

Nov 29, 2019

'RED TAPE' BILL WILL UNDERMINE FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION RIGHTS, MATAWA CHIEFS SAY

QP Briefing (attached) – Nov 25

An omnibus bill aimed at slashing “red tape” will undermine Indigenous consultation rights on Northern Ontario mining projects, First Nations chiefs argue.

RALLIES IN TWIN SAULTS PROTEST PLANS FOR FERROCHROME PLANT

Northern Ontario Business

Groups of environmentally concerned citizens gathered in the twin cities of Sault Ste. Marie – in Ontario, Canada and in Michigan, U.S. – on Nov. 23 for coordinated rallies to protest Noront Resources' planned ferrochrome production facility for Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. “I know of people in Marquette, all over the state of Michigan, who are concerned about the building of this facility,” said James McCall, Sault Michigan resident, speaking to SooToday.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/rallies-in-twin-soos-protest-plans-for-ferrochrome-plant-1880462>

MATAWA CHIEFS – 'MATAWA MEMBER FIRST NATIONS WILL LEAD AND DELIVER THE NEXT ECONOMIC BOOM OF THIS PROVINCE'

Republic of Mining – Nov 27

“Matawa member First Nations will lead and deliver the next economic boom of this province. Equitable partnerships between Matawa First Nations-Government-Industry will result in investment opportunities on a national and international scale. Matawa First Nations are the partners and investors of certainty required for economic and social prosperity,” says Chief Harvey Yesno, Eabametoong First Nation.

<https://republicofmining.com/2019/11/27/matawa-chiefs-matawa-member-first-nations-will-lead-and-deliver-the-next-economic-boom-of-this-province-by-staff-netnewsledger-com-november-26-2019/>

FIRST NATION SEES VALUE-ADDED OPPORTUNITIES WITH INDUSTRIAL PARK

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 27

Fort William First Nation and the City of Thunder Bay have reached common ground on a sizeable spread of largely vacant industrial land. For the past three years, the neighbouring communities have been huddling on a monthly basis to strategize how to make 1,100 acres of brownfield property on the reserve development-ready for tenants. The group recently announced the Fort William First Nation Industrial Lands are ripe for businesses engaged in the mining, forestry, transportation, energy, manufacturing, and service and supply sectors. “We’re open to many ideas really,” said Pelletier. “We’ve been pursuing a number of them, but getting the lands better organized would be conducive toward attracting more tenants.”

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/thunder-bay/first-nation-sees-value-added-opportunities-with-industrial-park-1883679>

NORTHERN SUPERIOR LOOKS FOR NEW EXPLORATION PARTNER ON FAR NORTH PROPERTY

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 28

Sudbury’s Northern Superior Resources has taken back full control of its high-grade TPK gold-silver-copper property in the Far North. Yamana Gold, the strategic mining partner brought aboard in 2018, has decided not to continue on with an option agreement with the junior miner. Northern Superior is now looking for a new partner. The TPK (Ti-Pa-Haa-Kaa-Ning) property is 50 kilometres west of the Ring of Fire and 150 kilometres east of Newmont Goldcorp's Musselwhite Mine.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/northern-superior-looks-for-new-exploration-partner-on-far-north-property-1888126>

SOL MAMAKWA QUESTION ON BILL 132

Twitter – Nov 28

So I asked a question today about Bill 132. Thanks to Matawa First Nations for coming to Queen's Park. We are not just partners, but we are investors of certainty.

<https://twitter.com/solmamakwa/status/1200159602731565057?s=20>

RIO TINTO COMMITS \$1M TO CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE FOR INDIGENOUS MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 28

The centre is an initiative of the Waubetek Business Development Corp., an Indigenous-led economic development organization based on the Whitefish River First Nation that provides business financing and economic development services to First Nations and Aboriginal businesses located throughout northeastern Ontario. It's being designed as a centre of knowledge and expertise for Indigenous communities, industry and governments. It will connect stakeholders to develop partnerships and offer access to information, referral services and training tools around Indigenous participation in mineral development.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/rio-tinto-commits-1m-to-centre-of-excellence-for-indigenous-minerals-development-1887651>

WHY B.C.'S INDIGENOUS RIGHTS BILL IS 'IMPRACTICALLY BROAD' AND INCONSISTENT WITH CANADIAN LAW

Financial Post – Nov 29

Thomas Isaac, a partner in Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP's Vancouver office, believes that's virtually impossible because UNDRIP requires governments to obtain "free, prior and informed consent" (FPIC) before developing any project affecting the lands and territories of Indigenous peoples. "FPIC can be interpreted to imply that governments cannot act without the consent of Indigenous peoples even when such actions are matters of general policy for the good of society, and otherwise justifiable under Canadian law," he said. But, he maintains, that's inconsistent with Canadian law, which requires a standard of "meaningful consultation" with Indigenous groups with regard to projects affecting their land. Our Indigenous rights regime, as articulated by the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), mandates a consideration of both the Indigenous perspective and the broader, societal perspective," Issac said. "It recognizes that, at times, broader, societal interests justify potential incursions on Indigenous rights." By failing to account for this "fundamental incompatibility," Isaac concludes, Bill 41 cannot advance the very objective of furthering the reconciliation it sets out to achieve.

<https://business.financialpost.com/commodities/energy/why-b-c-s-indigenous-rights-bill-is-impractically-broad-and-inconsistent-with-canadian-law>