

Thank you, Mr. Powlowski. The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson,
The Honourable Vic Fedeli,
The Honourable Patty Hajdu,
Distinguished guests,
Good afternoon.

As we are all aware, the international situation is becoming increasingly precarious. There are economic challenges galore looming over our heads.

In this challenging environment, peoples of Japan and Canada are awakening to the truth of the two countries being true, persistent friends. We share fundamental values. We are bound by mutual respect.

At the same time, Japan and Canada share critical economic interests, and a design for the future.

Net zero carbon emissions by 2050 is one of them. The two governments signed a memorandum of cooperation two years ago to cover the entire battery supply chain from upstream to downstream in Canada.

The relevant cooperation between the two countries is becoming more and more extensive, spanning the productions of not only batteries and their materials as well as of a range of electrified powertrains, but also the mining and refining of critical minerals.

And that is where the partnership between Frontier Lithium and Mitsubishi Corporation is playing an exemplary, trailblazing role.

The potential of their PAK Lithium Project to exploit and process the highest-grade lithium spodumene in North America can be genuinely transformative.

I felicitate on the Frontier lithium's recent announcement on the financing, the net proceeds from which was used to purchase a vacant industrial site on Mission Island in Thunder Bay, Ontario, as well as the continuing support of the federal government and the provincial government of Ontario for this visionary project.

Today's announcement is a testimony to Canada's commitment to leveraging local critical minerals, to the strategy to build a full battery value chain, to the future we share, and to our bilateral partnership which is ratcheting up to a higher plane. I am truly thrilled by today's announcement which will go a long way in helping further solidify our partnership and advance our shared vision for future.

Thank you.