

August 28, 2020

ALL CLAIMS DISMISSED, BOARD APPROVES GIANT MINE TEAM'S WATER LICENCE

CBC News – Aug 21

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board has approved the water licence for the Giant Mine cleanup team, and dismissed the millions of dollars in claims for compensation filed by several organizations and people. The water licence was originally applied for in 2007; the Giant Mine cleanup team needed it to start cleaning up the contaminated former gold mine, located just outside Yellowknife. According to the cleanup team, it needs to block the area off from the public, interrupting boat launch access and plans for a mining museum, for roughly 10 years. The board approved the remediation project's water licence on Aug. 7.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/giant-mine-claims-dismissed-1.5694417>

HEALING ON THE LAND FOR OUR PEOPLE AND OUR ECONOMY

Toronto Star – Aug 23

On the land initiatives also support our prosperity. First Nations are leading visionary conservation projects proven to generate jobs and create long-term sustainability. As Canada begins rebuilding the economy, these models will make a vital contribution to our shared future. Together we can become more resilient in the face of uncertain times. We can create a more just world and a more just economy. Investing in First Nations' stewardship can help the country heal — from the pandemic, from the threat of climate change, from the loss of biodiversity and from the scars of colonialism. It begins with supporting Indigenous leadership on the land.

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2020/08/23/healing-on-the-land-for-our-people-and-our-economy.html>

THE NORTH IS WAITING: INDIGENOUS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS COULD LEAD TO FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Enterprise Website – Aug 26

To step back a bit, one of the last points of normalcy for Enterprise Canada, the national strategic communications firm that I lead, was on March 2. And it seems like an eternity ago. The pandemic was on the horizon, but not yet impacting life as we knew it in North America. The Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's 2020 conference was in full swing. The Prime Minister stopped by. The Ontario government announced progress on an access road to the Ring of Fire in partnership with Marten Falls and Webequie. And we made an announcement with Matawa First Nations. The nine member communities— including Marten Falls and Webequie—with their Chiefs and Councils had agreed to pursue and direct major community infrastructure projects on their lands, preparing themselves to be active partners and leaders in the massive economic opportunity headed for northern Ontario in the coming decades. We at Enterprise, along with PCL Constructors, Ontario Power Generation and EPCOR Utilities, had the privilege of taking part as the “major Canadian companies” noted at the time.

<https://enterprisecanada.com/indigenous-infrastructure-investments-could-lead-to-future-economic-prosperity/>

PROVINCE RELEASE PROVINCIAL FORESTRY STRATEGY

Aug 26 – Sudbury Star

John Yakabuski, the minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, unveiled Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy in North Bay earlier this month. The 10-year plan, which has been in the works since 2018, is the result of 27 engagement sessions held with Indigenous leaders, municipalities and industry, along with public feedback gleaned from Environmental Registry postings. It aims to support Indigenous, northern and rural communities that depend on the sector while ensuring the province's forests stay healthy for generations to come.

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/province-releases-provincial-forestry-strategy>

YUKON FIRST NATIONS USING GAS TAX FUNDING FOR ROAD, WATER PROJECTS

Yukon News – Aug 27

Yukon First Nations using gas tax funding for road, water projects. The portion of federal Gas Tax Fund going towards First Nations in the territory will fund community improvements towards clean drinking water and road safety in five communities.

In total the funding for those upgrades amounts to \$1.42 million.

<https://www.yukon-news.com/news/yukon-first-nations-using-gas-tax-funding-for-road-water-projects/>

FEDS INVESTS \$3.2 MILLION IN INDIGENOUS-MANAGED WATERSHED PROGRAM IN NORTHERN CANADA

Eye on the North – Aug 28

The Canadian government will invest \$3.2 million in the Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area in the Canadian province of Manitoba near the Nunavut border. The watershed covers 50,000 km² in northern Manitoba, a region that includes species at risk such as the polar bear, short-eared owl, olive-sided flycatcher and barren ground caribou. “We appreciate the Government of Canada’s investment in Indigenous conservation,” said Ernie Bussidor, the executive director of the Seal River Watershed Alliance and a former chief of Sayisi Dene First Nation, in a news release on Wednesday. “The Dene, Cree and Inuit peoples have cared for these lands, waters and animals since time immemorial. “Every aspect of our cultures, spirituality and identities are rooted in our relationship to the caribou and to the lands which sustain us. We envision a pristine watershed where people, animals and fish are healthy, our unique languages and cultures are thriving, and there is hope and abundance for all future generations.”

<https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2020/08/28/feds-invests-3-2-million-in-indigenous-managed-watershed-program-in-northern-canada/>

PALLISTER DEFIES COURT INJUNCTION – FIRST NATIONS FILE CONTEMPT OF COURT APPLICATION

NationTalk – Aug 28

In the spring of 2020, after trying to find a way to work with the Province to no avail, the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council (IRTC) and four of its member First Nations – Lake Manitoba First Nation, Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Dauphin River First Nation and Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation – filed a lawsuit against the Government of Manitoba seeking an injunction to stop construction work on the Lake Manitoba-Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project and a related access road unless and until the federal and provincial environmental assessments are done and the Channels Project is approved. The lawsuit calls on the Manitoba stop any further clearing on public land and continued work on an access road in relation to the Channels Project until the Project is legally sanctioned and until the Plaintiff First Nations have consulted and their rights accommodated.

<https://nationtalk.ca/story/pallister-defies-court-injunction-first-nations-file-contempt-of-court-application>