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## OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION

### Ring of Fire Mining Development

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| 24 Oct 11  | "Cliffs Natural Resources says it’s committed to “working hand-in-hand” with nine remote First Nations that could benefit from the company’s proposed chromite mine in the Ring of Fire. But the company said it’s disappointed over last week’s all-or-nothing demand by Matawa First Nations for a higher level environmental review into the mine proposal. “It’s unfortunate that the focus is over the panel (review) versus comprehensive approaches,” Cliffs said in a statement. “The comprehensive review process provides a clear and thorough path, as well as the flexibility to address the specific concerns of impacted communities,” the statement said. Matawa is demanding a government-appointed joint review panel — similar to the one underway for a copper and palladium mine near Marathon — because “it allows for more public participation (including) oral hearings to be held in each community.” Though the federal government has the option of referring Cliffs’ proposal to a joint panel review at any time, it maintains that the comprehensive process started last week can still provide for a “thorough” review. Cliffs wants to have its chromite mine located 500 kilometres north of Thunder Bay to be in production by 2015. The company’s current plan has the ore being trucked on an all-weather road to Nakina, then railed to a Sudbury-area smelter located on an existing brownfield. Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci, who was sworn in Thursday as Ontario’s new Northern Development and Mines minister, “is looking forward to being briefed on (the Cliffs proposal) and other issues,” a staffer said in an email. Bartolucci “understands, supports and respects the province’s duty to consult with our First Nations partners,” the staffer added." [http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/10/24/matawa-demand-
%E2%80%98unfortunate%E2%80%99](http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/10/24/matawa-demand-
%E2%80%98unfortunate%E2%80%99) |
| 22 Oct 11  | "First Nations leaders will take ‘alternative measures’ -- perhaps including an injunction -- to stop an environmental review of Cliffs Natural Resources’ Black Thor chromite deposit in northwestern Ontario. The Matawa Chiefs also called on Premier Dalton McGuinty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Friday to stop the review in favour of a joint environment assessment to be done in conjunction with natives. "We will be forced to resort to alternative measures if Canada and Ontario continue to ignore the First Nations that are being impacted by the Ring of Fire developments," Chief Roger Wesley of Constance Lake First Nation said in a release Friday. The Matawa Chiefs -- who represent 8,000 people in nine Ojibway and Cree communities -- held a news conference Friday in Thunder Bay to discuss their concerns. They could not be reached for comment as to what those alternative measures could be, but a Thunder Bay radio station reported the First Nations could take legal action and seek an injunction to block the review. Cleveland-based Cliffs Natural Resources would create as many as 1,300 jobs at its Black Thor chromite mine project, including 400-500 jobs at a processing facility that could be located near Capreol. Cliffs is looking to open the mine and plant by 2015, but an environmental review process must be done first. Pat Persico, Cliffs Natural Resources' senior manager of media relations and marketing, could not be reached for comment on the concerns of the Matawa Chiefs. Native leaders say that until the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency agrees to a joint review, they will not support the Black Thor project. On Thursday, the Matawa Chiefs met with Christine Kaszycki, an assistant deputy minister with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and the ministry's Ring of Fire co-ordinator. Kaszycki said she met with the Matawa chiefs Thursday, but Friday’s scheduled meeting did not go ahead. "The purpose ... was to engage in a more comprehensive discussion concerning the Environmental Assessment process -- share some information and determining what the First Nation concerns are. We did have a discussion on that. "The consultation has opened the issue ... They want to be a more integral part of the process going forward and it's not just with respect to the environmental assessment, but all areas," Kaszycki said. There will be more meetings with the chiefs, but none are scheduled at this time. "We are committed to having ongoing dialogue with the (First Nation) communities," she said. "I think there is a lot of room to move forward in a very satisfactory way. We are committed to keeping the dialogue going." Rick Winston, senior communications officer at the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in Toronto, said the province is “committed to reaching the right balance” with the Ring of Fire project ...." [http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3343356](http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3343356) |
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threatens to slowly destroy their traditional way of life, extinguish their treaty rights and destroy their homelands and their children's future. "We want development, but we also want to make sure that our lands, waters, wildlife and our way of life are not destroyed in the process," Wesley said. "The government is forcing us to take alternative action. They are not listening to us or consulting us in a meaningful way and they are certainly not accommodating us." The Matawa chiefs say they are angry that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is proceeding with an environmental assessment. The chiefs have been calling for a joint assessment for five months, but they say no one is listening."

