

December 8, 2017

FIRST NATIONS BOND DEAL BREAKS GROUND FOR INDIGENOUS CANADIANS, SETS STAGE FOR FUTURE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Financial Post – Dec 6

An unprecedented foray into the Canadian bond market by two small First Nations communities in northern Alberta may provide a template for future business partnerships involving Aboriginals. It took three years to engineer a deal that turned Fort McKay and Mikisew Cree First Nations into owners of a 49 per cent stake in a Suncor Energy Inc. storage facility near the country's oilsands region in Fort McMurray.

http://business.financialpost.com/news/fp-street/first-nations-bond-deal-breaks-ground-for-indigenous-canadians?utm_content=64132567&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

MPP WANTS MORE EMPHASIS ON NORTHERN ISSUES, INCLUDING RAIL

Bay Today – Dec 7

"I've spoken many times on this and given many examples of how this has been the case – from the Far North Act to the cancellation of the Northlander to the Ring of Fire. "The government should do more to institutionalize the impact on Northern Ontario on decisions made at Queen's Park."

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/mpp-wants-more-emphasis-on-northern-issues-including-rail-784631>

REPORT: BUDGET SUFFICIENCY FOR FIRST NATIONS WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Canadian Parliamentary Budget Office Website – Dec 7

The Canadian Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) has released its report "Budget Sufficiency for First Nations and Water and Wastewater Infrastructure." PBO estimates the minimum capital investment required to meet actual and future W&WW needs until 2020 at \$3.2 billion, with drinking water systems accounting for 57% (\$1.8 billion) and wastewater systems accounting for the rest (\$1.4 billion). PBO's estimate of the annual operating and maintenance needs is \$361 million. Of this total, \$218 million is allocated to drinking water and the remaining amount is for wastewater systems. PBO analysis indicates that total historical spending (federal + others) since 2011-2012 and the planned spending announced in Budget 2016 can only cover 70% of the total investment needs.

http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/en/blog/news/FN_Water_Infrastructure

COST OF BRINGING FIRST NATIONS WATER SYSTEMS UP TO SNUFF COULD TOTAL \$32.B: PBO

National Post – Dec 7

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's promise to end all boil-water advisories on First Nations within five years won't happen without significantly more federal funding, Parliament's budget watchdog warns. In a report released Thursday, the parliamentary budget office estimates it will cost at least \$3.2 billion in capital investment to bring First Nations drinking water and wastewater systems up to standards comparable to non-Indigenous communities by 2020. That includes \$1.8 billion to upgrade drinking water systems and another \$1.4 billion to upgrade wastewater treatment, along with \$361 million in maintenance costs. The Trudeau government's first budget in 2016 allocated almost \$2 billion over five years for improving First Nations water and wastewater systems. But the PBO report says that falls far short of what's needed to deliver on Trudeau's 2015 campaign promise to end all long-term boil-water advisories in First Nations communities within five years.

<http://nationalpost.com/pm/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/cost-of-bringing-first-nations-water-systems-up-to-snuff-could-total-3-2b-pbo>

OPINION: PLANT NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT – O’CONNOR

Sault Star – Dec 7

With the Ring of Fire’s new access road development plans moving forward, as a result of the Ontario government working together with three northern First Nations bands, the rich mineral deposits in this James Bay region may now have a viable way out. Noront Resources wants a brownfield site zoned for heavy industrial use- we got it. Noront wants the smelter located near the Great Lakes to reach customers – we got it. Power and rail connections – we got it. A skilled workforce – check. Access to US markets – we can’t get any closer. Now all that is needed is community support.

<http://www.saultstar.com/2017/12/07/plant-needs-public-support---oconnor>

BRIDGING THE CULTURAL GAP

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 8

Crowe said many of the clients include mining and forestry companies who are negotiating with bands to forge business deals and seek permission to operate on their traditional land. Among the services, she offers courses in improving diversity consciousness, introduction to the Indigenous community, economic and holistic benefits to working with the Indigenous community and land use planning.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/thunder-bay/bridging-the-cultural-gap-786310>