

October 19, 2018

ALL-SEASON ROAD TO NWT'S PROPOSED PRAIRIE CREEK MINE APPROVED

CBC News – Oct 16

Federal approval for the road came in an Oct. 9 letter from Carolyn Bennett, minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board. The board approved the project a year ago on the condition that Canadian Zinc carry out 16 measures to reduce the impact the road will have on the environment. The measures include ongoing monitoring of permafrost along the route, wildlife monitoring incorporating traditional knowledge, and the creation of an independent technical panel to ensure the road's design protects people and the environment. "I definitely think this delay has helped us and will help make sure we do the best we can with Nahanni Butte and LKFN and the other Dene groups involved in this process," said MacDonald. He said the company is meeting monthly with those two First Nations in an attempt to reach environmental management and traditional land use agreements. Nahanni Butte plans to move ahead with road construction despite court case. The agreements would have set out the First Nations' involvement in the design, construction, operation and eventual closure of the road. Both sides wanted the minister to order the agreements be finalized before construction of the road begins.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/prairie-creek-mine-all-season-road-1.4864345>

NUXALK NATION STEWARDSHIP, CULTURE FEATURED IN CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC

Coast Funds – Oct 16

"The program provides secure jobs to Indigenous people in a region with few, but it offers more than just employment. As eyes and ears watching over water and land, the Watchmen are enacting a simple but potentially revolutionary principle: the return of territories and resources to Indigenous protection. While Clyde tracks our patrol through linguistic history, Ernie uses an app on his standard issue Guardian Watchmen tablet to collect data. Last year, the Nuxalk Guardian Watchmen traversed 14,723 kilometres of territory on 139 patrols. They are well on their way to exceeding that number this year. The data they collect is uploaded to the cloud where First Nations policy-makers combine it with science, analytics and traditional Indigenous governance systems. Indigenous governance and environmental science often advance in tandem. The Nuxalk Guardian Watchmen recently wrapped up a bear study that helped advance knowledge about bear behaviors and populations in their territory. The Watchmen are often the only authorities out on the land.

<https://coastfunds.ca/news/nuxalk-nation-stewardship-culture-featured-in-canadian-geographic/>

TWO SAWMILLS EXPAND PRODUCTION

TB Newswatch – Oct 17

A spokesperson for a union representing forest industry workers says northwestern Ontario workers are benefiting from a rebound in softwood lumber prices. According to Dryden-based Unifor national representative Stephen Boon, Kenora Forest Products has confirmed it is hiring 15 to 20 new employees for a weekend production shift set to start next month. This comes on the heels of Eacom Timber hiring about a dozen workers in August when it expanded production from four to five days a week at its Ear Falls sawmill. Boon said the union is "extremely pleased" to see both mills expanding to take advantage of a low Canadian dollar and rebounding lumber prices. He said Kenora Forest Products will convert to a seven-day operation next month.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/two-sawmills-expand-production-1088715>

FORMER ONTARIO DEPUTY MINISTER JOINS CONSULTING FIRM

Northern Ontario Business – Oct 18

Retirement didn't last long for David de Launay. The former deputy minister with Northern Development and Mines, who recently bid adieu to a 33-year public service career, has found a sweet landing spot with Enterprise Canada, a national public relations firm, specializing in government relations.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/former-ontario-deputy-minister-joins-consulting-firm-1090049>

SMITH SAYS PROVINCE WILL STREAMLINE SERVICES, BUT WON'T CUT JOBS

TB Newswatch – Oct 18

Ontario's minister of government and consumer services says the province plans to streamline Service Ontario's bottom line, but promised it won't come at the expense of jobs or outlet closures the Northwest. Todd Smith, who on Thursday toured the James Street Service Ontario offices in Thunder Bay, said saving taxpayer dollars is the Conservative Party's mandate Smith said on that end, it's clear progress needs to be made on the long-touted Ring of Fire mining project, which stalled under the previous governing Liberal government. That's going to change, Smith said. "Clearly we need to get a road built into that Ring of Fire. It's a tremendous opportunity. We have to work with our First Nations groups to ensure that that happens," Smith said, adding Natural Resources and Forestry Minister Greg Rickford and Premier Ford have been working on the file. "I know the conversations are ongoing. Hopefully there's some good news on that front soon too," Smith said.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/smith-says-province-will-streamline-services-but-wont-cut-jobs-1089997>