

March 8, 2019

MAKING INROADS ON THE RING OF FIRE?

Canadian Mining Journal – Feb 1

Depending on who you talk to, Noront Resources has either taken a key step forward to meeting its production targets at its Eagle's Nest nickel-copper-platinum-palladium development in the Ring of Fire (ROF) or a giant step backwards. To date, the Toronto base metals company has handed off environmental assessment (EA) permitting for the contentious all-weather community access road into the site to local First Nations – while delaying by another year its production timeline to 2023. “Our production depends entirely on the timing of the road construction and they still have to finish the EA and physical construction of the road,” says Noront CEO Alan Coutts. “You can’t rush these assessments; they have to be done properly, or they will end up in the courts.”

<http://www.canadianminingjournal.com/features/making-inroads-on-the-ring-of-fire/>

BILL C-69 WILL KILL JOBS, SAYS MINING MINISTER

Timmins Today – Mar 2

Ontario Northern Development and Mines Minister Greg Rickford is warning that a proposal to overhaul the federal Environmental Assessment Act will hamstring new natural resource and energy projects and jeopardize the creation of thousands of new jobs in Ontario.

Rickford, who oversees the Energy and Northern Development and Mines portfolios, spoke before the federal Senate Standing Committee on the Government of Canada's proposed Bill C-69 on Feb. 26.

<https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/bill-c-69-will-kill-jobs-says-mining-minister-1268424>

CHIEF ELIZABETH ATLOOKAN – I AM NOT ATTENDING PDAC (OPINION)

NetnewsLedger – Mar 2

This is the first time in the past five years when I’m not attending PDAC. The annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada convention is the largest event of its kind in the world. This is the big show for mining firms, financiers, and junior companies trying to make their next big play. Over 24,000 people attended in 2017; it is a big show. It is also the venue of choice for Ontario’s big announcements or Federal investments on mining, and the buzz around Ring of Fire topics has always drawn hundreds of onlookers to panel discussions. It is, however, a more receptive crowd to miner’s dreams than an Ojibway Grandmother’s truth. It is time for more truth-telling.

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2019/03/02/chief-elizabeth-atlookan-i-am-not-attending-pdac/>

CANADA’S MINES MINERALS UNVEIL THE CANADIAN MINERALS AND METALS PLAN

Government of Canada Website – Mar 3

Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, together with his provincial and territorial counterparts, today unveiled the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan, a milestone in Canada’s mining history. The Plan includes six strategic directions to achieve its vision.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2019/03/canadas-mines-ministers-unveil-the-canadian-minerals-and-metals-plan-a-visionary-plan-to-inspire-and-shape-the-future-of-canadian-mining.html>

STATEMENT BY ONTARIO AND SASKATCHEWAN ON THE CANADIAN MINERALS AND METALS PLAN

Ontario Newsroom – Mar 3

However, in recent years, Canada's mineral sector has faced severe economic challenges. And while Ontario and Saskatchewan agree with some of the elements covered in the CMMP, we believe this plan needed to specifically address economic and competitiveness challenges and send a strong message to investors around the world that

Canada is prepared to take real action to support our mining sector. Unfortunately, this plan does neither. As such, Ontario and Saskatchewan do not endorse the CMMP. Ontario, Saskatchewan and the mining industry are concerned about how misguided federal policy will stand in the way of progress. Energy-intensive sectors, such as mining, are at great risk of suffering from skyrocketing energy costs.

https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/03/statement-by-ontario-and-saskatchewan-on-the-canadian-minerals-and-metals-plan.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

