

May 22, 2019

TIMMINS MAYOR ON WHY HE THINKS NORONT FERROCHROME PLANT COULD STILL BE AT KIDD MET SITE

My Timmins Now – May 11

When Noront Resources announced last Tuesday that it would build its ferrochrome smelter in Sault Ste. Marie instead of here in Timmins, Mayor George Pirie emphasized that there is a lot of time to reverse that decision. “Their announcement said 2025, but we know that their process is that they’ve got to build a nickel mine first, before they begin to access the chromite deposit,” the mayor says. “We know that the MOUs (memorandums of understanding) haven’t been signed with the indigenous people and we do not believe that they’re got the environmental permits in place to build a ferrochrome facility on the shores of the Great Lakes.” Pirie says that Noront indicated higher operating costs in Timmins disqualified putting the smelter at the Kidd Met Site. The higher operating costs are mostly in transporting the product to the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Soo plan uses the Great Lakes. For Timmins, it’s rail.

<https://www.mytimminsnow.com/36792/timmins-mayor-on-why-he-thinks-noront-ferrochrome-plant-could-still-be-at-kidd-met-site/>

‘HOW WE TREAT WOMEN’

Macleans – May 13

Worker camps make it possible to build infrastructure in remote locations in Canada. Is it worth the human cost? The federal government has a way of assessing how projects may affect vulnerable populations: through a long-scrutinized tool called a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+). One has been done on the Site C dam, and it was submitted to cabinet in 2014. But since then, no eyes outside Ottawa have seen it. When Maclean’s requested the report, a spokesperson from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, which authored the analysis, said it is subject to cabinet confidence.

<https://www.macleans.ca/how-we-treat-women/>

FERROCHROME REFINERY SITING DECISION REKINDLES CALL FOR EAST-WEST ACCESS TO THE RING OF FIRE

Sioux Lookout Media Release – May 13

The East-West road route (Hwy 599, 516, 72 to the Trans Canada Highway 17) would optimize existing road alignments, piggyback on pending hydro grid construction and use existing logistics and supply networks. We anticipate this route would lessen the environmental impacts (including wetland and peatlands) and avoid expensive, problematic large-scale water crossings. Mayor Lawrance concluded, “With the Sault Ste. Marie refinery decision made, the true value of the Sault to Sioux Transload Strategy is even more obvious. An Environmental Assessment on the East-West linkage is long overdue.

<http://www.huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/release/Sioux-Lookout/13-5-19/Ferrochrome-refinery-siting-decision-rekindles-call-for-East-West/3595.html>

WHAT’S IN IT FOR SIOUX LOOKOUT?

Northern Ontario Business – May 13

A northwestern Ontario town, looking to get a piece of the Ring of Fire action, continues to call for the revival of an east-west access road. Sioux Lookout wants Ottawa and Queen’s Park to reconsider the forgotten east-west road proposal as the more environmentally responsible way to reach the mineral riches in the James Bay lowlands.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/whats-in-it-for-sioux-lookout-1443243>

OTTAWA PROMISES NIBINAMIK CLEAN WATER BY 2021

Northern Ontario Business – May 14

Nibinamik First Nation members can expect clean drinking water within two years. Federal Indigenous Services Minister Seamus O'Regan has authorized \$6 million in funding toward fixing the community's water treatment plant. The remote Oji-Cree community has been on a boil water advisory since 2013.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/ottawa-promises-nibinamik-clean-water-by-2021-1445556>

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PARTNERS WITH METIS NATION TO LAUNCH NEW SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Cision – May 15

Today, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, alongside the Métis National Council and the Manitoba Metis Federation, announced the launch of the Métis Nation Labour Market Strategy, under the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program.

The Government and Indigenous partners co-developed the implementation of the ISET Program, which is a result of efforts to renew relationships with Indigenous peoples. The program builds on the success of its predecessor, the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS), which has served approximately 375,000 Indigenous people.

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-partners-with-metis-nation-to-launch-new-skills-and-employment-training-program-840862918.html>

FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS COALITION DEVELOPS ASSESSMENT STANDARD

Mail Chimp – May 16

We know that the environment is inextricably connected to everything that we do and that in order for any major project to obtain First Nations support and consent, it must firstly meet our standards of environmental stewardship. At the FNMPC, we support these inherent responsibilities and have collaboratively developed an Indigenous-led environmental assessment standard endorsed by our Members to address the inequities in current assessment processes and offer a solution by providing principles which can be used in major project assessments (**Major Project Assessment Standard attached**).

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5849b10dbe659445e02e6e55/t/5cdc93e2fa0d6007b00b5a2d/1557959669570/FNMPC+MPAS+FINAL.pdf>

CHAMBER CONCERNED BILL C-69 COULD IMPACT FERROCHROME FACILITY

SooToday – May 16

Today, Dave McHattie, vice president, Institutional Relations, Canada of Tenaris; Dennis Darby, CEO of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters; and Ashley Challinor, vice president of policy of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce came together for a press conference to call for changes on Bill C-69, An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act. They are concerned Bill C-69 will impact the ability to build major projects in Canada and will therefore also impair Ontario's economic growth and potential.

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/chamber-concerned-bill-c-69-could-impact-ferrochrome-facility-1459708>

MAY: RING OF FIRE BUNGLING JEOPARDIZES GREEN PROSPERITY FOR NORTH

Sudbury Star – May 18

The desire to compartmentalize the development in the Ring of Fire and other resource extraction projects in the remote north has long been a sore point for Indigenous communities and environmentalists. Rather than planning for development in a comprehensive manner that assesses all impacts on the natural and social environments, the province has pushed a piecemeal approach that evaluates components of development independently from one another. It's a 20th-century colonial approach that no longer works in an era of "free, prior and informed consent" as mandated by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/may-ring-of-fire-bungling-jeopardizes-green-prosperity-for-north>

THE NORTHERN MINER PODCAST – INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AS 'RESOURCE RULERS' IN CANADA FT BILL GALLAGHER – PART 2 (AUDIO ONLY)

The Northern Miner – May 21

This episode wraps up our two-part conversation with strategist, lawyer and author Bill Gallagher on the topic of Canada's Indigenous People and their land rights, and how that affects resource development in the country. In this episode Bill covers several topics, including: the Peel River Watershed decision in the Yukon; Ring of Fire politics in

Ontario; and international aspects of Indigenous land rights including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Pope's latest encyclical on the same issue, and the Standing Rock pipeline showdown in the United States.

<https://www.northernminer.com/news/the-northern-miner-podcast-episode-139-indigenous-people-as-resource-rulers-in-canada-ft-bill-gallagher-part-2/1003806723/>