

September 11, 2020

TAKE ME HOME, COUNTRY ROADS: HOUSING SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS MOBILITY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Northern Policy Institute – Aug 11

According to the most recent available data, Northern Ontario's Big 5 cities—North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Timmins—welcomed a combined 2,485 Indigenous new arrivals in the year before May 16th 2016. Interestingly, the influx of Indigenous peoples to Northern Ontario's urban centres doesn't mean that its reserves are shrinking: in fact, the literature has shown that both reserve and urban centres are experiencing positive migration flows. The trend in migration seems to be away from rural and smaller urban areas towards reserves and cities, with high rates of back-and-forth migration between the latter two places. Moves between urban areas and reserves can be made so frequently that scholars have named it the "churn" phenomenon, with multiple back-and-forth moves sometimes being made in the same year.

https://www.northernpolicy.ca/indigenous-mobility#_edn4

CANADA TO GET RARE EARTH PROCESSING PLANT IN 2022

Mining.com – Aug 28

The process of turning rare earth elements (REE) ore into individual products is done in two main stages. The first is the concentration of ore to mixed REE Carbonate. The second is the more complex separation stage that converts the mixed REE Carbonate to commercial pure-grade REEs. The facility, owned and operated by the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), will address both stages of REE processing. The plant, the first in Canada, will be owned and operated by the Saskatchewan Research Council. The province said it would be the first of its kind in Canada, adding that it is expected to be an industry model for future commercial rare earth expansion.

<https://www.mining.com/canada-to-have-rare-earth-processing-plant-in-2022/>

MATAWA SAYS BILL-197 ALLOWS UNLAWFUL ACCESS TO NORTHERN RESOURCES

TB Newswatch – Aug 28

Matawa Chiefs Council released a statement on Friday, saying Bill 197 – Ontario's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act that was passed last month, institutes changes to the Environmental Assessment Act and weakens requirements of the Ministry of the Environment and Conservation and Parks to oversee and monitor the environmental impacts of resource extraction. "We have inherent Aboriginal and Treaty rights over our Homelands that must be acknowledged and respected by the Crown," said Nibinamik First Nation Chief Sheldon Oskineegish in a media release.

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/matawa-says-bill-197-allows-unlawful-access-to-northern-resources-2672398>

MATAWA CHIEFS ACCUSE QUEEN'S PARK OF FAR NORTH LAND GRAB

Northern Ontario Business – Aug 29

They join the voices of the James Bay coastal communities of Fort Albany, Attawapiskat and Mushkegowuk Council in taking issue with the Ford government's changes to the provincial environmental assessment - passed as Bill 197 in July - that was lumped into the government's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act. Recently, Noront Resources CEO Alan Coutts, the lead mine developer in the Ring of Fire, told Northern Ontario Business that he expects no delays in the timetable to start construction of an access road to the isolated mineral belt based on his assurances from federal and provincial ministers on the pace of the various environmental assessment processes. But the Matawa chiefs are taking direct aim at the province revamping the environmental assessment process.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/regional-news/far-north-ring-of-fire/matawa-chiefs-accuse-queens-park-of-far-north-land-grab-2673335>

ENOCH CREE NATION AND EPCOR SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

NationTalk – Sept 11

Enoch Cree Nation and EPCOR have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that formalizes their commitment to working together in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. The MOU sets a strong foundation for both parties, creating a path forward on all projects, initiatives and joint-endeavors that cause ground disturbance at the E.L. Smith and Rosedale Water Treatment Plants in Edmonton. As well, it provides a platform for meaningful, effective and transparent communication on issues of mutual interest. "Enoch Cree Nation is pleased to sign a MOU with EPCOR and we believe it is a step in the right direction to working together," says Chief Morin of Enoch Cree Nation. "EPCOR's work with water, energy, gas and land, naturally makes this an effective partnership for Enoch. A partnership that honours our stewardship of Treaty lands and resources.

