

November 15, 2018

LACK OF CONSULTATION ON RING OF FIRE DEVELOPMENT FRUSTRATES FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 9

The lack of an all-inclusive provincial strategy to advance development in the Ring of Fire is frustrating two remote First Nation communities in the area of the Far North mineral deposits. In a Nov. 9 news release, the communities of Neskantaga and Eabametoong called out the Ford government for suspending a provincially-sponsored consultation process, known as the Regional Framework Agreement, and not replacing a fired negotiator. Two other communities on board for a north-south access road are being rewarded as engineering and environmental assessment processes are underway for two stretches between the Ring of Fire deposits and Webequie First Nation, and Nakina and Marten Falls First Nation. The Neskantaga and Eabemetoong chiefs warn the Ford government that ignoring their voices and moving ahead with the environmental assessments for the access roads could backfire on the province and place the Ring of Fire mine projects at legal risk.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/lack-of-consultation-on-ring-of-fire-development-frustrates-first-nation-communities-1117466>

NESKANTAGA AND EABAMETOONG ISSUE DECLARATION OF ALLIANCE AND SHARED REGULATORY TERRITORY

NetnewsLedger – Nov 10

The communities of Neskantaga and Eabametoong continue to stand together while pointing to the way forward in the north and on the Ring of Fire. These two First Nations, united by a shared history, are committing to advance their interests through a political alliance to regulate and protect their combined territories. While the Ford government is quietly using some communities to advance bare-bones environmental processes to get roads planned, these Chiefs warn that approach is fraught with legal and technical issues that will backfire. Despite the Ford government's suspension of the Regional Framework Agreement negotiations, these two First Nations are inviting the Premier to visit their communities and reaffirm Ontario's commitment to the common principles and objectives in the 2011 Unity Declaration, signed by all nine Matawa Chiefs.

In the meantime, we will be establishing our own processes. We confirm that the priority issues, as agreed with Ontario at our Jurisdiction Table negotiations are road infrastructure and road ownership and governance, land management, and permitting. We encourage Ontario to continue with the processes that will lead to a common agreement.

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2018/11/10/neskantaga-and-eabametoong-issue-declaration-of-alliance-and-shared-regulatory-territory/>

NEW THUNDER BAY-ATIKOKAN POWER LINE MAY BE NEEDED AS MINING SECTOR GROWS: IESO

CBC News – Nov 12

"When we look out over the next 20 years, we see a potential need for new supply in the north, particularly given some of the work that's going on ... around the expansion of the mining sector, including the Ring of Fire," said Terry Young, a vice-president with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). "We see a need, potential need, for new transmission facilities." The new line would be called the Northwest Bulk Line, and the IESO is asking Hydro One to do some preliminary work looking into the cost, route, and timeline to build the line, Young said. "The idea is to get as prepared as we can, so that should we need to go forward with this new line, we've done all the advanced work that needs to be done," Young said. The Northwest Bulk Line, if it's constructed, would help move excess power from Thunder Bay, brought in through the East-West Tie Line, to other areas in the region, depending on need, Young said.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/northwest-bulk-line-1.4899638>

NESKANTAGA AND EABAMETOONG STAND UP TO DOUG FORD

Wawatay News – Nov 13

Nearly 60 community citizens from both Neskantaga and Eabametoong First Nations gathered for a fundraiser and rally against Ontario Premier Doug Ford's recent statements about the Ring of Fire. The event "Into the Ring with Ford" was held at Ryerson University in Toronto on November 9th. It was organized by the Yellowhead Institute, and was live broadcast on Wawatay Radio Network and Wawatay News Online.

<http://www.wawataynews.ca/politics/neskantaga-and-eabametoong-stand-doug-ford>

FORMER TIMMINS MAYOR WANTED TO BUY THE RING OF FIRE

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 13

In his first week in office, Timmins Mayor Steve Black wanted to buy a mine. Sharing the story of how he wanted to purchase the Ring of Fire is one of the memories he shared about his time in office as he chaired his final council meeting Nov. 13. Being elected as a councillor in 2010 was a life-changing moment for Black. When the next election rolled around, he won the mayor's seat. Back in 2014 in his first week on the job as mayor, he recalled going to the CAO and announcing his desire to buy a mine.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/former-timmins-mayor-wanted-to-buy-the-ring-of-fire-1122705#details-shares>

SUPPORTING THE NORTH – FORD GOV'T FALL ECONOMIC UPDATE

Attached – Excerpts on Ring of Fire, Review of Far North Act, Resource Revenue Sharing, Mining Working Group, Supporting Consolidation of the Electricity Distribution Centre, Supporting Pipeline Construction