http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3342130

"The Matawa Tribal Council withdrew their support for the Ring of Fire chromite project in the James Bay lowlands saying a federal environmental assessment doesn't go far enough in consulting with First Nations. The council, which consists of nine Ojibway and Cree First Nation communities, closest to the large exploration camp, are asking for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Dalton McGuinty to intervene. For five months, the chiefs say they are pushing for a full-blown Joint Review Panel that is more far-reaching in hearing the public's support and concern for the project. The chiefs said the manner in which the development is proceeding will destroy their way of life, impact their treaty rights and destroy their territory. "The government is forcing us to take action," said Constance Lake Chief Roger Wesley in a statement. "They are not listening to us or consulting us in a meaningful way, and they are certainly not accommodating us."

http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Around-the-North/111017/No-review-panel,-no--Ring--say-First-Nations.aspx

"A group of chiefs representing First Nation communities with land near the Ring of Fire have withdrawn their support from the development. The withdrawal of support was originally announced Thursday, but chiefs from Matawa First Nations held a news conference Friday to provide details about that decision. The chiefs said they can't support the project unless the federal government agrees to a joint review panel environmental assessment that would allow First Nations communities in the area to have a voice in the assessment. "Our way of life our lands, animals will be impacted," said Webequie First Nation chief Cornelius Wabasse. "We just want a proper consultation...and also to work with government side-by-side on how we're going to alleviate some of these issues that will arise from the development in our area." In meetings with government officials Thursday, members of Matawa walked out after learning that the federal government would instead be using a comprehensive assessment to study two projects in the Ring of Fire."


"Matawa Chiefs have been calling for a joint review panel environmental assessment since May, but are in a state of disbelief about the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's (CEAA) decision to choose a comprehensive study environmental assessment (EA) process for the Cliff's Chromite Project near Webequie and Marten Falls First Nations. "I don't understand how the CEAA can make this kind of choice," Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation said in a press release. "The area being affected is among one of the largest groups of intact wetlands in the world. These Ring of Fire developments are going to impact everyone in the region, one way or another, but especially the First Nations near these developments. These are First Nation homelands and we need the best EA process out there to protect them." .... a much smaller project near Marathon was bumped up to a joint panel review EA process, and Matawa First Nations is asking for the same for these larger projects in their territory. Matawa community members have been writing letters to the Federal Minister of Environment and to their local MP's expressing their concerns over the EA process. More information can be found at: www.fourriversmatawa.ca www.facebook.com/RingoffireEnvironment * http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/10/21/matawa-fears-consequences-comprehensive-environmental-assessment_21976

Editorial: "THE NEW Ontario cabinet isn’t new at all; there isn’t a fresh face in it. But two changes are sparking much speculation here in the North. Michael Gravelle is no longer Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. He was moved to Natural Resources to which Forestry has been added. This leaves his successor, Sudbury’s Rick Bartolucci, one less thing to look after in Gravelle’s place. It also suggests
Premier Dalton McGuinty believes that mining needs undivided attention as exploration increases across the Far North. Bartolucci is also cabinet chair, adding to his stature. Bartolucci now gets to make his mark directly on a resurgent mining sector. This is a challenge, to say the least. Relations between the mining industry and First Nations near exploration sites are often troubled over consultation and territorial claims on Crown land. Bartolucci’s appointment also suggests that Cliffs Natural Resources, the biggest player in the huge Ring of Fire minerals deposit, may choose Sudbury for its ferrochrome processing facility. Bartolucci’s hometown is already Cliffs “test case” location. With considerable mining infrastructure already in place, the appointment of its MPP as Mines Minister signals that Sudbury may have a lock on the processor. We still think that Thunder Bay’s status as a seaway port gives it a shipping advantage as Cliffs considers its global marketing strategy for the key ingredient in stainless steel. Gravelle caught grief for insisting he couldn’t advocate for his riding in the Cliffs matter because he had to respect the entire region in his job as Northern Development Minister. Does Bartolucci think the same way? If so, Thunder Bay and Greenstone might still have a chance at the processor. If Bartolucci goes to bat for Sudbury, the minister will hold all the cards.*


*Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci’s heart has always been in Northern Ontario and now his cabinet post is here, too. Bartolucci was sworn in Thursday as minister of Northern Development and Mines, a post he held earlier in his 16-year career in provincial politics. He was also named chair of Premier Dalton McGuinty’s cabinet. Bartolucci said the “raison d’etre of just about everything I’ve done in government is about benefiting the lives of Sudburians and northerners, as a minister and a member in opposition and now government.” Forestry was a part of the Northern Development and Mines ministry for two years, but it has been transferred to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Bartolucci said his priority as Northern Development and Mines minister is to get briefed and brought up to speed on several issues, including the progress of talks to convince Cliffs Resources to set up a chromite smelter in Northern Ontario to process ore from the Ring of Fire. His ministry will focus on strengthening mining, he said. “We’re not going to build walls around Northern Ontario for sure.” The former school principal and Sudbury city councillor said he expects MPPs in northwestern ridings “to be advocating and helping their communities to try to secure the processing plant up there. I think that’s fair game.” He said “the way the (Sudbury) mayor and the community have engaged me in this process, I can still act as the MPP, and will.” The priority will be to ensure that Cliffs Resources builds its processing plant “right here, in Northern Ontario.” ....”

http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?id=3342140

*MPP Michael Gravelle has a new job in the minority Liberal provincial government. The Thunder Bay-Superior North member has been named minister of Natural Resources, a shift announced as part of a cabinet shuffle on Thursday. Gravelle steps into the role from his previous post as minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. He’ll retain his forestry-related duties in the new job, while Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci takes over Northern Development and Mines. “Natural resources is a very important ministry in our government, and certainly to people in Northern Ontario,” Gravelle said in an interview Thursday. “And the fact that we have our forestry portfolio added to that ministry once again, I think, is also very, very exciting.” Moving the mining portfolio, however, pulls Gravelle away from development of the Ring of Fire, a potentially massive chromite deposit on traditional First Nations territory in the James Bay lowlands. “It’s nice for those people that hold these portfolios to be familiar with the North,” said Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “But for First Nation people, we still have difficulty in regards to consultation and accommodation, because we do have treaties,” Beardy said Thursday. “The Aboriginal treaty rights are recognized in the Canadian Constitution, and what we expect then is, in order to have certainty to continue to access the raw products to create wealth, is that the Aboriginal treaty rights must be respected. “We have to be consulted, and we have to be accommodated.”....”

http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/10/21/gravelle-likes-new-role

*A newly elected Ontario minority government means a slimmed down cabinet. Premier Dalton McGuinty went to two steady and experienced
Northern MPPs in reassigning them to crucial cabinet positions for this region. Rick Bartolucci, who proudly boasted he brought in $7.3 billion in provincial dollars to Sudbury in the past eight years, leaves Community Safety and Correctional Services and goes back to his original cabinet position as Ministry of Northern Development Mines. He’ll be at the forefront of the implementation of the Northern Growth Plan, the development of the Ring of Fire chromite project in the James Bay region, and the possible location of a related ferrochrome smelter in his riding. The announcements were released from the Premier’s office Oct. 19. Bartolucci replaces Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle who shifts over the Ministry of Natural Resources and will be in charge of implementing the changes to Crown forest tenure and wildlife conservation measures. His ministry re-inherits the business portfolio of forestry, which had been assigned to Northern Development and Mines when Gravelle was in charge ...."  


"Written submissions are now being taken for the public to comment on Cliffs Natural Resources chromite project in the Far North. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) is starting a comprehensive study type of an environmental assessment of the proposed project and inviting comment. Cliff’s proposal includes a mine, ore processing facility, north-south transportation corridor and a new ferrochrome production facility to be located at a different place than the mine site. The CEAA has prepared the draft Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines that identify potential environmental effects that Cliffs needs to addressed are on the agency’s website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca (registry reference number 11-03-63927). All comments must be received by Nov. 16. The agency said this the first of several public commenting periods. The CEAA said it is making $40,000 available under its Participant Funding Program to assist groups and individuals to participate in the federal environmental assessment of this project. Funding applications must be received by Nov. 16."  


