

August 19, 2020

### **NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS CALL FOR A MAJOR OVERHAUL OF MINING LEGISLATION**

Yukon News – Aug 8

The Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin governments are the latest to call for a major overhaul of mining policy in a submission to the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy. "This is long overdue," said Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Deputy Chief Simon Nagano, who added that the current outdated legislation is cumbersome for everyone involved. "We're not anti-mining. There's a lot of First Nations families out there that work in the industry. We want to work with (First Nations), the miners, the Yukon government so that each party is happy. Finally, when the Yukon government can agree to have this completed it'll be a benefit to all three," he said.

<https://www.yukon-news.com/news/northern-first-nations-call-for-a-major-overhaul-of-mining-legislation/>

### **NORONT FIRED UP TO RESUME WORK IN THE RING OF FIRE**

Timmins Daily Press – Aug 10

"We're focusing the next programs on gold," said Coutts. "As you know, the price of gold is sky high and we've got some really good gold discoveries that we've made over the last few years. We're going to go in there, do some follow-up work, and generate some new targets." Regarding the idea of an all-season access road to the region, the plan has been changed. Most often, when there is a new mining development, the mining company is the proponent, and source of provisions like access roads. "When we applied to the Government of Ontario for our terms of reference for our project, they included the all-season access road into the region. We started doing work along those lines, but ultimately the First Nations came to us and they said, 'Look, this is our traditional land, we'd like to lead the environmental assessments across our lands,' and we thought that was a good idea," said Coutts.

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/noront-fired-up-to-resume-work-in-ring-of-fire>

### **MUSHKEGOWUK SUGGESTS CHANGES TO BILL 197 VIOLATE TREATY**

Timmins Press – Aug 10

Mushkegowuk Council is calling on the province to honour the treaty it signed 115 years ago. In an open letter to the Ontario government, Mushkegowuk's Grand Chief Jonathan Solomon expressed the council's "deep concerns" about recent changes that were made to the Environmental Assessment Act in Bill 197. The omnibus bill — dubbed the COVID-19 Recovery Act — which was passed on July 21, enacts changes to 20 pieces of current legislation that govern the province's schools, municipalities, and justice system. Ontario Premier Doug Ford has defended the bill, saying it will speed up the environmental assessment process that has been on the books for decades.

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/mushkegowuk-suggests-changes-to-bill-197-violate-treaty>

### **WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT – NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE (attached)**

This project involves the construction of a proposed all-season road corridor that will facilitate the movement of materials, supplies and people from the Webequie Airport to the proposed mine development and mineral exploration activities in the McFaulds Lake area of Northwestern Ontario. The Terms of Reference is being submitted to the MECP for review and a decision as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. As part of the Ontario Environmental Assessment process, members of Indigenous communities, the public, agencies and other interested parties are encouraged to review the Terms of Reference and provide comments from **August 14 to October 13, 2020**. The submitted proposed Terms of Reference considered comments received by Webequie First Nation on the draft Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference can be accessed on the project website at: [www.supplyroad.ca](http://www.supplyroad.ca). Your comments regarding the Terms of Reference must be submitted to the MECP before **5:00pm on October 13, 2020**.

## **NORONT CEO EXPECTS NO DELAYS IN RING OF FIRE ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MINE START**

Northern Ontario Business – Aug 13

Ottawa's new region-wide approach to Far North development shouldn't interfere with Noront Resources' timetable to put the first mine in the Ring of Fire into production by the middle of 2025, said the company CEO. Alan Coutts said he has no reason to believe that the federal Regional Assessment process will delay the start of operations at the Eagle's Nest Mine based on his conversation with Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan. "In talking to Minister O'Regan, we're being led to believe this could get done over a two-year period." That neatly fits into the company's project timeframe which shows construction of the long-awaited North-South road slated for mid-2021. Noront's Esker exploration camp and its high-grade nickel and chromite deposits are 360 kilometres from the nearest road. The four-year road build is expected to be finished just prior to the start of nickel, copper and platinum group metals production at Eagle's Nest.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/noront-ceo-expects-no-delays-in-ring-of-fire-road-construction-and-mine-start-2632567>

## **NORONT SAMPLES RING OF FIRE'S GOLD POTENTIAL**

Northern Ontario Business – Aug 18

Waiting years for a Ring of Fire access road to be built into the remote James Bay region has provided some unintended benefits for Noront Resources. One advantage to babysitting a massive 156,352-hectare nickel and chromite-rich property is that there's ample time and opportunity to better understand what else is beneath the surface. With construction on a 300-kilometre North-South road expected to begin in the middle of 2021, kicking off a four-year build, Noront has been biding its time running a regional exploration program that's turned up two promising gold and nickel prospects. "We've been piecing the geology together over the years and we're pretty confident of what we've got there," said Noront Resources CEO Alan Coutts in talking about his company's exploration plans for an abbreviated summer program.

<https://www.sudbury.com/beyond-local/noront-samples-ring-of-fires-gold-potential-2647294>