

December 1, 2020

THUNDER BAY COULD BE THE SITE FOR A NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO LITHIUM MINERAL PROCESSING HUB

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 17

Two northwestern Ontario exploration and mine development companies are eyeing Thunder Bay as a potential site for a lithium processing plant. Toronto's Avalon Advanced Materials and Rock Tech Lithium of Vancouver signed a letter of intent to team up on establishing a facility that makes lithium sulphate, a chemical used in making lithium-ion batteries. It would be the first facility of its type in North America, said Avalon president-CEO Don Bubar in an interview with Northern Ontario Business. The facility would accept lithium mineral concentrates from Avalon's Separation Rapids deposit, 70 kilometres north of Kenora, and Rock Tech's Georgia Lake deposit, located 17 kilometres south of the town of Beardmore, just off Highway 11

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/thunder-bay-could-be-the-site-for-a-northwestern-ontario-lithium-mineral-processing-hub-2886706>

WATERWAY DIVERSION EDUCATION IMPORTANT FOR YOUTH

Wawatay News – Nov 20

Marten Falls Councillor Sam Achneepineskum recently stressed the importance of sharing information about the impacts of water diversions from the Albany River system with upcoming generations of youth ([article attached](#)).

<https://cela.ca/ontario-must-assess-the-impacts-of-mines-and-smelters-before-they-are-built/>

MINING PUSH CONTINUES DESPITE WATER CRISIS IN NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION AND ONTARIO'S RING OF FIRE

The Conversation – Nov 22

In fact, there is only one settlement along the Attawapiskat River in this whole region that has enjoyed continuous access to safe clean drinking water — the De Beers Victor Diamond Mine. In the fall of 2020, the mine entered its “closure phase,” but not once during its 12 years of operation did the Victor mine experience this kind of crisis of essential infrastructure. This suggests that the problems with the water in Neskantaga and other northern First Nations are not matters of technical capacity, but of political will.

<https://theconversation.com/mining-push-continues-despite-water-crisis-in-neskantaga-first-nation-and-ontarios-ring-of-fire-150522>

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL SEEKS AFFORDABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET PROVINCEWIDE BY 2030

Northern Ontario Business – Nov 26

Ontario is one step closer to bringing affordable high-speed internet to all families in the province, after a private member's bill from NDP Deputy Leader and Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof passed its second reading on Nov. 26. It still faces major hurdles, however, as private members' bills rarely succeed in majority governments. If passed into law, Bill 226, Broadband is an Essential Service Act, would set a 2030 deadline for making affordable high-speed internet available provincewide.

https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/technology/private-members-bill-seeks-affordable-high-speed-internet-provincewide-by-2030-3138847?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

CONSERVATIVES CELEBRATE STARLINK APPROVAL FOR SATELLITE INTERNET FOR PIKANGIKUM FIRST NATION

NetnewsLedger – Nov 27

Pikangikum First Nation will be the first community in Canada to be connected to Starlink's satellite internet network. Kenora-based IT company FSET collaborated with SpaceX about the remote community's desperate need for internet to help secure the project. On November 26th, FSET's work to launch the project and begin connecting the community gets underway. “Access to fast, reliable, and even the most basic internet services enjoyed by most Canadians is long overdue for Pikangikum First Nation; especially for its children, youth, and young adults who make up 75% of the

population,” FSET founders Nicole and David Brown said in a statement. “We are thrilled with to work with SpaceX and the delivery of Starlink for Pikangikum – recognizing the community’s unique needs and the opportunities that connectivity will create to enhance community outcomes. With all regulatory approvals now in place, this important step towards equality of opportunity begins today.”

<http://www.netnewsledger.com/2020/11/27/conservatives-celebrate-starlink-approval-for-satellite-internet-for-pikangikum-first-nation/>

FIRST NATIONS BILL 197 LAWSUIT ADVANCES AS ONTARIO MAKES EMPTY OFFERS TO CONSULT, LAWYER SAYS

CBC – Nov 27

Changes to the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) brought about by the passage of Bill 197 in July eliminated the need for environmental assessments for any public projects unless specifically called for by regulations; previously, the EAA mandated environmental assessments for all public projects unless specifically excluded by regulations. The minister of environment, conservation and parks has reached out to individual First Nations offering to consult with them about the creation of the new regulations, which will spell out which projects qualify for assessment, said Kate Kempton, the lead counsel on the case and a partner with Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP. But, she said, those consultations are not funded, and there's "no room to bring in legal and environmental expertise" in the process.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/first-nations-bill-197-lawsuit-1.5818182>

ONTARIO RE-POSTS NEW FAR NORTH ACT PROPOSAL

Environmental Registry of Ontario – Nov 30

We are proposing changes to Ontario’s Far North Act, 2010 to refocus the Act, while retaining provisions that allow for joint land use planning with all First Nations in the Far North. Consultation closes on January 13, 2021.

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2684>