

PROJECT EXPLORATION

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CABC Project Exploration: "Make Mining Cool Again"

The global energy transition is already underway. As industries shift from fossil fuels to cleaner, more innovative alternatives, the demand for essential minerals is skyrocketing. This creates an unprecedented opportunity for regions like **Arizona, Sonora (Mexico), and Canada** to cement their positions as global leaders in mining. The **CABC's Project Exploration** initiative is focused on leveraging this shift to maximize mining production, foster innovation, and provide the critical minerals required for the next generation of technology, transportation, energy, and communication.

The Vision: A New Mining Boom

The phrase "Make Mining Cool Again" captures the essence of CABC's Project Exploration — to revitalize the mining industry by emphasizing its significance in the global economy and its role in sustainable development. As the world moves away from fossil fuels, there will be a growing reliance on the very minerals needed to power clean energy, electric vehicles (EVs), military defense, communication systems, and the burgeoning space economy. The importance of mining, particularly in **copper, lithium, nickel**, and other rare earth metals, will only continue to increase. Arizona, Sonora, and Canada, with their deep mining histories and vast natural resources, are poised to meet this demand and become a dominant force in the global mineral supply chain.

A Region United for Mining Excellence

Arizona, Sonora, and Canada have long been interconnected through trade and mining. Arizona is already recognized as the top mining state in the U.S., while Sonora is the top mining state in Mexico. Canadian companies have a strong presence in both regions, operating and financing numerous mines, particularly copper mines, which are critical to the future of global markets. The challenge for this tri-state/tri-country region is to come together and accelerate efforts to meet the escalating global demand for minerals, ensuring that North America becomes self-sufficient in its ability to provide the minerals necessary for the clean energy revolution and technological advancements.

To achieve this goal, several key components must be addressed, including infrastructure, workforce development, and technological innovation. **Project Exploration** aims to connect the dots between these efforts, positioning Arizona, Sonora, and Canada as the preeminent mining region in the world.

Key Goals for Project Exploration

1. Accelerate Mining Production and Supply Chains

- **Objective:** Expand mining output in Arizona, Sonora, and Canada to meet the growing demand for critical minerals, including copper, lithium, nickel, and cobalt.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Increase the number of active mining operations in Arizona and Sonora.
 - Enhance mining efficiencies to increase output while ensuring sustainability.

2. Strengthen the Region's Position as a Global Mining Leader

- **Objective:** Position Arizona, Sonora, and Canada as the world's leading supplier of minerals for clean energy, EVs, space exploration, and advanced technology.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Establish Arizona and Sonora as the preferred supplier of copper and other minerals for global markets.
 - Develop cross-border trade and regulatory frameworks that make it easier to transport and trade minerals across the region.

3. Develop and Upgrade Mining Infrastructure

- **Objective:** Invest in the infrastructure necessary to support an expanded mining industry, including transportation networks, technology integration, and sustainable mining practices.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Build new roads, railways, and ports to transport minerals more efficiently across the region.
 - Integrate innovative technologies to enhance mining processes and reduce environmental impact.

4. Foster Innovation in Mining Technology

- **Objective:** Promote the development and adoption of cutting-edge technologies in mining, including automation, AI, and eco-friendly extraction methods.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Partner with tech companies and universities to bring the latest mining technologies to Arizona, Sonora, and Canada.
 - Implement sustainable mining technologies that reduce environmental impact and improve efficiency.

5. Expand and Train the Workforce for the Mining Boom

- **Objective:** Address the growing need for skilled labor in mining by investing in education and training programs for both higher education and trade skills.

- **Key Metrics:**
 - Establish or expand mining-related degree programs at universities such as the University of Arizona.
 - Create specialized trade schools to train workers in mining trades, ensuring a ready workforce to support the upcoming mining boom.

6. Promote Mining as a Viable and “Cool” Career Path

- **Objective:** Shift public perception of mining, particularly among younger generations, by highlighting its importance in the global economy, environmental sustainability, and technological advancement.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Launch campaigns to attract young talent to the mining industry, focusing on innovation and sustainability.
 - Showcase mining’s role in clean energy and next-generation technology as a key selling point for attracting skilled workers.

7. Strengthen Canada, Arizona, and Sonora’s Collaborative Mining Efforts

- **Objective:** Enhance collaboration between the three regions—Canada, Arizona, and Sonora—to create a seamless mining ecosystem that supports the industry’s growth.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Facilitate discussions between mining companies, governments, and educational institutions across the three regions.
 - Develop joint ventures and cross-border partnerships to maximize mining output and technological innovation.

