

Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) Announces the Appointment of Brendon Grunewald to its Board of Directors, Expanding its Depth in Corporate Finance and Technology-Driven Resource Strategies

written by Tracy Hughes | July 10, 2025

July 10, 2025 – Toronto, ON – The [Critical Minerals Institute](#) (CMI), a global organization committed to addressing the challenges and opportunities within the critical minerals sector, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Brendon Grunewald** to its Board of Directors. Brendon brings more than 25 years of cross-border experience in corporate finance, venture capital, advanced materials, and business transformation—expertise that will help CMI accelerate sustainable critical-minerals initiatives worldwide.

Brendon's career spans both operating and investment leadership roles. He managed the **Advanced Materials Fund, Element Six Ventures**, directing investments into next-generation advanced materials applications, the US\$100 million corporate venture arm of **Element Six** (a De Beers Group company).

Additional mandates include Managing Partner at **Scheinrock Advisory Group**, where he executed more than 80 M&A and capital-

raising, M&A transactions and interim Turnaround Executive rolls. As an advisor to **Azteq NV**, he secured term sheets exceeding €180 million for solar-thermal projects and oversaw the strategic acquisition of SolarLite GmbH.

A former Antarctic research scientist and founder of the Polar Conservation Organisation, Brendon holds an MBA from **The Open University Business School** (UK), a B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics & Electronics from **Rhodes University** (South Africa), and executive credentials in Private Equity & Venture Capital from **Harvard Business School**. His blend of scientific rigorous analytical thinking and capital-markets acumen will provide CMI with fresh perspective on financing and scaling supply-chain solutions for the energy transition.

“CMI is committed to building the bridge between critical minerals and the technologies that depend on them,” said **Tracy Hughes, Executive Director of CMI**. “Brendon’s deep expertise in corporate finance, venture capital markets, and critical minerals aligns perfectly with our mission to secure sustainable supply chains and unlock the capital required for next-generation industries.”

“I am honoured to join CMI at a pivotal moment for the critical minerals sector,” added **Brendon Grunewald**. “By combining disciplined corporate-finance frameworks with cutting-edge technology and ESG stewardship, we can unlock the full potential of critical mineral projects and strengthen supply-chain resilience. I look forward to working with the Board to advance CMI’s mission.”

Tracy Hughes continued: “Brendon’s strategic insight—spanning early-stage innovation through to large-scale project finance—will be invaluable as CMI fosters sustainable, secure, and economically viable critical mineral supply chains.”

Brendon now joins the CMI's **brain trust**—an esteemed Board that comprises Co-Chairs [Melissa “Mel” Sanderson](#) and [Jack Lifton](#); Executive Directors [Russell Fryer](#) and [Tracy Hughes](#); and Directors [Alastair Neill](#), [Christopher Berlet](#), [Christopher Ecclestone](#), [Christopher Gibbs](#), [Geoff Atkins](#), [Kevin Ernst](#), [Kiana Kianara](#), [Peter Clausi](#), [Peter Cashin](#), [Stephen Burega](#), [Stephen Lautens](#), and [Tuan Tran](#).

About the **Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)**:

The **Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)** is a global organization dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities in the critical minerals sector. CMI's mission is to **equip businesses, governments, and stakeholders** with comprehensive resources and insights into the value, sustainability, and strategic importance of critical materials essential for technological and industrial advancement. In practice, this means CMI serves as a **central hub connecting companies, capital markets, and experts** in the critical minerals industry. The institute emphasizes education, collaboration, and thought leadership: its offerings include **exclusive Masterclasses** and a weekly **Technology Metals Report (TMR)** that provide pivotal industry insights. CMI also facilitates robust **networking opportunities** such as conferences and summits, helping members drive innovation and build resilient supply chains in a rapidly evolving global marketplace. Through these activities, CMI strives to ensure its members are well-equipped to lead in cutting-edge technologies and to fuel industrial advancement worldwide.

Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)

CriticalMineralsInstitute.com

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Command Capital in Critical Minerals – Aligning Government Priorities with Private Equity.

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