

June 26, 2020

NEW REPORT DETAILS SPREAD OF COVID-19 THROUGH GLOBAL MINING INDUSTRY

Global News – June 2

A new report ([attached](#)) detailing COVID-19 outbreaks in mining facilities is accusing dozens of mining companies of prioritizing profit at the expense of the health of workers and local communities by continuing to operate during the pandemic.

The report released Tuesday aggregates data from more than 18 countries. Within Canada, many provinces listed mining operations as “essential” in March when shutting down workplaces and businesses in order to cut down on large gatherings in accordance with COVID-19 health precautions. Since the pandemic began, Francescone said, mining operations across the world have become “hotspots for transmission of the virus.”

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/new-report-details-spread-of-covid-19-through-global-mining-industry-1.4966770>

RING OF FIRE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Noront Eagle’s Eye Blog – June 3

The permitting and construction of all-season roads and associated infrastructure into the Ring of Fire is the key enabler to the development of this emerging mineral district and for remote First Nation communities in the region.

<http://blog.norontresources.com/2020/06/ring-of-fire-infrastructure-development/#more-1451>

EXPLORATION UPDATE: NIKKA DEPOSIT AT MCFAULDS

Noront Eagle’s Eye Blog – June 3

In Fall 2019 we began a resource estimate to quantify the size and grade of the No. 8 Lens and provide updated resource estimates for the No. 1 and No. 3 Lenses. We also collected positioning data for the historic drill holes to help us create better geological modelling and brought in an independent geologist to provide an estimate on all three lenses. Because they are in close proximity, we consider these three lenses to be a single deposit with multiple zones. Going forward, we are calling it the Nikka Deposit. Nikka means Canada Goose in Ojicree and maintains the boreal forest bird theme that Noront follows in naming its various deposits. Based on our geological understanding, and the promising targets we have generated since we began exploring here in 2017, we believe there is much more to be found at McFaulds.

<http://blog.norontresources.com/2020/06/exploration-update-nikka-deposit-at-mcfaulds/>

SUDBURY INNOVATION CENTRE GETS \$1.3M FOR MINE WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Northern Ontario Business – June 8

NORCAT will develop training programs that combine online learning, virtual reality, equipment simulation training, and in-field competency training on mechanized bolters, jumbo drills, and load-haul-dump machines. The centre will work on the project in concert with Vale, Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations – Glencore, and Technica Mining over a 21-month period.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sudbury/sudbury-innovation-centre-gets-13m-for-mine-worker-training-programs-2418378>

NIGHTHAWK PROVIDES UPDATE ON ALL SEASON ROAD BUILD IN THE NWT

Cision – June 9

Total workers employed: 124; Tłıchq: 32; Northern: 16; Southern: 76; Female: 10. The road construction is being funded through a public-private partnership, with the federal government providing 25% of the capital costs. The remainder is being funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The territorial government is working in partnership with the Tłıchq First Nation government to advance the project.

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/nighthawk-provides-update-on-the-all-season-road-build-in-the-northwest-territories-833751559.html>

LEGAL EXPERTS CALL FOR HALT TO 'MINING AS USUAL' DURING PANDEMIC

CBC News – June 9

The chief of Neskantaga First Nation, in northern Ontario, has previously requested the province press pause on mining exploration permits, citing concerns that his community does not have the resources to deal with permitting issues, while also dealing with the pandemic. In a written statement to CBC News, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines said the government acknowledges "the additional stress" placed on Indigenous communities in shoring up defences against the COVID-19 outbreak, and that regular communication is taking place to understand the challenges. The government is also "exploring means by which consultation can occur meaningfully and safely with communities without face-to-face meetings." "We are dealing with decisions on a case-by-case basis, have temporarily paused some permitting decisions where appropriate, and will continue to reassess the evolving situation," the statement continued.

Scott said she has questions about the government's case-by-case approach, and concerns about putting the onus on communities to ask for processes to be paused.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/ontario-mineral-exploration-indigenous-consultation-covid-1.5603412?_vfz=medium%3Dsharebar

HOW MUCH BALONEY IS IN THE RING OF FIRE SANDWICH?

Republic of Mining - June 18 (Opinion by Frank Smeenk)

While it may be quintessentially Canadian to not applaud the discovery of a potentially huge and undeniably strategic source of chromite, dismissing it as editorialized in the Globe and Mail's A Road to Nowhere is hardly fair. In fact, that assessment is diametrically opposed to the reality of the potential that lies at the end of that road – the source of a world-class, world-leading, stainless-steel industry that will prove to be much more environmentally friendly than current sources, and will provide strategic independence for Canada and the United States, in a key building material for future generations, which has now become a national security issue focus. And rightly so!

<https://republicofmining.com/2020/06/18/how-much-baloney-is-in-the-ring-of-fire-sandwich-by-frank-smeenk-june-18-2020/>

CHIEF ECHUM WON BACK LAND OWED TO HER COMMUNITY

Globe and Mail – June 19

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ginoogaming-first-nation-chief-celia-echum-won-back-land-owed-to-her/>

SIX MONTH EXTENSION GRANTED TO CALSTOCK BIOMASS POWER PLANT

My Kapuskasing Now – June 19

A six month contract extension has been granted between the Calstock Biomass Power Plant and the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation. The 20 year contract was scheduled to expire on June 4th but are continuing to work out a longer extension to the agreement. Hearst Mayor Roger Siguoin says the reprieve allows them time to get something done.

<https://www.mykapuskasingnow.com/35975/six-month-extension-granted-to-calstock-biomass-power-plant/>

HISTORIC FRAMEWORK SIGNED FOR FIRST NATIONS-LED ATLANTIC WATER AUTHORITY

Global News - June 23

On Tuesday, the federal government signed an agreement that will transfer responsibility for water and wastewater services from Indigenous Services Canada to the Atlantic First Nations Water Authority (AFNWA). The First Nations-led water authority will act as a single utility provider for 15 Indigenous communities in the region, serving more than 4,500 households. This is the first framework of its kind in Canada.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7096631/first-nations-atlantic-water-authority/>

MINISTER GREG RICKFORD SENDS LETTER TO MINISTER HAJDU ON INCREASED TESTING FOR MINING COMPANIES NEAR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Twitter - June 25

We have expressed to our federal counterparts the need for increased access to rapid testing technologies to support Northern businesses, including mining companies, to protect their workforce and adjacent Indigenous communities ([see letter dated June 22 attached](#)).