

Mar 4, 2020

### **BLACKBIRD CHROMITE GEOLOGY UPDATE**

Noront Resources Blog – Feb 28

A lot of drilling was completed on Blackbird between 2008 and 2010, and a great deal of information was collected. We are taking this data, looking at the geology of the area with a larger view, collecting new data where needed and putting all that information together into a 3D model. This will be a vital step in the successful development of Blackbird, which we hope will be our second mine.

<http://blog.norontresources.com/2020/02/blackbird-chromite-geology-update/#more-1417>

### **RING OF FIRE WAS 'OVERHYPED' BUT STILL 'WORTH THE EFFORT' SAYS NORONT RESOURCES**

CBC News – Mar 2

"I always thought the timelines people were putting out were way too short," says Garry Clark, president of the Ontario Prospectors Association. "The politicians were treating it as if you were walking through the muskeg and came to a little hill and crawled up on your belly and looked over top of the hill there's a mine sitting there just waiting for the road and it's not like that at all because there's no infrastructure there at all. There's just a bunch of drill holes in the ground and that's all there is." Since then, the Ring of Fire has become a story of delay, with political parties blaming each other for not getting the access road built and the mines up and running. "Like with anything that is overhyped, people are usually disappointed," says Alan Coutts, CEO of Noront Resources, which is now the main player in the Ring of Fire.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/ring-of-fire-10-years-later-1.5479300>

### **MATAWA FIRST NATIONS FORGE NEW WAY FORWARD LOOKING TO MAJOR COMPANIES TO ASSIST IN CONTROLLING DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Republic of Mining – Mar 2

Chiefs of the Matawa First Nations in Northern Ontario announced Monday they are creating a New Way Forward in developing community infrastructure in their traditional territory. Discussions are ongoing with PCL Construction, Enterprise Canada, Ontario Power Generation and EPCOR Canada to determine how best to meet the infrastructure needs in Matawa communities.

<https://republicofmining.com/2020/03/02/news-release-matawa-first-nations-forge-new-way-forward-looking-to-major-companies-to-assist-in-controlling-development-of-community-infrastructure-march-2-2020/>

### **WORKING WITH MATAWA FIRST NATIONS TO BUILD COMMUNITY-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE**

Cision – Mar 2

Minawshyn Development Corporation (MDC) and Enterprise Canada Inc. have entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Ontario Power Generation (OPG), EPCOR, and PCL Construction to collaborate on and develop community-based infrastructure projects with the Matawa First Nations member communities in northern Ontario. The collaboration with MDC, a wholly owned corporation of the Matawa First Nations member communities, will allow for economic development and growth within the region located about 450 kilometres north of Thunder Bay.

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/working-with-matawa-first-nations-to-build-community-based-infrastructure-882807695.html>

### **MOVING FORWARD WITH ROAD ACCESS TO THE RING OF FIRE**

Ontario Newsroom – Mar 2

The Government of Ontario, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation are taking a major step forward in unlocking jobs and opportunity in Northern Ontario's Ring of Fire region by entering into a historic agreement to advance the planning and development of a proposed Northern Road Link.

Premier Doug Ford and Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs, were joined by Chief Bruce Achneepineskum of Marten Falls First Nation and Chief Cornelius Wabasse of

Webequie First Nation at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention today for a signing ceremony.

[https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/moving-forward-with-road-access-to-the-ring-of-fire.html?utm\\_source=ondemand&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=p](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/moving-forward-with-road-access-to-the-ring-of-fire.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p)

## **NORONT STATEMENT ON NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, MARTEN FALLS AND WEBEQUIE FIRST NATIONS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ROAD ACCESS TO THE RING OF FIRE**

Noront Website – Mar 2

Noront Resources Ltd. is pleased to acknowledge the agreement announced today between the provincial government, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation to advance planning and development of a proposed Northern Road Link that will provide reliable, all-season road access to mine sites in the Ring of Fire and connect First Nation communities to Ontario's provincial highway network.

<http://norontresources.com/noront-statement-on-new-partnership-between-government-of-ontario-marten-falls-and-webequie-first-nations-to-move-ahead-with-road-access-to-the-ring-of-fire/>

## **ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS NORTH-SOUTH RING OF FIRE LINK**

TB Newswatch – Mar 2

The provincial government is throwing its support behind a north-south link to the Ring of Fire mineral zone in northwestern Ontario. But its plan is already under sharp criticism from one First Nation, which insists there can be no construction without its permission. The Northern Road Link, the leaders said in a statement, would link two other proposed roads – the 200-kilometre Marten Falls-to-Aroland Community Access Road at the south end, and the proposed 110-kilometre Webequie Supply Road to the Ring of Fire at the north end. Both those projects are currently under environmental assessment. The government announcement stated that it's delivering on its promise to move forward with the development of the Ring of Fire "with willing partners."

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/ontario-government-supports-north-south-ring-of-fire-link-2-photos-2131817>

## **ONTARIO, FIRST NATIONS AGREE TO STUDY ROAD TO RING OF FIRE**

Globe and Mail – Mar 2

Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford also acknowledged that any move to break ground on the construction of the road's southernmost leg is still as much as two years away. Environmental assessments for the entire route, he said, would take five years to complete. And despite saying the Ring of Fire's deposits – mostly chromite, used in stainless steel – would be worth "billions and billions," the Premier acknowledged that the government had no reliable estimates on whether any of the region's minerals could be mined profitably. "Do we put a specific dollar figure [on it]? No we don't. But do you know what we are talking about today? We are talking about access, the road access that is going to change their lives in the First Nations communities," Mr. Ford said.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-first-nations-agree-to-study-road-to-ring-of-fire/>

