

Jan 31, 2020

“EQUITABLE” PARTNERSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS WILL MAKE THE RING OF FIRE GO SMOOTHLY

Northern Ontario Business – Jan 24

Chiefs from two economically-depressed communities near the Ring of Fire told Queen’s Park politicians they want to be "equitable partners" to share in the benefits of Far North development. “Matawa First Nations are not opposed to development; however, First Nations require a seat at the table,” said Webequie Chief Cornelius Wabasse in his remarks before the provincial Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, Jan. 21. He was joined in the pre-budget hearings by Eabametoong Chief Harvey Yesno. Both spoke on behalf of the Matawa Chiefs Council.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/equitable-partnerships-with-first-nations-will-make-the-ring-of-fire-go-smoothly-2045950>

COLUMN: STALLED RING OF FIRE WORTH MORE THAN \$117 BILLION

Sudbury Star – Jan 24

The massive road network in southern Canada is entirely financed by the public, in the service of industry — why not a road to the Ring of Fire? The reason nothing is happening in the Ring of Fire has nothing to do with the value of the deposits. It is entirely due to the inability of governments at all levels, including First Nations, provincial, and federal, to reach consensus on land tenure and development plans.

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/column-stalled-ring-of-fire-worth-more-than-117-billion>

ALBERTA INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITIES ALLOCATED \$1-BILLION BY KENNEY GOVERNMENT

Globe and Mail – Jan 27

An Alberta Crown corporation created to help Indigenous groups buy ownership stakes in resources projects could help contentious pipeline and energy proposal overcome opposition from First nations says Premier Jason Kenney.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/alberta/article-alberta-indigenous-opportunities-allocated-1-billion-by-kenney/>

PROGRESS BEING MADE TO QUICKEN MINE START-UPS: RICKFORD

Timmins Daily Press – Jan 28

Ontario is looking to expedite the process of getting mining operations open for commercial production. That was a key message from Greg Rickford, the province’s minister of energy, mines, northern development and Indigenous affairs, who was in Timmins Monday to deliver a State of Mining address.

Rickford spoke of the industry’s need to be “better and faster” at opening mines for market in a “timely manner.” The event held at Cedar Meadows Resort & Spa on Monday was hosted by the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/progress-being-made-to-quicken-mine-start-ups-rickford>

NORONT CEO SEES PROGRESS ON NORTH-SOUTH ROAD

TB Newswatch – Jan 29

Noront CEO Alan Coutts is cautiously optimistic about his company’s claims in the so-called ring of fire, saying its first mine could be operational as early as five years from now. Environmental assessments are currently underway on two road projects that would open up the valuable mineral claims to development. Marten Falls is leading an assessment process for a road that would connect the community to the provincial highway system near Aroland First Nation, about 170 kilometres away. Webequie, meanwhile, leads a process to build a 110-kilometre road that would connect to mineral deposits in the ring of fire.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/noront-ceo-sees-progress-on-north-south-road-2054349>

'IT CANNOT TAKE US EIGHT YEARS TO OPEN UP A FRIGGING MINE'

Sudbury Star – Jan 29

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<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/it-cannot-take-us-eight-years-to-open-up-a-frigging-mine>

JOHN IVISON: PIPELINE DISPUTE RAISES IMPORTANT QUESTION—WHO SPEAKS FOR FIRST NATIONS?

National Post – Jan 30

The "territorial re-occupation" of land along the proposed Coastal GasLink pipeline in B.C. by hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en people has raised some thorny constitutional questions and some surprising interventions. The \$6.2 billion, 670 km pipeline route runs from Dawson Creek, near the Alberta border, to Kitimat in B.C.'s north coast region, crossing through traditional Wet'suwet'en territory. The pipeline is supported by the five Wet'suwet'en bands, and their elected chiefs and councils. The project is opposed by the hereditary chiefs who represent the 13 Wet'suwet'en houses (12 are represented by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en, while the Dark House operates independently). Small groups of "land defenders" have blocked a bridge crucial to future development.

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/john-ivison-pipeline-issue-raises-important-question-who-speaks-for-first-nations>