

February 12, 2019

## **WESTERN JAMES BAY TELECOM NETWORK TO UPGRADE INTERNET SERVICE FOR ATTAWAPISKAT, KASHECHEWAN AND FORT ALBANY**

Wawatay – Jan 28

Western James Bay Telecom Network (WJBTN) will soon bring fibre to the home service to 957 homes in the communities of Attawapiskat, Kashechewan and Fort Albany. WJBTN will also increase transport and fibre internet capacity to community hospitals, schools and residents in these communities. To make these improvements possible, WJBTN has secured funding of \$2.296 million from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and \$441,193 from the Government of Canada through the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, with WJBTN providing the balance of funds needed through cash reserves, the Royal Bank of Canada and Nord-Aski Regional Economic Development Corporation and Wakenagun Economic Development Corporation. The cost of the project is estimated at \$4.7 million. Each home will have the capacity for 30 meg service at an affordable cost to the end-user. WJBTN is a 100% First Nations owned and operated, not-for-profit corporation that provides fibre-optic transport and fibre bandwidth to anchor institutions in the First Nation communities of Attawapiskat, Kashechewan and Fort Albany, Ontario.

<http://www.wawataynews.ca/breaking-news/western-james-bay-telecom-network-upgrade-internet-service-attawapiskat-kashechewan>

## **ONTARIO INVESTING IN INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Ontario Newsroom – Jan 29

Today the province announced \$27.5 million in funding for programs that support economic development for Indigenous people. The programs support training, job creation community infrastructure, and consultation capacity in communities, making a real difference in the lives of community members.

The 2018-19 funding will flow through three programs: The Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF): \$10 million. The Indigenous Community Capital Grants Program (ICCGP): \$3 million. The New Relationship Fund (NRF): \$14.5 million.

[https://news.ontario.ca/mirr/en/2019/01/ontario-investing-in-indigenous-economic-development.html?utm\\_source=ondemand&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=p](https://news.ontario.ca/mirr/en/2019/01/ontario-investing-in-indigenous-economic-development.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p)

## **TLICHO GOV'T HAS 'SERIOUS CONCERNS' WITH FORTUNE MINERALS-NWT AGREEMENT**

CBC News – Jan 30

The Tlicho government boycotted the signing of a socio-economic agreement between the Northwest Territories and a company proposing to mine in Tlicho territory over "serious concerns" with deal. The agreement is with Fortune Minerals Limited, the company behind the NICO project, a proposed cobalt, bismuth, gold and copper mine near Whati, N.W.T. The Tlicho government says it was asked to witness the signing of the deal on Tuesday, at Association for Mineral Exploration convention in Vancouver. "Tlicho leadership deliberately chose not to attend the signing ceremony as an expression of their disapproval," reads a statement from Tlicho government issued Wednesday. The socio-economic agreement sets out targets for Indigenous employment, local business contracts and spending on training and education, among other things.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/tlicho-government-boycotts-signing-1.4999815?cmp=rss>

## **STATEMENT BY MINISTER RICKFORD ON EAST-WEST TIE LINE PROJECT**

Ontario Newsroom – Jan 31

"Maintaining reliability and cost efficiency is a top priority for our government. The East-West Tie Line has long been identified as a priority project to provide a consistent supply of electricity that supports economic growth, job creation, and resource development in northwestern Ontario.

"Unfortunately, the Ontario Energy Board's review process has taken longer than expected, putting the timely construction of this necessary project at risk and potentially increasing costs for electricity customers.

[https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/01/statement-by-minister-rickford-on-east-west-tie-line-project.html?utm\\_source=ondemand&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=p](https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/01/statement-by-minister-rickford-on-east-west-tie-line-project.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p)

### **NORONT EXTENDS DEBT ARRANGEMENT WITH RESOURCE CAPITAL FUNDS AND ISSUES INTEREST SHARES**

Global Newswire – Jan 31

Noront Resources Ltd. has entered into a fifth amending agreement dated January 31, 2019 with its largest shareholder, Resource Capital Fund V L.P., to extend the term of its existing US\$15 million convertible debenture. Subject to TSX Venture Exchange approval, the maturity date of the Convertible Debenture has been extended until September 30, 2019 (previously January 31, 2019). The amendment includes a provision whereby the Company will require RCF approval to issue equity below \$0.306 per share. All other material terms and conditions remain the same. Interest is paid in common shares, subject to TSX Venture Exchange approval, quarterly in arrears with the interest rate remaining the same at 8% per annum. The Convertible Debenture may be converted into common shares of the Company ("Common Shares") at the option of RCF V at a price of CDN \$0.34 per Common Share at any time prior to September 30, 2019.

