



Progress Report #4

February 14, 2013

I am pleased to bring you up to date on CREEN activities and related events of importance. On February 10th, the Steering Committee held its fourth meeting to discuss two big forthcoming items: the Federal budget and the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

On February 11th, the Federal Government tabled its first budget of 2014 and though CREEN was hoping for a specific policy and funding reference to rare earth elements, this was not the case. There were however two line items that do need to be examined further – (1) the creation of the “new Canada First Research Excellence Fund with \$1.5 billion in new funding over the next decade to help Canadian post-secondary institutions excel globally in research areas that create long-term economic advantages for Canada” and (2) “\$46 million in new funding to the granting councils to support research and scientific discoveries across Canada.”

While CREEN recognizes the vital role to be played by Canadian universities in advancing REE research, we believe that the sector’s priorities need to be set by industry. In this regard, CREEN is reaching out to other groups to determine how the concept of industrial research consortia (ably supported by academia) could be advanced in today’s political environment. We would welcome your view.

On February 13th, CREEN steering committee members were invited to make a presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources in line with its study of the rare earths industry in Canada. If you are interested in the progress of this Committee its proceedings are made publicly available on their web site. (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/CommitteeBusiness/CommitteeHome.aspx?Cmte=RNNR&Language=E>). A copy of CREEN’s presentation, which focused the two-hour panel discussion (most of which were Question & Answers) can be found on the CREEN website at www.ree-etr.ca.

To maintain our momentum, CREEN has also invited the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Canada, Serge Dupont – and he has accepted our invitation – to join CREEN-member REE-related company CEOs and CREEN invited guests for a focused discussion/reception in Ottawa, the place and time to be determined (mid-March is being contemplated).

Membership pledges continue to flow in and Steering Committee Members have started to make follow up calls. You are strongly encouraged to join us to help our emerging industry take shape. It would also facilitate arrangements with the Deputy Minister meeting. The collective power of the many is stronger than the few.

We are still planning on a Technical Workshop, but it has been decided to move it from the end of February to the end of March to avoid winter travel issues, spring breaks, and conflicts for those attending the SME and other conferences.

CREEN continues to receive media and international inquiries. The most recent inquiries from the British Consulate in terms of collaborating with project proponents participating in the UK Natural Environment Research Council’s (NERC) Security of Supply of Mineral Resources

research grant programme. The £7 million pot will be awarded to 3-4 finalist from the 14 projects that have already secured seed funding. CREEN has also been invited to meet with the German delegation attending the PDAC annual convention.

As always, feel free to contact CREEN with any suggestions you may have.

Ian M London, Chair, contact@ree-etr.ca