this Masterclass—are whether that strategy is working for the United States and how its purchasing power will affect every other country competing for the same critical minerals, processing capacity, and industrial assets.”

The Masterclass will feature CMI Co-Chairs Jack Lifton and Melissa “Mel” Sanderson and will be hosted by Tracy Hughes, Executive Director of the Critical Minerals Institute.

Date: Friday, August 14, 2026
Time: 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET
Format: Online CMI Masterclass

Registration: $25, or complimentary for CMI members
[Click Here To Register]

A recording will be available to all Critical Minerals Institute members.

About the Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)

The [Critical Minerals Institute] (CMI) is a global think tank and central hub for the critical minerals ecosystem, connecting companies, capital markets, and policymakers. Through its monthly **CMI Masterclasses**, twice-monthly ***Critical Minerals Report*** (CMR) and **CMR Podcast** episodes, bespoke research, and board-level advisory services, CMI delivers actionable intelligence spanning exploration finance, supply chains, industrial policy, and geopolitics.

CMI tracks 12 leading national and multilateral critical minerals lists and applies a rigorous comparative process to independently select and maintain its proprietary [CMI Watchlist]. Materials are evaluated against one another based on strategic importance, supply-chain concentration, geopolitical exposure, substitutability, and relevance to defense, technology, and economic security. Through its strategic partnership with the [Critical Minerals Platform] (CMP), CMI offers Platinum members access to independent mineral pricing, market forecasts, corporate intelligence, and global supply-chain data.

CMI also organizes its flagship annual event, [CMI Summit 6]. Held under the theme ***Critical Minerals Diplomacy in a Fragmented Global Economy***, the Summit brings together government leaders, institutional investors, policymakers, and industry executives from around the world. **CMI Summit 6** will take place May 17–18, 2027, at Toronto’s Fairmont Royal York.

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