8. Reclaim North American Mining Leadership

- **Objective:** Revitalize North America’s leadership in mining by encouraging companies to bring mining jobs, manufacturing, and distribution back to the continent.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Increase the number of North American-based mining jobs.
 - Attract mining-related manufacturing and distribution facilities to Arizona and Sonora, creating a self-sufficient mineral supply chain within North America.

9. Establish the Region as a Hub for Mining Investment

- **Objective:** Attract capital investment to the Arizona-Sonora-Canada mining region to fund infrastructure improvements, new technologies, and mining operations.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Secure investment from institutional investors, including Canadian pension funds, to support mining infrastructure and expansion.
 - Facilitate partnerships between mining companies and investors to expand production capabilities.

10. Enhance Mining’s Role in Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

- **Objective:** Position mining as an integral part of the clean energy transition by emphasizing responsible mining practices and sustainability.
- **Key Metrics:**
 - Implement green mining practices and technologies that minimize environmental impact.
 - Ensure that mining operations adhere to strict environmental standards, contributing to the global sustainability goals.

Conclusion

CABC's Project Exploration: "Make Mining Cool Again" is about more than just meeting the demand for minerals—it's about transforming the mining industry into a driving force for innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. Arizona, Sonora, and Canada have the potential to be at the forefront of this transformation, but to do so, the region must come together to address infrastructure, workforce development, technological innovation, and investment.

By focusing on these goals, CABC will help ensure that the **Arizona-Sonora-Canada** region becomes the dominant, self-sufficient supplier of the critical minerals needed to fuel the future of clean energy, electric vehicles, communication systems, and space exploration. Through strategic partnerships, innovative technologies, and a highly skilled workforce, the mining industry will once again be "cool" and positioned as one of the most vital contributors to a sustainable, tech-driven future.

PROJECT EXPLORATION

“Make Mining Cool Again” in North America is the thesis statement of this project. The writing is on the wall and there will be a global shift from fossil fuel to new innovative options over time. Options that will put a demand on mineral supplies and create another global mining boom. The CABC has identified Project Exploration as one of its high-priority initiatives. The demand for minerals is at an all time high and will continue to go-up. Increasing the mining production is an opportunity for the state of Arizona, along with Canada and the state of Sonora in Mexico to further their leading positions as a top mining region in the world, and position the region as a significant supplier of these minerals to feed the future supply chains needed in: building materials, military defense, communications, satellites, space advancement, energy, technology and the popular, EV automobiles and more.

In order to support the mining companies and their feeder industries, there must be an upgrade and expansion in the infra-structure in all areas of mining. This includes attracting top talent, labor and incorporating the newest mining technology. With Canada’s involvement both in Arizona and Mexico, it is imperative to begin the discussion on how this trio of mining players will approach the many challenges, as we enter the newest frontier of energy and technology. CABC is committed to the mining industry and making mining “cool” again. It is time to remind both the private and public sectors that mining is a significant economic contributor to this state, not only in the past, but in the present, and into the future.

Arizona is the number one mining state in the union (as is Sonora is the number one mining state in Mexico). The roots of mining date back to territorial days when Arizona was only a stop on the way to the California “Gold Rush.” In the quest for gold, they discovered copper and the state became recognized as a mining capital in the West. A large number of Arizona and Sonoran mines are Canadian operated and/or financed. Copper is one of the most sought after metallic minerals mined today and critical to next generation of transportation and communication. It is and will continue to be an important metal in global markets. In order to become the dominating provider of minerals in the region, Arizona/Canada/Sonora must accelerate the industry forward with their government agencies, educational institutes and industry leaders and become an unrivaled front while competing in the global arena of minerals.

North America has the ability to be self-sufficient to handle the current demand of copper and other minerals that will be required for the global shift to cleaner energy and new technology. The infra-structure must be built to fulfill the demand of the future. The CABC’s goal is to shine a brighter light on Arizona/Canada/Sonora, as a region, in order to assist with the overall mission of catapulting the region at a larger scale into international markets. As important as higher educated mining talent is, equally as important is the work force of trade professionals. The creation of more trade schools with degrees in mining are needed to be implemented through universities (University of Arizona Mining Degree) and other institutions to ensure that all aspects of the mining trade are taught. This will ensure that the workforce will be prepared with the mining explosion that is about to take place in our state and in our partner’s countries. Like the semi-conductor industry, the number one priority should be to bring the mining jobs, money, manufacturing and distribution back to North America.

The CABC’s overall objective is to be a part of the discussions as a neutral party to provide and disseminate information, opportunities and a network for its members interested in the mining industry, and further the ties between Canada, Arizona and Sonora.