

October 29, 2020

### **SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE CORRIDOR TO GO AHEAD AFTER FIRST NATION LEADERS PULL BRAKES OVER SUMMER**

CBC News – Oct 14

Earlier this summer, Dettah Chief Edward Sangris said the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) was pulling the plug on its support and cited concerns about "antiquated methods of procurement and Indigenous engagement." YKDFN said in a news release that it hoped there would be more priority given to "capacity building, benefits for Northern and Indigenous business, local hiring, and community engagement." In an interview with CBC, Sangris said the decision-making processes are "outdated" and therefore do not reflect the needs and interests of Northern people.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/slave-geological-province-corridor-to-move-ahead-1.5762366>

### **BILL 197 COURT ACTION PROCEEDINGS MOVING FORWARD**

Wawatay News – Oct 16

"We're challenging two legislative things that the government of Ontario did — one of them was to bring in pretty sweeping changes to the Environmental Assessment Act, and that's what was done through Bill 197 (COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act)," says Kate Kempton, partner at OKT Law and one of three lawyers for the First Nations in the legal proceeding. "And the other related move they made is a couple of weeks before they did that (Bill 197) they revoked environmental assessments in the forestry sector, so that was done as a separate move by Ontario through a regulation. So we're challenging both of those things as unconstitutional and violations of First Nations rights." The applicants for the legal challenge are the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Attawapiskat, Chapleau Cree, Eagle Lake, Fort Albany, Magnetawan, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, Temagami and Teme-Augama Anishnabai.

<https://www.wawataynews.ca/breaking-news/bill-197-court-action-proceedings-moving-forward>

### **WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT - PARTICIPANT FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Cision – Oct 19

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is making funding available to assist the participation of the public and Indigenous groups in the federal impact assessment for the proposed Webequie Supply Road Project. The project would connect the Webequie Airport to the McFaulds Lake area in northern Ontario. The project could also become part of a future all-season road network connecting Webequie First Nation and the Ring of Fire area to the provincial highway system.

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/webequie-supply-road-project-participant-funding-available-867084522.html>

### **INDIGENOUS BUSINESS UNDERREPRESENTED IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Elliot Lake Today – Oct 20

Very few Indigenous business owners and operators are well-informed about the bidding process on government contracts. According to the survey results released by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), that's a "critical barrier" preventing Indigenous entrepreneurs from fully participating in government supply chains. The CCAB and the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs released the findings of its latest report, Promise and Prosperity: The 2020 Ontario Aboriginal Business Survey, on Oct. 20 ([attached](#)).

<https://www.elliottlaketoday.com/local-news/indigenous-business-underrepresented-in-government-procurement-opportunities-2807522>

### **ELON MUSK'S SATELLITE INTERNET PLAN GETS GREEN LIGHT FROM CANADIAN REGULATOR**

CBC News – Oct 20

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has approved an Elon Musk-owned company's application to provide low Earth orbit satellite internet to rural Canadians. Space Exploration Technologies Corp (SpaceX) is Musk's rocket and spacecraft company. One of the company's projects is to bring high-speed internet service to hard-

to-reach rural areas around the globe by launching thousands of small satellites that will orbit just 550 kilometres above the Earth, vastly speeding interaction with residential computers on the ground.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/elon-musk-tesla-starlink-low-earth-orbit-high-speed-rural-internet-rockets-satellite-1.5768338>

### **THE CASE FOR GREATER FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN NORTHERN MINING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Nunatsiaq News – Oct 23

The Mining Association of Canada and mineral industry partners undertook extensive research on how remote and northern mining costs compare to those in the south. Our research indicates it costs 2 to 2.5 times more to build the same precious or base metal mine in the North (off-grid) than in a centrally located region and, most importantly, that 70 per cent of this cost differential derives from the infrastructure deficit.

<https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/the-case-for-greater-federal-investments-in-northern-mining-infrastructure/>

### **MINING CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE EVEN AS WATER STOPS FLOWING FOR NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**

CBC News – Oct 28

The end date for comments for this phase of the environmental assessment on the road has already been pushed back twice and is now set for Nov. 30. Before the current water crisis, Neskantaga had asked for the consultations to be put off because the pandemic makes it impossible to safely gather knowledge holders to provide input. "Neskantaga's land use options will be permanently altered by the project as the Webequie Supply Road will bisect Neskantaga's lands and change forever the options for ensuring the continued practice of Neskantaga's way of life on Neskantaga territory," said in a letter to the environment ministry, dated Oct. 13.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/consultation-water-crisis-1.5778992>

### **ONTARIO BRINGS MINERAL AND MINING SECTOR BACK TO THE FOREFRONT**

Ontario Newsroom – Oct 28

Today, Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, met with the Ontario Mining Association and issued the following statement: "Employing more than 72,000 people, Ontario's mineral exploration and mining sector is one of our province's greatest success stories. In 2019 alone, the industry produced more than \$10 billion worth of minerals, accounting for 22 per cent of Canada's total production. While these are impressive numbers, they do not tell the whole story about Ontario's globally competitive mining industry.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/58970/ontario-brings-mineral-and-mining-sector-back-to-the-forefront>

### **FIRST NATION MAJOR PROJECT COALITION BREAKS GROUND IN PROJECT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

October 28, 2020

The First Nation Major Projects Coalition has released a new 'how-to' guide for Indigenous Nations to effectively get involved in project impact assessment processes. "The work that we do is help Indigenous communities build capacity to do better environmental assessments of major projects that are being proposed within their respective territory," explained Angel Ransom, Director of Operations and Impact Assessment Lead.

<https://www.mybulkleylakesnow.com/43658/first-nation-major-project-coalition-breaks-ground-in-project-assessment-process/>

### **INVESTORS WORTH \$10.2 TRILLION PRESS GLOBAL MINERS FOR TALKS ON INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**

Reuters – Oct 28

Institutional investors worth \$10.2 trillion (7.8 trillion pounds) have written to the boards of global mining companies to better understand their engagement with First Nations people, in the wake of Rio Tinto Ltd's RIO.AX destruction of Juukan Gorge rockshelters. The group of 64 investors and their representatives, including the Church of England Pensions Board and the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI), issued a statement on Thursday. The group has written to the boards of mining companies operating in Australia and internationally to seek assurances about how they gain their social licence to operate with First Nations and Indigenous communities, they said.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mining-investors/investors-worth-10-2-trillion-press-global-miners-for-talks-on-indigenous-engagement-idUKKBN27E055>