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/01/31/1708834/0/en/Noront-Extends-Debt-Arrangement-With-Resource-Capital-Funds-and-Issues-Interest-Shares.html>

### **'MORE TRADESPEOPLE, LESS RED TAPE' ONTARIO CHAMBER PRESIDENT SAYS**

Soo Today – Jan 31

Rossi said the Ontario chamber is also urging the provincial government to invest more in broadband technology and natural gas infrastructure for businesses in northern and rural areas. Regulatory burdens are another issue the Ontario chamber is trying to reduce for the province's businesses, Rossi said.

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/more-tradespeople-less-red-tape-ontario-chamber-president-says-1222201>

### **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2019 INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD**

NOB – Feb 1

The \$5,000 award, presented as a partnership between the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) and the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), recognizes and celebrates Indigenous entrepreneurs for their success in a forestry business that supports Indigenous employment.

[https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/forestry/nominations-open-for-2019-indigenous-business-leadership-award-1223325?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/forestry/nominations-open-for-2019-indigenous-business-leadership-award-1223325?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

### **NEW TRANSMISSION LINE TO POWER ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

Ontario Newsroom – Feb 6

Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs visited Fort William First Nation today to announce that Ontario has directed the Ontario Energy Board to designate NextBridge as the transmitter to build the line, known as the East-West Tie Line Project. The 450-kilometer transmission line is needed to meet growing demand for electricity in northwestern Ontario. It will enhance reliability, improve the flow of cheaper and lower-emission energy, and add the capacity needed for major regional development projects like the Wataynikaneyap Power Project and the Ring of Fire.

<https://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2019/02/new-transmission-line-to-power-economic-growth-in-northwestern-ontario.html>

### **TORY SENATOR ON COMMITTEE STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BILL IS A MINING COMPANY BOARD MEMBER**

CBC News – Feb 7

The vice-chair of a Senate committee studying a bill to overhaul the environmental assessment process for the natural resources sector is also a board member and an option holder in a mining company — something which could put him in a conflict of interest, according to two ethics experts. Conservative Nova Scotia Sen. Michael MacDonald and the 13 other members of the energy committee have started their study of Bill C-69. If it's passed, the government's bill will have wide-ranging consequences for many major mining and energy projects in this country.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/tory-senator-michael-macdonald-bill-c-69-1.5009659>

## **SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES BEGINS WITH ADDRESSING LACK OF LOAN CAPITAL**

Globe and Mail – Feb 7

Capital accumulation generally comes from land ownership. And yet to this day, land is a major barrier to economic reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Where “Indian lands” are concerned, Canada still operates in the 1800s. Antiquated federal laws and policies continue to stand in the way of Indigenous people – rights-holders in their own land – realizing our economic potential. But here’s the thing: With the lending supports Indigenous entrepreneurs have had, we have demonstrated high rates of business success.

[https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-supporting-indigenous-businesses-begins-with-addressing-lack-of-loan/?utm\\_medium=Referrer:+Social+Network+Media&utm\\_campaign=Shared+Web+Article+Links](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-supporting-indigenous-businesses-begins-with-addressing-lack-of-loan/?utm_medium=Referrer:+Social+Network+Media&utm_campaign=Shared+Web+Article+Links)

## **THE HIGH COST OF CLEANING UP ONTARIO’S ABANDONED MINES**

TVO Current Affairs – Feb 7 (Opinion)

In the mining sector, there are more than 5,000 abandoned sites in Ontario where the taxpayer is on the hook for cleanup and ecosystem repairs and for dealing with the downstream miseries faced by communities. Ontario has spent about \$75 million to date to clean up the former Kam Kotia Mine near Timmins. It may be the largest ecological rehabilitation effort in the province. But the vast majority of abandoned mines — including a former gold mine south of Sudbury where arsenic is steadily seeping into Long Lake and forcing nearby residents to use bottled water — have not been dealt with. The Sudbury mine was closed in 1939 after extracting the equivalent of \$63 million worth of gold. One hundred years later, taxpayers are stuck with the costs of a cleanup that has not yet started.

<https://www.tv.org/article/current-affairs/the-high-cost-of-cleaning-up-ontarios-abandoned-mines>

## **SKILLS ONTARIO TO HOST TRADE AND TECH DAY FOR FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, INUIT STUDENTS**

Soo Today – Feb 9

Skills Ontario will be hosting a Trades and Tech Day at Sault College on Feb. 12, 2019. This event is an opportunity for Indigenous youth to meet and network with community members who have chosen a career in the skilled trades and technologies. Youth explore their interests and career options through hands-on activities

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/skills-ontario-to-host-trade-and-tech-day-for-first-nations-metis-inuit-students-1228622>

## **FUNDING TOWARDS MUSHKEGOWUK’S SELF-GOVERNANCE, ADVOCACY**

Daily Press – Feb 11

Marc Miller, parliamentary secretary to Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, was in Timmins Monday where he held a closed-door meeting with Mushkegowuk leaders and announced in excess of \$300,000 in funding from the government’s Nation Rebuilding Program.

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/funding-towards-mushkegowuks-self-governance-advocacy>