

# Critical Minerals Institute (CMI) Announces the Appointment of Melissa “Mel” Sanderson as Co-Chair, Elevating Its Leadership in Global Critical Minerals Advocacy

written by Raj Shah | October 31, 2024

Toronto, ON – Thursday, October 31, 2024 – The [Critical Minerals Institute \(CMI\)](#), a global leader in critical minerals advocacy and strategic guidance, is thrilled to announce the appointment of [Melissa “Mel” Sanderson](#) as its new Co-Chair. With an illustrious career spanning in geopolitics and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) strategies, Mel brings unparalleled expertise and vision to the leadership team at CMI.

Mel’s diplomatic and corporate journey commenced in the US Foreign Service, serving key roles across Latin America, Europe, and Africa from 1985 to 2006. She was pivotal in re-establishing US-DRC relations post-conflict and facilitating the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s first democratic elections in over 40 years. Transitioning to the private sector, Mel served as Director of International Affairs for Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (NYSE: FCX), integrating government relations with sustainable development initiatives.

In 2020, Mel founded Sanderson Consulting LLC, advising companies on sustainable development and ESG+ solutions. She

also serves on the board of [American Rare Earths Limited](#) (ASX: ARR | OTCQX: ARRNF), contributing significantly to the strategic direction in the critical minerals sector. Her extensive experience and insights will be instrumental in guiding CMI's initiatives and enhancing its global impact.

Newly appointed Co-Chair Melissa "Mel" Sanderson commented: "I am deeply honored to step into the role of Co-Chair at the Critical Minerals Institute, where the work of defining and securing sustainable critical minerals solutions is more essential than ever. This role offers an opportunity to bridge the strategic insights of the public and private sectors, fostering collaboration that can genuinely transform our global approach to resource management. I look forward to joining Tracy Hughes and the entire CMI team to continue advancing our mission and making a lasting impact in the critical minerals sector."

Tracy Hughes, Executive Director of CMI added: "Mel's comprehensive experience in both diplomatic and corporate roles equips her uniquely to guide CMI through the evolving challenges of the critical minerals industry. Her leadership will be crucial as we enhance our global impact in the sector."

Melissa Sanderson joins [Jack Lifton](#) as Co-Chair, forming part of a distinguished Board of Directors, which includes Executive Director [Tracy Hughes](#). The Board also comprises Directors Alastair Neill, Alister Macdonald, Christopher Berlet, Stephen Burega, Stephen Lautens, Ian Chalmers, Peter Cashin, Peter Clausi, Christopher Gibbs, Harry Kim, Steve Mackowski, Raj Shah, Geoff Atkins, Lara Smith, Russell Fryer, and Tuan Tran.

### **About 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. At its core, CMI offers an online

site, developed by industry experts, which serves as an essential resource for businesses, government officials, and anyone seeking accurate information on critical materials. This site provides methodologies for defining the true value of these materials and explains why they are deemed essential. CMI's mission is to bring clarity to a market often clouded by misinformation, offering pricing frameworks and expert guidance to support the growth of businesses navigating this complex landscape.

In addition to its online resources, CMI connects its members with exclusive offerings, including monthly Masterclasses led by top professionals and the weekly Technology Metals Report (TMR), a must-read for global industry news. CMI also hosts the annual International Critical Minerals Expo & CMI Summit IV, where industry leaders will meet in Pasadena, CA, on May 14-15, 2024, to discuss "The War for Critical Minerals and Capital Resources." To access these invaluable tools and more, visit [CriticalMineralsInstitute.com](https://CriticalMineralsInstitute.com).

For more information, contact:

Tracy Hughes

Executive Director, **Critical Minerals Institute (CMI)**

Email: [tracy@criticalmineralsinstitute.com](mailto:tracy@criticalmineralsinstitute.com)

Phone: +1 647 289 7714

For more information on the **International Critical Minerals Expo & CMI Summit IV**, themed *The War for Critical Minerals and Capital Resources*, please contact Alexander Oliver, Director at Select Global Events, via email at [alex.oliver@selectglobalevents.com](mailto:alex.oliver@selectglobalevents.com), or visit either [criticalmineralsummit.com](https://criticalmineralsummit.com) or [mineral-expo.com](https://mineral-expo.com).