

January 29, 2019

A RIFT OVER INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION IN CANADA IS CREATING WINNERS AND LOSERS

Washington Post – Jan 18

Canadian governments tend to talk to the indigenous governments recognized by the Indian Act, which, since 1876, has required any “body of Indians” holding claim or trust to organize themselves through elected councils. Though politicians claim to find the Victorian paternalism of the Indian Act distasteful, the notion that aboriginal governments should conduct themselves democratically seemed among its least contentious provisions. Yet a recent jurisdictional struggle highlights the degree to which even that assumption can no longer be taken for granted.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/01/19/rift-over-indigenous-representation-canada-is-creating-winners-losers/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.835770ae78fe

MATAWA GROUP CONDUCTS WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP STUDY

TB Newswatch – Jan 22

The nine First Nations of the Matawa Tribal Council will participate in a research project aimed at increasing their capacity to manage over 300,000 square kilometres of watershed within their traditional homelands. The announcement was made Monday by Four Rivers Environmental Services Group, operated by Matawa First Nations Management. The Matawa Water Futures project is a collaborative study being undertaken with Wilfrid Laurier University. Lakehead University and Laurentian University researchers are also supporting the study.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/matawa-group-conducts-watershed-stewardship-study-1205889>

ACCESS TO RING OF FIRE TOP PRIORITY FOR NORONT; WORK CONTINUES ON ASSESSING SAULT AND TIMMINS

Sault Star – Jan 23

Without a road, Noront Resources cannot access the minerals found in the Ring of Fire. And that means moving forward too quickly on a processing facility is also not necessary. So the silence surrounding any decision by Noront Resources as to whether Sault Ste. Marie or Timmins will be the eventual host of a ferrochrome processing facility is nothing to panic about.

<https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/access-to-ring-of-fire-top-priority-for-noront-work-continues-on-assessing-sault-and-timmins>

MAYOR, CITY OFFICIALS HUDDLE WITH NORONT RESOURCES BRASS IN TORONTO

Soo Today - Jan 23

A delegation from Sault Ste. Marie travelled to Toronto late last week to meet with management of Noront Resources Inc. The mayor tells SooToday that no timeline has been set for the ongoing selection process, as Noront awaits word from the Ford government on access roads. Meanwhile, there's been some buzz on investor websites this week about higher prices and volumes for Noront shares. "Investors have placed Noront Resources Ltd (NOT.V) shares on watch as the Aroon Up indicator has moved above 70, indicating that there is strong upward momentum building for the shares," the Andover Caller reported today.

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/mayor-city-officials-huddle-with-noront-resources-brass-in-toronto-1205911>

RESPECT, TRANSPARENCY ARE KEYS TO FIRST NATION, MINING INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Northern Ontario Business – Jan 23

The junior mining company executive took part in an industry panel discussion on advancing – and sometimes repairing – relationships with First Nations at the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce's Procurement Employment Partnerships (PEP) Conference in Sudbury, Jan.22. There are many examples in Canada's natural resource history of relationships gone bad because of misunderstandings in what development can bring, awareness of project timelines and financials, ill-conceived attempts to force agreements, and general mistrust between communities, companies and government.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/respect-transparency-are-keys-to-first-nation-mining-partnerships-1209136>

FORD CLEARS THE WAY FOR MINE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER TELLS SUDBURY AUDIENCE

Sudbury Star – Jan 24

Mining projects in the region will now go forward with fewer hurdles and costs, a provincial cabinet minister assured participants of a resource development conference Wednesday. “I want the industries in Ontario to know that they have an ally and a partner in this government,” said Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River and minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, as well as minister of Indigenous Affairs. “That we’re committed to supporting and protecting and launching mining projects across Ontario.” That includes expediting development in the Ring of Fire, which Rickford said is long-overdue.

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/ford-clears-the-way-for-mine-development-minister-tells-sudbury-audience-2>

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES WON'T GET CUT OF MINING, FORESTRY TAX UNTIL 2020: MINISTER

CBC News – Jan 24

The Minister for Northern Development and Mines says northern Ontario communities won't get a cut of resource revenue until next year, at the earliest. Greg Rickford, who is also the Minister of Energy and Indigenous Affairs, made the comments in an interview with CBC News during a visit to Sudbury on Wednesday. "These aren't set up in haste. They've got to be done right," Rickford says. "We want a model that will serve all communities, but importantly deliver on a promise to ensure that northern communities, both municipalities and Indigenous communities, not currently covered under a resource revenue sharing agreement, start to capture resources from what we contribute to the Ontario economy."

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/northern-ontario-revenue-sharing-minister-northern-development-1.4990808>

BRUCE POWER SIGNS SUPPLIER AGREEMENT WITH LOCALLY-BASED FIRST NATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Bruce Power Website – Jan 25

Bruce Power has signed a supplier agreement with a new, locally-based, First Nation-owned joint business venture to provide construction services to Bruce Power, as part of the company's ongoing investment program. Makwa Development Corp., which is owned by Nawash residents Scott Lee and Shane Chegahno, has joined forces with Tron, a construction company based on Saskatchewan's English River First Nation that brings extensive experience working in Canada's nuclear sector. Tron and Makwa recently signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) to create a fully First Nation-owned venture, with experience in the nuclear sector and a goal of maximizing employment of local Indigenous people.

<https://www.brucepower.com/bruce-power-signs-supplier-agreement-with-locally-based-first-nation-construction-company/>

RICKFORD PROMISES PROGRESS IN THE RING OF FIRE

The First Nations Canada – Jan 26

In his Jan. 23 remarks at the Procurement, Employment, Partnerships Conference in Sudbury, Rickford referred to the James Bay mineral belt as a “region of prosperity” that’s been “complicated and overburdened with bureaucracy.” As a former board member of Noront Resources, Rickford said with \$20 million already invested in the region, the Ring of Fire has been an all-talk, no-action exercise with no shovels in the ground after a decade of discussion. When asked when funding could be expected to be released for the environmental assessment of the second phase, Rickford said the government will deliver on this project with mining-related infrastructure announcements in the near future. Rickford talked about forming a “coalition” of willing partners among First Nation communities and municipalities who support the construction of an access road as a “practical and pragmatic exercise” that will create jobs, generate revenue, incentivize business, and connect isolated Northern reserves. In an interview, Rickford defined that coalition as those communities that want to lead the environmental assessment processes and view the access road as a “corridor of prosperity” that will allow new infrastructure and business opportunities into the region if the mines go into development. He praised Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations, which have shown “extraordinary leadership” in leading the environmental assessment for the proposed north-south road.

<https://thefirstnationscanada.com/2019/01/rickford-promises-progress-in-the-ring-of-fire/>