

March 8, 2021

[Protecting the “Breathing Lands” - WWF.CA](#)

Mar 2 - Northern Ontario’s evocatively named Ring of Fire — upstream of the traditional territory of the seven First Nations forming the Mushkegowuk Council — is a hotbed of mineral deposits. But that’s not all this area is sitting on. The overlapping Hudson and James Bay Lowlands are pockmarked by peatlands which are an incredibly dense and globally significant carbon storage site containing billions and billions of tonnes. So, what happens if you disturb that peatland laid down over tens of thousands of years? WWF-Canada is supporting the Mushkegowuk Council’s call for development moratorium on mining and industrial roads while the necessary baseline information is being gathered.

[The Drilldown: Endeavour Mining to prioritize gold mines in Africa - iPolitics](#)

Mar 2 - A number of Indigenous and environmental organizations, including the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and the Omushkegowuk Women’s Water Council (OWWC), have sent an open letter to the federal and provincial leaders to impose a moratorium on “mineral exploration or impact assessment work” in the Ring of Fire region. The northern Ontario region is covered by 325, 000 square kilometres worth of ancient peatlands, or muskeg, amounting to roughly 26 gigatons of carbon. Environment and Climate Change Canada has said that construction “could have negative effects on wetlands,” the National Observer reports. Meanwhile, Ontario’s Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines notes the Ring of Fire region has many valuable mineral deposits such as chromite, which is used in the production of stainless steel.

[A new surgical mask with Northern Ontario content is set to hit the market - TBNewsWatch.com](#)

Mar 3 - The company owns the Albany Graphite Project, 70 kilometres northwest of Hearst. Late last year it announced a collaboration with Trebor Rx Corp., which makes personal protective equipment and has production facilities in Collingwood, Ontario and Edmonton. The two companies jointly announced Wednesday that Trebor’s new surgical mask has passed Health Canada’s requirements as a Level 2 medical device. Trebor intends to begin marketing the ZEN-coated masks immediately with products available next month, as both companies ramp up production to meet what their statement called “strong demand” for the product.

[ZEN Graphene Solutions and Constance Lake First Nation Sign Implementation Agreement for Albany Project Development \(yahoo.com\)](#)

Mar 4 - ZEN Graphene Solutions Ltd. is pleased to announce further steps in collaboration with Constance Lake First Nation (CLFN) led by Chief Rick Allen. Pursuant to the July 13, 2011, Exploration Agreement, the July 19, 2018, Memorandum of Understanding and subsequent September 24, 2018 amendment, both parties have now signed an Implementation Agreement (IA). The IA sets out the governance, roles, responsibilities, and activities for establishing the Project Partnership Structure (PPS) to advance the Albany Graphite development (Development) and the relationship between ZEN and CLFN. The PPS will establish a framework and describe a structure to govern the long-term partnership between CLFN and ZEN to advance the Development.

[Diane Francis: Canada's missing the boat on mining — and the future | Financial Post](#)

Mar 4 - Fortunately, Canada does have enormous nickel, copper, lithium and cobalt capability, all critically important for the future, and there are processing and refining facilities underway. Next year, Saskatchewan will open a rare earth processing operation, and cobalt refineries for battery production exist in Ontario and Alberta. But there should be dozens of mines, processing plants and exploration projects tapping into the U.S. Energy Department’s US\$160-million rare earths research and development program. Canada has the resources, the brains and the track record to accelerate the transition to the New Economy and to cleaner energy. But we are crippled by a useless political class that never ran a pop stand.

[Collaboration required for mining region | Local News | chroniclejournal.com](#)

Mar 7 - Mineral wealth in the Ring of Fire may well become a central part of Ontario's economic recovery in the post COVID-19 pandemic era, but it can only be developed in partnership with First Nations that reside there, says Matawa First Nations. Matawa First Nations Management chief executive officer David Paul Achneepineskum underlined the point last month as part of consultations in the lead-up to the federal budget expected sometime this spring.