

November 12, 2019

MY CONVERSATION WITH ALAN COUTTS, CEO NORONT RESOURCES

Sault Online – Oct 28

I asked Noront CEO Alan Coutts last week post the Noront townhall regarding concerns about the plant being built here in the Soo, and its environmental spinoff. I asked him about social media being a big driving force these days behind campaigns to Stop This or Stop That. The gov't ultimately will decide or not if the plant comes to fruition and not Noront bulldozing their way through.

<https://saultonline.com/2019/10/my-conservation-with-alan-coutts-ceo-noront-resources/>

LEGAL PLAYING FIELD TITLED AGAINST FIRST NATIONS IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT BATTLES, SAYS NEW REPORT

CBC Indigenous – Oct 29

Canada's legal landscape continues to be heavily in favour of corporations when it comes to court injunctions during conflicts with First Nations over resource development, according to a report released Tuesday by an Indigenous-led think-tank.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/yellowhead-institute-report-resource-injunctions-1.5338902>

FORD GOVERNMENT ATTACKS RED TAPE IN NEW BILL, BUT ENVIRONMENTALISTS SAY IT GOES TOO FAR

CBC - Oct 29

CBC News - The Ford government's first new legislation after a long summer break is aimed at reducing red tape and modernizing regulations, but there are worries that some of the proposed changes could weaken environmental protections. The bill, called the Better for People, Smarter for Business Act, was introduced on Monday at Queen's Park. If passed, the legislation would result in regulatory changes across a wide variety of areas, including the environment, agriculture, food safety, alcohol, mining, post-secondary education, insurance, and many others. "All too often, regulations make things harder than they should be," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, associate minister for Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, in a news release.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/red-tape-legislation-ontario-1.5339825>

FUNDING SECURED FOR PROJECT CONNECTING FIRST NATIONS TO POWER

Ottawa Citizen – Oct 29

A utility tasked with connecting more than a dozen Indigenous communities to Ontario's power grid says funding is now in place for the project. Wataynikaneyap Power says it has completed financing for the project, estimated to cost \$1.9 billion.

<https://ottawacitizen.com/pmnl/news-pmn/canada-news-pmn/funding-secured-for-project-connecting-first-nations-to-provincial-power/wcm/fbbe4300-80c4-4d03-8a1b-7d535be9691c>

NORONT RAISING \$2.5 MILLION FOR RING OF FIRE

Resource World – Oct 30

Noront is hoping to extract nickel and chromite from its properties in the Ring of Fire area in partnership with local First Nations. Those properties include the company's 100%-owned Eagle's Nest deposit, which it has described as the highest-grade nickel-sulphide find in Canada since the Voisey's Bay discovery in Labrador. On Monday, Noront said it has arranged a non-brokered private placement of any combination of units of the company at a price of 20 cents per unit and flow through shares of the company at 25 cents per share. Gross proceeds are expected to be approximately \$2.5 million, the company said.

<https://resourceworld.com/noront-raising-2-5-million-for-ring-of-fire/>

SPEEDING UP PERMIT APPROVALS ON PROVINCIAL MINING MINISTER'S MIND

Northern Ontario Business – Oct 30

Changes are coming to Ontario's Mining Act.

Cutting red tape to improve the industry's competitiveness still remains top of mind for Energy, Northern Development and Mines Minister Greg Rickford, who hosted the 41st annual Meet the Miners Day at Queen's Park, Oct. 29. Rickford also took the opportunity to huddle with his panel of industry experts on the government's Mining Working Group. Created earlier this year, the group is composed of leaders from the mining and exploration side, prospectors, and representatives from Indigenous business organizations. "I am encouraged by our discussions so far and look forward to our continued collaboration," said Rickford, who acknowledged the contribution of Chris Hodgson and his team from the Ontario Mining Association for their input in finding ways to cut regulatory red tape. That includes making legislative changes to boost Ontario's profile as an attractive place to invest.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/speeding-up-permit-approvals-on-provincial-mining-ministers-mind-1777803>