ONTARIO CUTTING RED TAPE IN THE MINING SECTOR

Ontario Newsroom – Mar 4

Ontario's Government for the People is creating a special Mining Working Group focused on reducing red tape and attracting major new investments. Today, Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, announced the establishment of the Mining Working Group. Members include Renaud Adams, Director, President and CEO, New Gold; Carol Banducci, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, IAMGOLD; Brent Bergeron, Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Goldcorp; Marc Boissonneault, Head of Global Nickel Assets, Glencore; John Burzynski, President CEO and Director, OSISKO; Garry Clark, Executive Director/Chair, Ontario Prospectors Association; Alan Coutts, President and CEO, Noront Resources Ltd.; Daniella Dimitrov, Partner, Sprott; Catharine Farrow, Director, Franco Nevada; J.P. Gladu, President and CEO, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business; Chris Hodgson, President, Ontario Mining Association; Tony Makuch, President and CEO, Kirkland Lake Gold; Mike McCann, Head of Mining and Milling, North Atlantic Operations, Vale; Marvin Pelletier, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, Carbonix, and President, Maawandoon Inc.; Stephen Roman, Chairman, President and CEO, Harte Gold; Greg Rickford (Chair), Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines.

NEW COALITION SAYS EAST-WEST ROUTE TO RING OF FIRE NEEDED NOW

Sioux Lookout Hub of the North – Mar 5

The East-West Ring of Fire Road Coalition (EWRFC) is a new organization at the world's largest mining conference, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada conference (#PDAC2019) advocating for an "East - West road" to access the Ring of Fire. The EWRFC contends this route will benefit the greatest number of Ontario communities, providing all-season road access, increasing the range of economic opportunities associated with the Ring of Fire - a massive deposit of the mineral chromite, with an estimate value of \$60 billion. The EWRFC was conceived to represent municipalities, First Nation communities and businesses in Northwestern Ontario supporting the construction of a four-season access road into the Far North. Which will build on the current success of First Nation businesses in Sioux Lookout.

<http://www.huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/release/Sioux-Lookout--PACE/5-3-19/New-Coalition-says-East-West-route-to-Ring-of-Fire-needed-now/3558.html>

NEW NORTHERN ONTARIO COALITION LOBBIES FOR EAST-WEST ROUTE TO RING OF FIRE

CBC News – Mar 6

Lawrance said one of the benefits of the route is that its construction would align well with construction of the Wataynikaneyap Power line in the region. "They will need roads to develop this power line, and having an all-weather road will make this a lot easier," he said. Lawrance said he was joined by representatives of Cat Lake and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations at Tuesday's event, and added that some other communities including Red Lake and Pickle Lake are supportive of the coalition. He said they plan to reach out to others as well. While the east-west route was first proposed by the mining company Noront, Lawrance said the Ring of Fire deposit isn't the only reason to build year-round roads in the north.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/coalition-road-ring-of-fire-1.5043927>

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS, SKILLED WORKERS

Northern Ontario Business – Mar 6

Under the new program guidelines, applicants are no longer required to be recent university or college graduates, and funding can apply to a wider variety of internships, including skilled trades. Program candidates will now include new entrants into the workforce, those transitioning to a new career, the unemployed and underemployed.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/training-education/internship-program-to-increase-opportunities-for-indigenous-skilled-workers-1308620>

MARTEN FALLS COMMENCING STUDY ON ALL-SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

NetnewsLedger – Mar 7

Marten Falls First Nation is commencing a study under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990 for the design, construction and operation/maintenance of a proposed All-Season Community Access Road (the Project). Marten Falls First Nation Chief Bruce Achneepineskum says, "This is a project Marten Falls is doing to enhance our community and make our community more accessible for our community members. It will be the launch pad for our community to access economic opportunities in our territory that have never been available."

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2019/03/07/marten-falls-commencing-study-on-all-season-community-access-road/>

ONTARIO TO RELEASE 2019 BUDGET ON APRIL 11

Ontario Newsroom – Mar 7

As the Government for the People continues to restore trust, transparency and accountability in Ontario's finances, Vic Fedeli, Minister of Finance, announced today that he will deliver the 2019 Ontario Budget on April 11, 2019. "Our government's first Budget will outline our plan to return the Province to balance in a responsible manner, and protect what matters most - preserving critical public services, including our world-class health care and education system," said Fedeli.

https://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2019/03/ontario-to-release-2019-budget-on-april-11.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p