## **WEBEQUIE FIRST NATIONS CHIEF SAYS THEY SUPPORT NORTHERN ROAD LINK (VIDEO)**

Global News – Mar 2

Asked about what he would tell people if they protested the proposed Northern Road Link project in a similar fashion to the protests over B.C.'s Coastal Gas Link pipeline, Webequie First Nations Chief Cornelius Wabasse said Monday that he and the people he represents supports resource development, and working with the Ontario government. He stressed they were working to ensure proper environmental assessments and make sure the project takes the protection of the environment into consideration

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6619628/webiquie-first-nations-chief-says-they-support-northern-road-link-project>

## **NESKANTAGA STANDS FIRMLY IN PATH OF ROAD**

CKDR Dryden – Mar 3

Not everyone is on board with a new Northern Link Road to the Ring of Fire. Neskantaga Chief Chris Moonias says "You can expect opposition if Ontario, or any road proponent, tries to put a shovel in the ground of our territory without our consent" (Neskantaga media release attached).

<https://www.ckdr.net/2020/03/03/neskantaga-stands-firmly-in-path-of-road/>

## **THE ROAD TO THE RING OF FIRE NEEDS TO GO EAST-WEST, SAY NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES**

Sudbury.com – Mar 3

A forgotten path into the Ring of Fire still remains on the radar for a group of northwestern Ontario community leaders and businesses. The East-West Ring of Fire Coalition went to Queen's Park during mining week in Toronto to lobby government for support of a permanent road into the Ring of Fire.

The group claims an east-west route will deliver greater spinoffs and social benefits to area communities, compared to the north-south road being championed by the provincial government and the mining industry. It's the second consecutive year the group has journeyed to Toronto during the Prospectors and Developers mining conference to make their case for government to consider a less-environmentally invasive alternate route into the James Bay mineral belt. The East-West Ring of Fire Coalition consists of the municipality of Sioux Lookout, the First Nation communities of Lac Seul, Cat Lake, Slate Falls, and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; and businesses such as Morgan Fuels and Perron Contracting.

<https://www.sudbury.com/around-the-north/the-road-to-the-ring-of-fire-needs-to-go-east-west-say-northwest-communities-2134072>

## **FIRST NATIONS COALITION DELIVERS RECOMMENDATIONS TO CANADA FOR INDIGENOUS INVOLVEMENT IN MAJOR PROJECTS**

Prince George Matters.com – Mar 3

A coalition of First Nations wants to have a say on how the federal government implements a new benefit-sharing framework for major resource projects. The First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC) is calling on Canada with specific recommendations for the development of the government's new national benefit-sharing framework for major projects on Indigenous territory. Chief Sharleen Gale, chair of the FNMPC, announced the eight recommendations at the third annual FNMPC conference in Prince George today (March 3).

<https://www.princegeorgematters.com/local-news/first-nations-coalition-delivers-recommendations-to-canada-for-indigenous-involvement-in-major-projects-2136444>

## **CANADA INVESTS IN INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE FOREST SECTOR**

Government of Canada – Mar 3

Paul Lefebvre, Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, today announced a \$500,000 investment in Agoke Development Corporation, a forestry company owned and operated by the First Nations of Aroland, Eabametoong and Marten Falls, based in Thunder Bay, Ontario. This investment will support a project to increase Indigenous participation in Canada's forest sector and contribute to the overall competitiveness of the sector. Parliamentary Secretary Lefebvre made the announcement at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada 2020 Convention in Toronto. "Over the next few years, we are looking to expand into other related sectors like construction, energy and mining. One of the main reasons for our success is our passion to be more than just a forestry company. We are empowering community members to take advantage of the cross training to diversify their skillsets for other projects like the Marten Falls all-season road or mine development. Our training initiatives are aligned with our long-term vision, and are culturally appropriate," said Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls First Nation Board Director Agoke Dev Corp.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/03/canada-invests-in-indigenous-participation-in-the-forest-sector.html>

## **NOT EVERYONE'S KEEN ON A RING OF FIRE ROAD**

Northern Ontario Business – Mar 3

A Cree community on the James Bay coast is "alarmed" by a new agreement signed to initiate the start of planning for the final stretch of the road into the Ring of Fire. Fort Albany First Nation said they have not been included on the discussions for this missing link of road that they insist will have a major impact on their lands ([Fort Albany news release attached](#)).

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/not-everyones-keen-on-a-ring-of-fire-road-2135019>

## **STAN SUDOL (REPUBLIC OF MINING) ON ROB SNOW SHOW (AUDIO)**

1310 News. Com – Mar 3

At the 20 min mark -The Rob Snow Show Hour 1 (March 3, 2020)

<https://www.1310news.com/audio/the-rob-snow-show/>

### **DOUG FORD STILL CHASING RING OF FIRE DREAM**

National Observer – Mar 4

Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives are doggedly pursuing the dream of developing the Ring of Fire mining region in northern Ontario, despite a shaky economic foundation and likely tricky talks ahead with nearby First Nations ([attached is Ontario government map within article](#)).

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2020/03/04/news/doug-ford-still-chasing-ring-fire-dream>

### **WAUBETEK, LAURENTIAN SIGN AGREEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS MINING CENTRE**

Northern Ontario Business – Mar 4

Waubetek Business Development Corp. and Laurentian University have signed an agreement signalling an intent to cooperate on the Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Minerals Development. Dawn Madahbee Leach, Waubetek's general manager, and Robert Haché, president at Laurentian, signed the agreement during the 2020 conference of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) in Toronto. The centre will be a clearinghouse of information on best practices related to consultation with Indigenous peoples in advance of mineral exploration and development.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/aboriginal-businesses/waubetek-laurentian-sign-agreement-for-indigenous-mining-centre-2135110>