RICKFORD TAKES LEAD IN BATTLE TO MODERNIZE ONTARIO'S MINING ACT

Miner and News – Nov 4

With Ontario's legislative assembly back in session at Queen's Park as of last week, Kenora-Rainy River MPP Greg Rickford is moving forward his agenda to reduce provincial bureaucracy hindering the mining industry, including changes to the Mining Act. Rickford said he held consultation meetings with stakeholders in several provincial industries over the summer, including the Mining Working Group, formed earlier this year to reduce red tape in the mining sector. Rickford says regulations complicate the process. As the minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, Rickford met with the group on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at Queen's Park for Meet the Miners Day. "Generally speaking, every sector had a consensus that our system was too expensive and too complicated," he said.

<https://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/news/local-news/rickford-takes-lead-in-battle-to-modernize-ontarios-mining-act>

\$777-MILLION NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT WORKS BEGIN

Daily Commercial News – Nov 5

Right-of-way clearing and access road construction has started for a \$777-million, 450-kilometre-long transmission line that will follow the Lake Superior shoreline from Thunder Bay to Wawa in Northwestern Ontario. Tidmarsh says NextBridge has worked closely with Indigenous communities along the project right-of-way and they formed the Bamkushwada Limited Partnership which, in turn, owns Supercom Industries which will select and hire the suppliers and contractors for the project with a focus on Indigenous workers. "Through this partnership, NextBridge has trained over 200 Indigenous people to work on the project and once the line goes into service, Bamkushwada will have the option to become economic partners in the East-West Tie," she says.

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2019/11/777-million-northwestern-ontario-transmission-line-project-works-begin>

ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELEASE 'DIGGING DEEPER' REPORT

OCC Website – Nov 6

[Report Attached](#)

MATAWA CHIEFS STATEMENT ON BILL 132 – BETTER FOR PEOPLE, SMARTER FOR BUSINESS ACT

Netnewsledger – Nov 6

The proposed Better for People, Smarter for Business Act is deeply problematic for the Matawa Chiefs for a number of reasons. Notwithstanding the fact that the proposed bill, in its current omnibus form, covers a number of diverse and unrelated topics that were not brought forward in advance publicly for consultation, debate, and scrutiny— we oppose the proposed amendments in relation to the Ontario Mining Act as they impact on our pre-existing inherent rights embodied in our jurisdiction and also protected by 35(1) of the Canada Constitution Act, 1982.

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2019/11/06/matawa-chiefs-statement-on-bill-132-better-for-people-smarter-for-business-act/>

COURTS DENY MOST FIRST NATIONS INJUNCTIONS

National Observer – Nov 8

Shiri Pasternak suspected corporations likely won more injunctions than First Nations did in land disputes. But she was shocked after she and her fellow researchers began crunching numbers. The team at Yellowhead Institute, an Indigenous-led think tank, reviewed nearly 100 injunction cases. They found corporations succeeded in 76 per cent of injunctions filed against First Nations, while First Nations were denied in 81 per cent of injunctions against corporations. Similarly, First Nations were denied in 82 per cent of injunctions filed against the government.

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2019/11/08/features/courts-deny-most-first-nations-injunctions>

ELI BAXTER RESPONSE TO MATAWA MEDIA RELEASE NOV 6, 2019

Submitted Letter – Nov 11 [Letter Attached](#)

FEMALE DRILLER GRAD MAPS A PATH TO SUCCESS

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 11

The first female graduate of NORCAT's Surface and Underground Diamond Driller Assistant Common Core Program is all set for success. Sasha Michano, who is from Ginoogaming First Nation located about 40 km east of Geraldton on the Northern shore of Long Lake, completed the program in Sudbury this past September. She was nervous at first – NORCAT told her that she would be the first woman to complete the program before she started.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/training-education/female-driller-grad-maps-a-path-to-success-1835575>