

April 19, 2019

### **WHAT'S IN ONTARIO BUDGET 2019 FOR INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENTS AND NORTHERN ONTARIO?**

Shared Value Solutions – Apr 12 (Don Richardson Analysis)

Staying the course on the Ring of Fire. Don't look for anyone driving bulldozers to the Ring of Fire just yet as the Budget contains no new capital commitments for a transportation corridor to the Ring of Fire. However, the Budget continues to support land use planning and environmental assessment processes being undertaken by First Nation communities to advance all-season community roads and access roads that could in future be part of a transportation corridor to the Ring of Fire.

<http://bit.ly/2Xf7gtP>

### **FORD GOVERNMENT WON'T WORK WITH FEDERAL LIBERALS ON BUILDING PROJECTS: TRUDEAU**

National Post – April 16

On Tuesday, Ontario Infrastructure Minister Monte McNaughton said the government began to review all spending commitments after taking office last summer. McNaughton said the two levels of government have been holding ongoing discussions about infrastructure funding, but slammed Trudeau for his most recent remarks. "We understand the federal government has an election to worry about," he said in a statement. "But we don't answer to the Justin Trudeau re-election campaign." Finance Minister Bill Morneau positioned the funding as an end run around four provinces — naming Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick — and said it was done because those governments don't always co-operate readily with the federal Liberals.

<https://nationalpost.com/pmnl/news-pmnl/canada-news-pmnl/ford-government-wont-work-with-federal-liberals-on-building-projects-trudeau>

### **RING OF FIRE DEVELOPMENT TO BE 'SLOW, CONTESTED' IF FAR NORTH ACT REPLACEMENT STANDS AS-IS, LEGAL EXPERT SAYS**

CBC Thunder Bay – Apr 17

"What that does is it means we could potentially end up with kind of a patchwork through the north where some communities have protection ... and some communities don't," Scott said. "My fear is that is going to work towards a system in which the ... mining-ready communities are going to be empowered to work towards their goals or visions for their territories but communities that wanted to go slower or that wanted to protect certain land-based economies or visions will not have control over their territories." Developing the Ring of Fire under such a system will likely be "slow, contested and uncertain," she wrote in her submission.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/far-north-act-osgoode-hall-1.5099704>

### **NIBINAMIK FIRST NATION OPPOSES ONTARIO'S UNILATERAL PROPOSED REPEAL OF THE FAR NORTH ACT**

Matawa Website – Apr 17

It is of vital importance that any decisions within our traditional territory that have the potential to affect the lands, waters, and resources involve Nibinamik First Nation. Our rights, responsibilities, and jurisdiction must be respected by Ontario. Until a meaningful and collaborative process for the review of the Far North Act is established between us, Nibinamik remains strongly opposed to any potential repeal of the Act, its regulations and its environmental protections, recognition of our rights, jurisdiction, and stewardship.

<http://www.matawa.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Media-Stmt-Nibinamik-Statement-re-Ontario-Proposed-Repeal-of-Far-North-Act-April-17-2019.pdf>

### **PROJECT TO BUILD PERMANENT ROAD TO NORTHERN ONTARIO FIRST NATION 'THE RIGHT MOVE' CHIEF SAYS**

CBC Thunder Bay – Apr 18

The community has been working toward an all-season road for about 15 years, Achneepineskum said. The plans also include a potential second phase that could link the access road to the Ring of Fire, but Achneepineskum said the current environmental assessment only covers the road from the highway to Marten Falls. The environmental assessment is scheduled to be complete by the summer of 2020, after which the community can proceed with engineering studies and construction, he added. "It feels great," Achneepineskum said of the project's progress. "We feel that this is the right move for the First Nation."

He added that working on such a project is also important as it keeps the community connected to any potential development in the Ring of Fire.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/marten-falls-permanent-road-1.5103198>