<https://nationtalk.ca/story/enoch-cree-nation-and-epcor-sign-memorandum-of-understanding>

WATER PROTECTORS LOOK AT NEXT MOVES TO OPPOSE FERROCHROME SMELTER IN SAULT STE. MARIE

SooToday – Sept 2

A four-day ceremonial gathering of Indigenous peoples on Whitefish Island this week aimed to provide a forum on water protection, treaty rights and the environmental impacts of establishing a ferrochrome processing plant in Sault Ste. Marie.

A number of those in attendance worked to establish a sacred fire and sweat lodge while making a bundle - a collection of items considered sacred by the Anishinabek - for the protection of the water. Co-organizer Janet Day of Serpent River First Nation told SooToday that her involvement is due in no small part to the work of Josephine Mandamin, who helped solidify the 'water protectors' movement by walking more than 25,000 kilometres around the Great Lakes as part of the Mother Earth Water Walks.

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/water-protectors-look-at-next-moves-to-oppose-ferrochrome-smelter-in-sault-ste-marie-2684428>

NORONT ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Street Insider – Sept 3

The shareholders voted in favour of all matters brought before the Meeting. The results of the other matters considered at the Meeting including the appointment of auditors, re-approval of the Company's Stock Option Plan and Amendment to the Company's Share Award Plan are reported in the Report of Voting Results as filed on SEDAR on September 3, 2020. A video presentation update from Mr. Alan Coutts, President and CEO of the Company, is available on the [Company's YouTube page](#).

<https://www.streetinsider.com/Globe+Newswire/Noront+Announces+Results+of+Annual+and+Special+Meeting+of+Shareholders/17323674.html>

ONTARIO USING COVID-19 AS A 'SMOKESCREEN' TO TRAMPLE TREATY RIGHTS, CHIEFS SAY

CBC News – Sept 5

Ontario's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act won't withstand a constitutional challenge, says the lawyer representing First Nations – including some in Treaty 9 territory – who are poised to take legal action against Bill 197, which passed into law in July. Part of the omnibus bill makes changes to the province's Environmental Assessment Act "to ensure strong environmental oversight while reducing delays on infrastructure projects that matter most to Ontario communities," according to the government. But those changes violate constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, said Kate Kempton of Olthuis, Kleer Townshend, the firm that is preparing the court action on behalf of First Nations. The government is "setting about to gut the Environmental Assessment Act," Kempton said. "They have removed a bunch of protections."

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/bill-197-first-nations-1.5712623?_vfz=medium%3Dsharebar

MINING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF ONTARIO'S RECOVERY: MINISTER GREG RICKFORD INTERVIEW

Northern Miner – Sept 9

I said at PDAC, in March, that we've identified road access as vital. As somebody who has lived and worked extensively in many of those communities, the corridor is as much about the physical access connecting them to the south as it is about connecting to a prospective resource development project, like the Ring of Fire. Now, there was a pause of fairly significant proportions for the duration of stage 1, but more recently some of the activities relating to moving the environmental assessments (EA) forward with two communities, Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations, have restarted. I've been in regular contact with Chief [Cornelius] Wabasse, from Webiquie, directly, on some local, community opportunities around infrastructure.

<https://www.northernminer.com/politics/mining-at-the-forefront-of-ontarios-recovery-minister-greg-rickford-interview/1003822034/>

RIO TINTO CEO AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES RESIGN FROM COMPANY AFTER JUUKAN GORGE DEBACLE

The Guardian – Sept 11

The Rio Tinto chief executive, Jean-Sébastien Jacques, and two other senior executives are leaving the global miner after its board bowed to intense investor pressure for strong action over its decision to blow up 46,000-year-old rock shelters at Juukan Gorge in Western Australia's Pilbara region. The company blew up the rock shelters, which were highly significant to the area's Aboriginal traditional owners, the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people, in May, so that it could mine better quality iron ore, despite knowing for years of their importance.

https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/sep/11/rio-tinto-ceo-senior-executives-resign-juukan-gorge-debacle-caves?CMP=share_btn_tw