

November 16, 2018

FIRST NATIONS WANT A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR RING OF FIRE DEVELOPMENT

Ryersonian – Nov 14

A think tank at Ryerson is helping two First Nations oppose the current Ring of Fire development plan in northern Ontario. The Yellowhead Institute, which develops policy proposals in support of Indigenous jurisdiction, held a fundraiser on Nov. 9 for Neskantaga and Eabametoong First Nations. At the fundraiser, Chief Wayne Moonias of Neskantaga Nation and Chief Elizabeth Atlookan of Eabametoong Nation said Noront Resources Ltd. and the government have not adequately consulted the relevant First Nations, nor included them in the decision-making process. Ontario has been in talks with three of the nine First Nations in the Matawa Council: Marten Falls, Webequie and Nibinamik. Neskantaga and Eabametoong are also members of that council, but have not been involved in the talks. The negotiations between the Ontario government and those three First Nations have focused on creating a plan for the construction of year-round access roads to the proposed mining developments with Noront Resources. Marten Falls and Webequie ended up signing mining exploration agreements with Noront Resources

<https://ryersonian.ca/first-nations-want-a-seat-at-the-table-for-ring-of-fire-development/>

CELA CONDEMNS THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER OF ONTARIO

Website – Nov 15

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) reacted strongly to the Ontario government's introduction of Bill 57, which proposes to wholly eliminate the independent Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), and to transfer the ECO's existing duties to the Environment Minister and the Auditor General. "There is no public interest justification for this ill-conceived proposal," said CELA lawyer Richard Lindgren. "For over 25 years, the ECO has helped hold successive provincial governments accountable for their environmental decision-making, and the ECO has assisted countless Ontarians in exercising their legal rights under the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)." CELA joined 24 other organizations in sending an urgent letter to Premier Ford, informing the government to not proceed with this proposal.

<https://www.cela.ca/MR11152018>

FEDELI PROMISES ACTION ON THE RING OF FIRE

North Bay Nugget – Nov 16

Fedeli says the previous government delayed development of the Ring of Fire for 10 years, "and now we're saying no more. "There isn't going to be any more delays and putting things off, as we're going to deal directly with the First Nations communities to unleash the wealth in the Ring of Fire," he says. "We understand the wealth is important for the future growth of Northern Ontario. However, there hasn't been one ounce of oar come out of the ground." Fedeli says the province is ready to meet First Nations leaders and unlock the Ring's potential. A GoFundMe campaign set up by the First Nations council states that funds will go towards "legal support, [funding] meetings in the territory to strengthen alliances, and [building] capacity to mount a public campaign to stop unwanted development on their territories."

<https://www.nugget.ca/news/local-news/fedeli-promises-action-on-ring-of-fire>

VIC FEDELI REMARKS AT THE CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO (VIDEO)

YouTube – Nov 16

(starting at: 44:55)

<https://twitter.com/search?q=ring%20of%20fire&src=typd>

SUPPORTING THE NORTH

Ring of Fire

The Ring of Fire is a large, geologically rich potential mining development area in Ontario's Far North. Located about 535 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, it holds significant deposits of minerals including chromite, nickel, copper, vanadium, platinum group metals and gold, among others. Given the volume of the deposits, it is estimated that the Ring of Fire could support mining operations for more than a century. Recent estimates suggest that the value of the mineral resources in the area could be more than \$60 billion,⁶ due in large part to known chromite and nickel deposits. The Ring of Fire represents a significant opportunity to open up the resources of Northern Ontario and create jobs in the region.

The government is committed to addressing the delays blocking the development of the Ring of Fire by working with willing partners to ensure sustainable development in the North.

Resource Revenue Sharing

The government will continue to explore ways to encourage development of natural resources across the North, by helping Northern towns and Indigenous communities share in the benefits of resource development from mining, forestry and aggregates.

Picture from Alan Coutts' Twitter (Nov 16) saying: "Pleased to see a commitment for sustainable development for the #RingofFire and for resource revenue sharing in the @fordnation government's Fall Economic Statement. Support for the North, good for all Ontarians."