

Jan 10, 2020

FORTESCUE AWARDS \$165M CONTRACT TO SODEXO JV

Australian Mining – Dec 17

Sodexo, together with Native Title businesses in the Pilbara, has won a contract to provide village services for Fortescue Metals Group in Western Australia. The contracts involve three individual joint ventures agreements with Sodexo and Aboriginal-owned businesses Palyku Enterprises, Karlka Facilities Management and Kariyarra Hospitality Services. The contracts, collectively worth \$165 million over three years, include catering, accommodation management and lifestyle and recreation services. Sodexo will work in a JV with Native Title groups to ensure positive community engagement and quality of service at the Hamilton, Cloudbreak and Christmas Creek camps.

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/fortescue-awards-165m-contract-to-sodexo-jv/>

OTTAWA WILL TAKE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE RING OF FIRE ROAD

Northern Ontario Business – Dec 19

Public comments are being taken as part of a federal environment assessment (EA) of the first leg of the proposed north-south Ring of Fire road. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (formerly known as the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency) is inviting feedback for the upcoming EA of the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project. The agency determined an EA was necessary on Nov.29.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/ottawa-will-take-your-comments-on-the-ring-of-fire-road-1975360>

ZEN GRAHPENE SOLUTIONS PROVIDES CORPORATE UPDATE

Yahoo Finance – Dec 20

Zen Graphene has closed its previously announced private placement of flow-through common shares of the company and reports that it was oversubscribed. The company raised \$1.21-million in respect of the offering, which will be used to finance the 2020 environmental baseline field program and community engagement work on the company's Albany graphite project.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/zen-graphene-solutions-provides-corporate-130000455.html>

BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION VOICES OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED NORONT FERROCHROME SMELTER

Northern Ontario Business – Dec 23

Citing the need to protect local land and waterways, Batchewana First Nation has voiced its opposition to the ferrochrome processing facility Noront Resources has proposed for Sault Ste. Marie. In a Dec. 20 news release, the Indigenous community, whose traditional territory spans the Algoma District, said the decision came after months of discussion by the chief and council.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/sault-ste-marie/batchewana-first-nation-voices-opposition-to-proposed-noront-ferrochrome-smelter-1976919>

NORONT ANNOUNCES DEBT EXTENSION AND ROYALTY SALE AND PROVIDES ADDITIONAL UPDATES

NNL – Dec 23

Noront Resources Ltd. has extended the terms of its current debt facilities with Franco-Nevada Corporation and Resource Capital Fund V L.P. The Company's loan with Franco-Nevada has been extended to September 30, 2022, and the maturity of its convertible debenture with RCF V has been extended to September 30, 2021. In addition, Noront has granted a 1% gross revenue royalty on the Eagle's Nest Nickel-Copper-PGM deposit for C\$5.0 million to Franco-Nevada.

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2019/12/23/noront-announces-debt-extension-and-royalty-sale-and-provides-additional-updates/>

PARTNERS IN GERALDTON-AREA GOLD PROJECT HEADED TO COURT

TBNewswatch – Dec 31

A dispute has developed between two partners looking to develop a gold mine near Geraldton. A Centerra Gold Inc. subsidiary has filed a statement of claim in Superior Court against Thunder Bay-based Premier Gold Mines. The pair are 50/50 partners in Greenstone Gold Mines, a company they established to develop the Hardrock project a few kilometres south of Geraldton. On Friday, Premier announced that Toronto-based Centerra filed a claim this month seeking a declaration that the 2019 Hardrock Project update submitted by Greenstone Gold should not be considered a "feasibility study" as defined in their partnership agreement.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/partners-in-geraldton-area-gold-project-headed-to-court-1990920>

NORONT RESOURCES PRESIDENT AND CEO RESPONDS TO OPPOSITION TO FERROCHROME SMELTER IN SSM

Wawa News – Jan 8

"...I haven't had a chance to talk to them (Batchewana First Nations) at this point as it was just before Christmas (when they made their announcement); I think it's fair though, as we would be reluctant to approve the project at this stage to. It's very very premature, there's no information out there. At this stage, we are just completing economic assessments, and we haven't even advanced the design work to a point where we can perform test work; so it's really premature to make an evaluation, so it's hard to say the project is endorseable until a lot of that work gets done. That work will get done in the next two to three years." Mr Coutts was not surprised and expected that there would be opposition at this stage whether it was in SSM, Sudbury, Timmins, or Thunder Bay.

<https://wawa-news.com/index.php/2020/01/08/noront-resources-president-and-ceo-responds-to-opposition-to-ferrochrome-smelter-in-ssm/>

RISE IN ROBOTS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO? NOT SO MUCH, STUDY SAYS

Sudbury Star – Jan 8

Moazzami says many tradespeople in Northern Ontario are reaching the age of retirement which means workers at the Ring of Fire will need to be imported from elsewhere. While Indigenous communities are poised to benefit, Moazzami says without more education, they will not reap the benefits for long.

"The Ring of Fire will increase demand for skills well above the regional supply as most tradespeople are close to retirement in northern regions. Thus, many migrant workers will be employed at the site," he says. "The northern Indigenous population will be the primary beneficiary of jobs in the initial stages of development. However, given the relatively low levels of educational achievement among the northern Indigenous workforce, the prospect of benefiting from later stages of development is slim."

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/rise-of-the-robots-in-northern-ontario-not-so-much-study-says>

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGES AGAINST DEBEERS MINE NEAR ATTAWAPISKAT GO TO TRIAL, FOLLOWING APPEAL

CBC News – Jan 9

The battle over mercury testing at the DeBeers diamond mine near Attawapiskat will continue to be fought in the courts, beginning Thursday in Timmins. Environmental group Ecojustice, representing the Wildlands League, first alleged the mining company broke the law by not properly reporting test results back in 2016. But when it took more than 18 months to get the case to trial, as required by the Jordan principle set by the Supreme Court, the charges were tossed out by a court in 2018. Ecojustice appealed that ruling in June 2019, and last month, Justice D.A. Thomas said the case should continue.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/debeers-victor-mine-attawapiskat-mercury-testing-court-battle-1.5420376>

MPP COTEAU UNVEILS NORTHERN ONTARIO POLICY PAPER

Sault Online – Jan 10

In the latest in a series of detailed policy papers, MPP and Ontario Liberal leadership candidate Michael Coteau unveiled a thorough plan to focus on Northern Ontario's representation at Queen's Park in order to better address goals around environmental protection, job creation and improving public services.

Coteau's commitments to Northern Ontario fall into four broad goals: 1. Put in place a new approach for Queen's Park to work in collaboration with Northern Ontario and Indigenous communities. Establish an annual cabinet meeting in Northern Ontario Re-establish a stand-alone Minister for Indigenous Reconciliation Create a Premier's Northern Advisory Council.

<https://saultonline.com/2020/01/mpp-coteau-unveils-northern-ontario-policy-paper/>