

EAGLE'S EYE

A news update from Noront Resources about development in the Ring of Fire

Why the Soo?

By Stephen Flewelling, CDO

 On May 7, 2019, Noront announced Sault Ste. Marie as the location of our future Ferrochrome Production Facility (FPF).

This followed a two-year analysis during which we narrowed our decision from four site proposals to the final choice. So, why exactly did we choose the Soo?

First, it's worth noting that smelters are time-consuming and expensive to build. For this reason, a smelter construction is typically undertaken only when there is a world-class deposit that will require processing for multiple decades. Noront has three chromite deposits with measured and indicated resources that will allow us to produce ferrochrome for the North American market for the next 100 years.

When determining where to build, a typical location would be right beside the deposit (which allows for lower ore transport costs) or on the water (which would reduce the cost of moving products to and from markets). The Ring of Fire is a boggy, swampy location with no electrical infrastructure, so construction beside the mine was not an option. For this reason, we started a four-city selection process.

All participating communities had great existing brown field sites that we could re-purpose, but only one had the combination of infrastructure, power, experienced workforce, community support and a water-side location on the Great Lakes. Sault Ste. Marie's lower operating costs in relation to the estimated lifespan of the project made it the best fit for our needs.



Alan and Chief Dorothy at the AGM

Welcome Aroland

By Alan Coutts, President and CEO

 Aroland First Nation is located 20 km west of Nakina in Northwestern Ontario and holds the traditional lands at the south end of the proposed North-South all-season road to the Ring of Fire.

The Noront team visited Aroland in mid-May to better understand the vision and economic development strategy that Chief and Council have for their community.

Together, we toured the reserve and drove the Anaconda Road, which will be upgraded to serve as the first leg of a shared community and industrial corridor heading north. We also visited an old CN Rail track at Cavell, which may be reused as a trans-load facility to move ore from the Ring of Fire off trucks and onto railcars.

On June 6, 2019, Chief Dorothy Towedo signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) with Noront on behalf of her community. It formalized the relationship between Aroland and Noront and establishes an ongoing working and communication protocol. Everyone involved understands that early dialogue about the project and the associated infrastructure development is key to our joint success.

"Our First Nation is encouraged by Noront's inclusive approach to advancing mutually beneficial opportunities with First Nations. Early dialogue is key," said Chief Dorothy.

Signing the MOU also made Aroland a Noront shareholder, and we were thrilled to have Chief Dorothy join other shareholders at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) the following day. Also attending the AGM was Chief Bruce Achneepineskum of Marten Falls First Nation.

From India to Esker



EMPLOYEE PROFILE:

KARAN PATEL

COMMUNITY:

THUNDER BAY

JOB POSITION:

HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATOR

What do you do at Noront?

I am currently Health and Safety Coordinator, a role I moved into after a co-op placement that was part of my post-graduate program in Engineering Business and Safety Management at Confederation College.

What does a typical day look like for you?

I start by checking and responding to emails, then I plan the rest of my day. This usually involves preparing Job Hazard Analyses for non-routine work packages, assisting the Site & Project Manager Mike Desilets, and planning wellness programs and activities. I also keep track of employee training records and roll out training packages.

What was it like to visit Esker Site?

I'm from India where a cold day is 10 degrees and we never have snow, so I barely knew what to expect. There are many things I'll remember for a long time...

- My first time on a small plane
- Landing on a frozen lake
- Feeling like I was in the middle of nowhere during the snowmobile ride to camp
- It was strange but great to need sunglasses despite the cold
- My first up close encounter with the fox in the middle of night on my way to the kitchen for water. I was a bit scared, but later felt so comfortable with her around
- The well-equipped kitchen was amazing, as were the healthy meals served three times a day

- I had delicious vegetarian food made specially for me and felt so welcome
- Everybody was so friendly, it quickly felt like home away from home

What do you like best about working at Noront?

I'm honoured to be a part of a growing company and love working with the team. It's been really interesting doing week-long rotations at site. After every successful meeting and project launch, I get more excited about Noront's future. The best part is being around the wonderful people, surrounded by nature and having a chance to spot wildlife – it's not just a job!

What are some of the differences between working in India and working in Canada?

One thing that's great is in Canada we get the weekend off! India has a six-day work week in almost every industry. Also, in Canada there is greater importance on employee and workplace health and safety. Another difference is the formality. In India, we address managers and senior management with "Sir" or "Ma'am", and we never call them by their name as that would be considered rude, whereas here in Canada it is the opposite.

What is your top safety tip?

Always be aware of your surroundings, no matter where you are. With good presence of mind one can avoid accidents. Dress according to the weather and never underestimate the power of nature!

Digging Deeper: The True Value of Training

By Roydon Spence, Geological Technician

 My first job with Noront was assisting with the major core haul program at McFauld's Lake in 2014. Since then I've taken on other roles and contracts, and I now work as a geological technician at Esker Site where I help the geologists and work with core.

I recently completed KKETS' Surface and Underground Diamond Driller Assistant Common Core certification at the Norcat training facility in Sudbury. I took this program to better myself so I can continue to grow, increase my skills and build my confidence at work. The training taught me about workplace safety, protecting the environment, performance efficiency, proper procedures, improving communication skills and working within a team—which are all facets of the driller assistant job.

My favourite part of the course was the practical portion where we applied what we learned—like operating rod handlers in an underground mine and rigging, hoisting, recovering and handling core. At times, it was challenging to sit for long hours in a classroom as I prefer hands on work, which is more rewarding to me. But it was more than worth it because I learned new skills that I can use in the mining sector.

Being away from family and friends for an extended period of time was also difficult, but life is all about becoming the best you can be and you can't move forward or grow if you're not willing to be in uncomfortable situations.

Overall, I believe training is important for many reasons. It helps us recognize safety hazards and correct them, improves our performance at work and helps us do our job to the best of our abilities. I encourage everyone in the Matawa communities to take advantage of the training offered through KKETS.

For more information on KKETS training programs, visit www.kkets.ca or contact Jason Bilcowski at jbilcowski@matawa.on.ca