

The World is Watching Sio Silica and Manitoba

All eyes are on Canada and Manitoba — timely action is required to maintain a competitive position in the global market. Current developments present an opportunity to influence long-term industry outcomes.



Winnipeg, Manitoba Aug 28, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Manitoba stands at the forefront of a critical decision — one that could define its economic and global standing for decades to come. The Sio Silica project near Vivian is not just a provincial issue. It is emerging as a national test case for whether Canada can match its clean energy ambitions with action.

With the global energy transition accelerating, demand for high-purity silica, a key input for solar panels, batteries, EVs, and semiconductors, is skyrocketing. Governments across the U.S. and EU are aggressively “friendshoring” supply chains, seeking stable, democratic partners for critical minerals. Manitoba has a unique chance to meet this demand, but delays or indecision risk undermining its credibility as a global clean-tech partner.

Carla Devlin, President of Sio Silica, captured the importance of this moment: **“We often talk about the environment and the economy as if they’re separate. The truth is that a strong environment depends on a strong economy, and Manitoba has a rare chance to deliver both through the Sio Silica project.”**

Sio Silica says its mine would create between 50 and 100 direct jobs, generate approximately \$1.2 billion in provincial revenues, and spark a green technology manufacturing ecosystem — a project never seen in Manitoba. The potential for downstream spin-off businesses is substantial, including solar panel manufacturing, semiconductor materials processing, Indigenous employment partnerships, and advanced materials research labs rooted in local supply. This project could anchor billions of dollars in long-term investment and create a pathway for new training and employment opportunities. Institutions like the University of Manitoba and regional polytechnics would be well-positioned to help develop the skilled workforce needed for a growing clean-tech manufacturing cluster.

The Sio Silica project aligns squarely with this vision. Beyond job creation and provincial tax income, it offers Manitoba a strategic anchor for industrial transformation. A reliable, high-grade silica supply would make the province a supplier to the suppliers, integrating clean-tech manufacturing clusters and creating skilled, future-facing jobs.

This opportunity comes amid a seismic global shift. Governments around the world are investing heavily in domestic processing and manufacturing — not only in response to rising U.S. tariffs, but also to reduce dependency on China, which still dominates global mineral processing. Regardless of where raw materials are sourced, they often pass through China before reaching the market as usable clean-tech components. Nations striving for self-reliance know this must change.

The United States has led with economic programs like the CHIPS Act and Inflation Reduction Act, triggering trillions in manufacturing investment. But the trend is global. Self-sufficiency now drives industrial policy in Europe, Asia, and beyond. And central to that ambition is secure access to raw materials — like the high-purity silica sitting in Manitoba.

While Sio Silica has waited for regulatory clarity, its story has quietly gone international. Governments, private industry, and even the U.S. Air Force are now aware of Manitoba's resource potential. More stakeholders are watching with each passing day. This is no longer just a provincial matter. How Manitoba proceeds will demonstrate whether it is ready to contribute to the global movement for democratic resource independence — or not.

“Canada’s credibility — and Manitoba’s — as a source of responsible, world-class resources is on the line. Sio Silica is Manitoba’s opportunity to demonstrate that environmental stewardship and economic opportunity can go hand in hand. We can build a cleaner, stronger, and more resilient economy — but the decision must be made now. International stakeholders are closely monitoring the progress of this project in Manitoba.” — Feisal Somji, Founder & CEO, Sio Silica

This resource anchor would also unlock new training and employment opportunities. Partnerships with the University of Manitoba, technical colleges, and Indigenous employment programs would become viable as industries scale up around the silica supply. Manitoba could become a supplier to the suppliers, integrating itself into the global clean technology ecosystem while creating skilled, future-facing jobs at home.

Critically, the project has undergone extensive regulatory review and consultation, demonstrating a commitment to environmental protection and community engagement. With growing global demand for responsibly sourced critical minerals, Sio Silica offers a competitive edge in a market where transparency and sustainability are non-negotiable.

Manitoba now has a decision to make. It can signal to the world that it is ready to lead on critical

minerals and clean industrial development. Or it can risk diminishing its credibility and missing a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

All eyes are on Canada and Manitoba — timely action is required to maintain a competitive position in the global market. Current developments present an opportunity to influence long-term industry outcomes, and the time to act is now.

We invite you to read the full article, “**The World is Watching Sio Silica and Manitoba**” published on MiningIR at <https://miningir.com/the-world-is-watching-sio-silica-and-manitoba/>



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