

November 23, 2018

COO CHIEFS SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY (VIDEO)

YouTube – Nov 21

Minister Greg Rickford and Chiefs at 1:25:50 seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmNB98fUyKk>

ONTARIO PLAYING FAVOURITES WITH FIRST NATIONS ON RING OF FIRE, CHIEF SAYS

CBC Indigenous – Nov 23

Shortly before the 2018 Ontario election, Bob Rae sent a memo warning the nine Matawa First Nations chiefs to resolve internal differences or face the collapse of collective negotiations to develop the mineral rich zone in the James Bay lowlands known as the Ring of Fire. Rae, the tribal council's lead negotiator, said the next provincial government would likely abandon the main negotiating table created by a landmark 2014 regional framework agreement. "[Ford] has not said anything positive about engaging First Nations in any processes only that he would 'drive the bulldozer himself' to get road construction started," wrote Rae in the memo. Rae said in the memo the new government would likely favour striking deals with individual member First Nations to get a road built into the chromite, gold and vanadium-rich region which has an estimated value of about \$60 billion. Rae turned down a request for comment from CBC News. Rae's words to the Matawa First Nations — whose territories are closest to the Ring of Fire — proved prescient.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/ontario-ring-of-fire-mining-matawa-first-nations-1.4917040>

FIRST NATIONS NEAR RING OF FIRE PRESS INDIGENOUS MINISTER OVER CONSULTATION

CBC Thunder Bay – Nov 23

Rickford said he'd like to start by doing a "practical and pragmatic exercise" of looking at what infrastructure the communities, themselves, need. "Both within their communities and the connectivity, especially around roads and energy corridors, [they] could then potentially serve other interests that represent a longer-term economic opportunity," he said. "One of them may be focusing on a corridor for prosperity, so a road, instead of talking about a massive development." "Many of the economic development opportunities are around the legacy infrastructure pieces like creating electrification corridors, hydro corridors and perhaps roads, all-season roads to communities." Once those are built, Rickford said, industry and communities can then talk about specific projects. "We'll continue to move as full partners on any decisions that are made with respect to development in any way shape or form with the communities in any given region," he said. Atlookan said she remains suspicious that industrial development is at the forefront of the government's agenda. "Ultimately that's what this road ... is about, it's not so much about us," she said. "You're cutting red tape so that you can move this along real quickly."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/chiefs-of-ontario-assembly-ring-of-fire-1.4916764>