

Feb 12, 2020

### **INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR CANADIAN PROJECTS UP FOR DISCUSSION IN CALGARY AT END OF FEBRUARY**

Newswire – Feb 4

The Indian Resource Council announces today the agenda for the upcoming Indigenous Participation in Major Projects Conference happening at the Calgary Westin Airport in Calgary, Alberta on February 26 & 27, 2020. This event will be attended by leaders of Industry, Government and Indigenous communities. Major projects are a huge growth industry in Canada and provide significant opportunities for Indigenous people whose territories are impacted directly by this industry. IRC, as in previous years, is bringing all the partners together to discuss and strategize on these opportunities. “I am pleased that Premier Jason Kenney will be in attendance; It shows this Government’s commitment to working with Indigenous communities. IRC firmly believes that our greatest success for Major projects is to work together. By bringing Indigenous leaders together with Industry and Government, we know Canadians will benefit from the unified experience of all three,” states Stephen Buffalo, President and CEO of IRC.

<https://www.newswire.com/news/indigenous-participation-in-major-canadian-projects-up-for-discussion-21089442>

### **HEARST-AREA GRAPHITE JUNIOR MINER OPENS PILOT PLANT IN GUELPH**

Timmins Today – Feb 4

The developer of a graphite mine near Hearst has cut the ribbon on a research and production facility in southern Ontario. ZEN Graphene Solutions announced Feb. 4 of the grand opening of a Guelph-based small-scale pilot plant and R & D centre. The company (formerly Zenyatta Ventures) has high hopes for 2020 to enter the global market by delivering a refined product for end-users, and potentially strike some commercial deals.

<https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/hearst-area-graphite-junior-miner-opens-pilot-plant-in-guelph-2070722>

### **THE WELLBEING PROJECT DOCUMENTARY WAS FILMED WITH YOUTH FROM WEBEQUIE, MARTEN FALLS, NESKANTAGA FIRST NATIONS**

GC Indigenous Twitter – Feb 5

<http://www.truecallingmedia.com/the-wellbeing-project>

### **NORTHERN PROSPECTORS LOOK TO BOOK THEIR VISIBILITY**

Northern Ontario Business – Feb 7

Garry Clark, executive director of the Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA), said the mining sequence of discovery and development is faltering right now. Since the economic crash of 2008, investor interest in early-stage exploration has largely been in the dumper, despite the uptick in value of various mineral commodities. “Grassroots exploration isn’t happening as much as it should,” said Clark. The OPA is also waging a campaign to convince the Ford government to increase the provincial flow-through share tax credit to help fuel exploration. Flow-through shares have historically been the exploration industry’s lifeline during commodity downcycles. The exploration community is circulating an online petition to boost the credit from 5 per cent to 25 per cent to put Ontario on a competitive plain with other provinces like Québec (38.75 per cent) and British Columbia (30 per cent). Ottawa provides a complementary federal tax credit of 15 per cent.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/northern-prospectors-look-to-boost-their-visibility-2078422>

### **AFN NATIONAL CHIEF STATEMENT ON WET’SUWET’EN NATION**

AFN Website – Feb 10

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde issued the following statement today on the situation in Wet’suwet’en Nation territory and the arrests by the RCMP.

<https://www.afn.ca/afn-national-chief-statement-on-wetsuweten-nation/>

## **CORPORATIONS DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND INDIGENOUS JURISDICTION**

The Conversation – Feb 10

The differences between band leadership and traditional leadership have jurisdictional consequences. The authority of the bands comes from Canada's Indian Act, which many Indigenous people reject. Conversely, the authority of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary leadership predates European contact. Band leadership has authority over reserve lands. Conversely, traditional leadership has authority over a nation's traditional territory, which subsumes and exceeds reserve lands. That authority has been acknowledged and upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. Indigenous people will continue to use diverse means to assert and defend their jurisdiction. Corporations seeking to operate on Indigenous territory must prove they understand the meaning of Indigenous jurisdiction. Until they do, investors should seek their returns elsewhere.

[https://theconversation.com/corporations-dont-seem-to-understand-indigenous-jurisdiction-109608?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=footertwitterbutton](https://theconversation.com/corporations-dont-seem-to-understand-indigenous-jurisdiction-109608?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=footertwitterbutton)

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCY OF CANADA INITIATE REGIONAL ASSESSMENT ON RING OF FIRE**

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Registry – Feb 11

The Minister of Environment and Climate change determined that a regional assessment will be conducted in an area centered on the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the Far North of Ontario (Ring of Fire area), pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act*. The Minister's reasons for decision are laid out in letters of response which were posted to the Agency's Registry Internet site at these links:

- [Minister's response to Aroland First Nation](#) (PDF - 148 KB)
- [Minister's response to Wildlife Conservation Society Canada](#) (PDF - 145 KB)
- [Minister's response to Osgoode Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic](#) (PDF - 151 KB)

An entry under Regional Assessments on the Registry Internet site has been created for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire Area here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80468?culture=en-CA>

