

August 7, 2020

MUSK PROMISES 'GIANT CONTRACT' FOR EFFICIENTLY MINED NICKEL

Bloomberg – July 22

Elon Musk has a plea for mining companies: “Please mine more nickel.” “Tesla will give you a giant contract for a long period of time if you mine nickel efficiently and in an environmentally sensitive way,” said Musk, chief executive officer of the electric-car maker, during a second-quarter earnings call. Musk’s plea comes as one of Japan’s general trading giants is about to take a roughly \$500 million write down on a nickel project in Madagascar because of low prices and the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/musk-promises-giant-contract-for-efficiently-mined-nickel-1.1469461>

COLUMN: ADVICE TO ELON MUSK ABOUT POTENTIAL NICKEL SHORTAGES – STAN SUDOL

Republic of Mining – July 23

And finally there is the enormous mineral potential of the Ring of Fire with a 43-101 nickel mine owned by junior miner Noront Resources. More nickel mines are surely to be discovered. Perhaps Musk could chat with Premier Ford and impress on him the importance of shortening environmental assessments and building that road into the Ring of Fire. For crying out loud, it’s a skinny 300km gravel road and a couple of bridges. We are not building the Panama Canal or the Pyramids of Giza! In the 1940s, the Canadian-Alaskan highway – roughly 2,700kms – was built in eight months. No type error folks. Less than one year!! The proposed road that is on the traditional territories of Webequie and Marten Falls First Nations who both want it built. Hell, Musk should even consider putting a few hundred million in financing that road – I say this only half in jest as both the provincial and federal levels of government might be broke before construction starts.

<https://republicofmining.com/2020/07/23/advice-to-elon-musk-about-potential-nickel-shortages-stan-sudol-july-23-2020/#more-70683>

'WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS POTENTIALLY ILLEGAL': KINGSTON MPP WANTS INVESTIGATION INTO BILL 197

Global News – July 23

Arthur, who also serves as the environment critic for the opposition NDP, says Bill 197 will gut the Environmental Assessment Act as it will almost entirely be under the purview of the cabinet. The Eastern Ontario politician has penned a letter to the provincial Auditor General, Bonnie Lysyk, asking that she investigate Bill 197 for violating the environmental bill of rights.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7207059/kingston-mpp-bill-197-challenge/>

FORT ALBANY TROUBLED BY RAPIDLY APPROVED CHANGES TO EA PROCESS

Timmins Daily Press – July 24

Fort Albany Chief Leo Metatawabin says he is troubled by the “rapid and potentially illegal passage” of a bill which he says makes remote Northern communities vulnerable by weakening the environmental assessment process. “These changes are part of an ongoing effort by this government to overhaul Ontario’s environmental protection regime in support of its promise to ‘cut red tape’ in support of economic interests,” said Metatawabin, in a release issued by the First Nation. “Too often this has seemed to mean weakening protections for vulnerable species and ecosystems based on the false idea that we can have a healthy economy without a healthy environment.

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/fort-albany-troubled-by-rapidly-approved-changes-to-ea-process>

DESPITE PANDEMIC, CANADA'S MINING INDUSTRY BENEFITS FROM SOARING PRICE OF GOLD

CBC – July 29

As many sectors grapple with the devastating financial effects of COVID-19, Canada's mining industry is reporting gold has managed to hit record high prices. This week, the price of gold reached \$1,950 USD per ounce — more than \$2,600 CAD. For those in the mining industry, it's welcome news, indicating more money and more opportunity. Pierre Gratton,

the president and CEO of the Mining Association of Canada, it will have a positive ripple effect for the Canadian economy as a whole. "We do pay the highest wages in the country, so those people are then spending their money and that also helps the rest of the economy that is hurting," Gratton said.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/sudbury-price-of-gold-up-1.5666131?_vz=medium%3Dsharebar&fbclid=IwAR1EVvvpDzV4wxmNqiYzWk6EzBfomOaBLOPrqkLWxYNXPUSApYqu2f7KxzE

ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION DENOUNCES FORD'S UNDEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENTAL RISK: STATEMENT ON BILL 197 CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

Yahoo Finance – July 30

On July 8, 2020, the Ford government in Ontario introduced Bill 197 -- the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, and a mere 13 days later the Bill became law. This omnibus bill amends many statutes, foremost among them the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA). The changes put Ontario's fragile environment, and First Nations who depend on it, at serious risk.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/attawapiskat-first-nation-denounces-fords-141100069.html>

