

September 18, 2020

**SEPTEMBER EAGLE'S EYE NEWSLETTER FROM NORONT**

(see attached)

**LAND AS A SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP**

Briarpatch – Sept 10

As Indigenous Peoples, we have never completely lost our connection to our lands and waters, nor our collective understanding of ourselves as Peoples, despite Canada's ongoing violent occupation of our territories, repeated displacements of our communities, and various attempts to assimilate us into its political and economic order. Since Canada can't hide our Peoples' lands, it seeks to remove our consciousness itself and break our mode of social relations.

<https://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/land-as-a-social-relationship>

**NEW MINE SHOWS NORTHERN ONTARIO 'OPEN FOR BUSINESS'**

Sault Online – Sept 13

It was a beautiful, sunny morning to break ground at IAMGOLD's new open pit gold mine about 20 km southwest of Gogama. On Friday, local First Nation leaders, MPPs, and municipal leaders from Sudbury, Gogama and Timmins, joined Premier Doug Ford and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the company's new Côté Gold site to show their support for a project that is expected to create hundreds of jobs and contribute billions to the economy. "The opening of this mine is a prime example of how the Ontario government can help businesses grow and create jobs by cutting red tape and removing regulatory roadblocks, without cost to taxpayers," Ford said.

<https://saultonline.com/2020/09/new-mine-shows-northern-ontario-open-for-business/>

**MINING PLAYS A ROLE IN GREEN ECONOMY, RECONCILIATION, SAYS TRUDEAU**

Northern Ontario Business – Sept 13

Mining has a place in Justin Trudeau's green agenda in restoring Canada's economy. The prime minister called IAMGOLD's Côté Gold Mine development "a model" for Indigenous engagement that Ottawa would like to see replicated across the country. "This is part of reconciliation," said Trudeau during a Q & A with reporters at the Sept. 11 sod-turning for the mining company's \$1.8-billion open-pit gold project outside Gogama. Trudeau said the federal government is "very much focused" in investing in a mining sector that brings good jobs to communities, particularly First Nations.

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/mining-plays-a-role-in-green-economy-reconciliation-says-trudeau-2708946>

**RARE 102-CARAT CANADIAN DIAMOND AT AUCTION THIS MONTH COULD BE AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE**

CBC – Sept 15

A rare 102-carat diamond found in Northern Ontario two years ago could be among the most expensive of its kind in an auction that starts online and is set to culminate in person in Hong Kong in early October. Mined at DeBeers' now-closed Victor Mine in 2018, the diamond, about the size of a small egg, was cut from a larger 271-carat rough diamond, and then cut and polished for more than a year. Those in the industry say the stone has a lot of features going for it. The diamond is known as a Type IIa diamond, which are among the most chemically pure among naturally occurring diamonds. Only about one or two per cent of all diamonds end up being Type IIa, Toronto-based high-end jewelry designer Reena Ahluwalia says. It's also rated D colour and considered flawless, a characterization that British auction house Sotheby's says is bestowed on only 0.5 per cent of all mined diamonds.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/diamond-auction-1.5723379>

## **CHIEF SAYS FIRST NATIONS MUST TAKE OWNERSHIP OF MINERALS INFRASTRUCTURE**

Timmins Now – Sept 16

Roseanne Archibald was keynote speaker at the annual general meeting of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. She noted to the business audience that some First Nations are already participating in mining activity, and the next wave for indigenous economic development is ownership. "So it's not just sharing in profits," she said, "but it's actually owning the mines, owning the infrastructure and I think we have to get there for First Nations to really, truly benefit." She adds that past agreements don't go far enough.

<https://www.mytimminsnow.com/49884/chief-says-first-nations-must-take-ownership-of-minerals-infrastructure/>

## **CONSTRUCTION OF TWO MAJOR POWER LINES IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO BRINGS HUNDREDS OF NEW WORKERS TO REGION**

CBC – Sept 17

Valard, a construction company based in Calgary, is the contractor for both the East-West Tie Line and Wataynikaneyap Power line. "These are large jobs, yes. Very large jobs," said Carey Kostyk, a senior executive vice president at Valard.

"Both together, it's over a billion dollars of work. Between all the jobs, those two jobs that we're doing, we have over 1,000 people in the area working." The East-West Tie Line, a 450-kilometre line stretching from Wawa to Thunder Bay, is a \$777 million project. Kostyk said Valard is using Thunder Bay as a staging location for many of its trucks and crews. The company is using the former Abitibi Lakeshore mill for its equipment in Thunder Bay.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-power-contracts-valard-1.5726667>