ONTARIO MUST ACT TO PREVENT HIDDEN DEFORESTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SAYS

CBC – July 30

Thousands of hectares of boreal forest in northwestern Ontario have been laid to waste by the forest industry but remains unaccounted for under Ontario's forest management and climate change plans, according to a new report from the Wildlands League. The environmental group released an online catalogue on Thursday of nearly 300 sites that have remained barren for up to 30 years. The total deforested area amounts to about 650,000 hectares or roughly 1.5 times the size of Lake Nipigon, according to Trevor Hesselink, director of policy and research for the Wildlands League. The sites, which Hesselink calls logging scars, are left on the landscape by access roads and heavy equipment use. Those areas fall outside of Ontario's forest management planning regime.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/logging-scars-1.5667518?_vz=medium%3Dsharebar

INJUNCTIONS AS A TOOL OF COLONIALISM

First Peoples Law – July 30

The trends in injunction decisions highlight key issues in the unsettled relationship between Canadian law, Indigenous rights and resource development. First, the courts' tendency to refuse injunctions based on the balance of convenience has the potential to undermine Indigenous peoples' confidence in the overall utility of Canadian law. It is worth considering why, in measuring the balance of convenience, economic interests are so frequently found to outweigh the protection of Indigenous peoples' title and rights.

<https://www.firstpeopleslaw.com/index/articles/482.php>

K'ATL'ODEECHE FIRST NATION GETS OUT FROM UNDER THE INDIAN ACT'S THUMB

APTN – Aug 3

K'at'odeeche First Nation (KFN) has spoken loud and clear – they want more authority and responsibility over their land. On July 29, members of the roughly 700 person reserve near Hay River, Northwest Territories passed a custom land code allowing them to manage their own land, resources and economic development in a timely manner without federal oversight from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Just over 30 per cent of the 500 eligible voters cast their ballot. Out of the 153 who voted, 144 were in favour of the new land law.

<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/katlodeeche-first-nation-gets-out-from-under-the-indian-acts-thumb/>

ARDIDEN HITS PICKLE LAKE EXPLORATION SNAG

Northern Ontario Business – Aug 4

Ardiden said the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines issued a July 31 letter to all exploration companies that permit applications were placed on hold under the state of emergency declared in Ontario in mid-March.

The company is seeking a renewal of an exploration permit from three years ago. The one for Kasagimminis was due last March, precisely when the province imposed lockdown measures that impacted government processing of permit renewals. As well, the net of consultation with area First Nations must be cast wider.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/northwestern-ontario/ardiden-hits-pickle-lake-exploration-snag-2611959>

NORONT EXPLORATION AND EAGLE’S NEST PERMITTING UPDATE

Global Newswire – Aug 6

Noront Resources Ltd. is reopening Esker Site and mobilizing its team to resume exploration activities in the Ring of Fire. “We are initiating a late summer field program that will require 12-15 people during which we’ll employ soil sampling to explore for gold and airborne geophysical surveys to explore for nickel,” said Noront President and CEO Alan Coutts. Esker Site was closed in early April to protect staff and the communities surrounding Noront’s operations from the spread of COVID-19. Now that the site is reopening, a rigorous back-to-work protocol is in place. It will ensure workers travelling to and from the site are symptom-free and low risk. In addition, travel will be reduced to essential staff with minimal planned flights. While at site, workers will practice social distancing and wear face masks when necessary. Regular sanitizing of common touch points will be performed daily. At no point will Noront flights will be landing in either Webequie or Marten Falls First Nation as per guidance from the local Chiefs and Councils.

<http://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2020/08/06/2074203/0/en/Noront-Exploration-and-Eagle-s-Nest-Permitting-Update.html>

NORONT RESUMING EXPLORATION IN RING OF FIRE

Sudbury Star – Aug 6

Noront previously discovered anomalous gold mineralization in over 50 diamond-drill holes along a fault zone and in the so-called Thunderbird intrusion, located 13 kilometres northeast of Esker Site. “Both occurrences are close to the Webequie Shear Zone, which is believed to be prospective for greenstone-hosted gold mineralization but has never been explored for gold,” Noront said. Soil samples will be collected in an area measuring 10 by 5 kms along this zone “to detect areas of anomalous gold indicative of a bedrock source.”

<https://www.thesudburystar.com/news/local-news/noront-resuming-exploration-in-ring-of-fire>

NORTHERN ONTARIO WOMAN NAMED TO CANADA ENERGY REGULATOR ADVISORY BODY

TB Newswatch – Aug 6

A woman from northern Ontario has been appointed to the Indigenous Advisory Committee for the recently-created Canada Energy Regulator (CER). Kaella-Marie Earle is Anishinaabekwe from Aroland First Nation and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Earle is employed by Enbridge Gas Inc. in engineering construction system improvement where she manages the construction of natural gas pipeline projects.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/northern-ontario-woman-named-to-canada-energy-regulator-advisory-body-2616452>



Figure 1 From Alan Coutts Twitter (Aug 5, 2020) saying: “And we’re back! Noront crews arrived yesterday at Esker Site in the Ring of Fire to commence gold exploration on the Webequie shear zone and nickel work on the Victory claims. Strict Covid-19 back-to-work protocols are in place.”