"In his fifth annual state of the city address, Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren this week spoke on the importance of getting a competitive energy rate for Northern Ontario. Laughren said he is hopeful that even with a Liberal government in Queen’s Park, the minority situation may be able to convince the Liberals to bring in an electrical energy rate that would allow resource-based businesses to thrive .... Laughren said the city and the Timmins Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) have been working together for the last 18 months to do whatever it takes to make Timmins look attractive for the construction of a ferrochrome smelter that could process chromite from the Ring of Fire properties located near Webequie, Ontario .... Laughren said Timmins has been lobbying hard to become to site of such a refinery. "The ferrochrome processing facility would create approximately 500 construction jobs and 350 permanent jobs," said Laughren. The mayor said the Ring of Fire is important not only for Northern Ontario, but for the whole province. "If we do not get energy costs down to where we can compete with Quebec and Manitoba, this will be an opportunity gone for us," said Laughren. "The actual ferrochrome facility will not be in Ontario." ...."  

http://www.timminstimes.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?id=3336304

"Rencore Resources Ltd. announces the completion of the first diamond drilling program on its wholly owned mining claims in the James Bay Lowlands of Northeastern Ontario (Ring of Fire Area) within the Webequie First Nation Traditional Lands. The Rencore mining claims, subject of this initial drill program, are located between 30 and 60 km northwest of the Webequie First Nation community along the postulated western extension of the main Ring of Fire structure. This structure hosts a number of Chromite Deposits as well as Nickel-Copper-PGE MMS and Copper-Zinc-Lead VMS deposits presently undergoing economic mining studies by their owners. The 8 targets tested by Rencore involved 1018 meters of drilling. All of the holes have been sampled and shipped to the laboratory for assaying. These targets represent approximately half of the anomalies resulting from an electromagnetic and magnetometer VTEM airborne survey carried out over the mining claims and surrounding area during 2010 by GeoTech Ltd. of Aurora, Ontario within the Webequie First Nation Traditional Lands. The helicopter supported drilling program was carried out under contract with Cyr Drilling Ontario Inc. with Webequie Logistics Ltd. providing crew accommodations and local labour requirements. The second half of the project drilling will commence upon the satisfactory execution of an Exploration Agreement with the Kasabonika Lake First Nation ("KLFN"). Negotiations are at an advanced stage and a positive relationship with the KLFN has been established ...."  

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/rencore-concludes-initial-drill-program-on-its-mining-claims-in-the-ring-of-fire-area-general-
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| 20 Oct 11 | Matawa Chiefs withdrew their support for development in the Ring of Fire (ROF) today. The Chiefs and the 8000 people they represent are calling on Premier McGuinty and Prime Minister Harper to intervene in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. “We are done with repeating ourselves. The province needs our cooperation and the people of Ontario and Canada need our cooperation. Government is creating conflict between First Nations and industry because they are failing in their duty to consult and accommodate,” said Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation. “The government is failing this whole Ring of Fire and northern development initiative. It is failing First Nations again. We need the Ontario Premier and the Prime Minister to intervene and come to the table. We need a government-to-government dialogue here. Visits from junior ministerial representatives telling us what is happening instead of asking us how we want to participate is not consultation or accommodation. Government departments and ministries are not listening to us. Cliffs is already advertising its inappropriate consultation schedule, and the CEAA posted its public invitation to comment with a map of Northern Ontario that makes it look like no one lives near these projects. The map didn’t have a single First Nation community on it! We aren’t even on their radar. That is offensive to our people. That is exactly the way government views the people who live where these developments are happening, like we don’t exist,” continued Chief Eli Moonias of Marten Fall First Nation. “We will be forced to resort to alternative measures if Canada and Ontario continue to ignore the First Nations that are being impacted by Ring of Fire developments,” said Chief Roger Wesley of Constance Lake First Nation. “

| 19 Oct 11 | Northwestern Ontario is closer to becoming host to a multi-decade chromite mining project. The endeavor stands to benefit the local economy but is also alarming residents and environmentalists. Promising deposits have been discovered outside of Thunder Bay, and mining participants are circling the area and positioning themselves for their share of the steel market. Chromite, which is a dark metallic mineral that is a main component in chromium, is used in the more common and profitable development of stainless steel. Cleveland, Ohio-based iron-ore producer Cliffs Natural Resources (NYSE:CLF) is convinced that the potential value of the chromite deposits located in northern Ontario are worth fighting for. Under a stretch of rocks and water accessible from major railroads and highways are what the company declares as the greatest chromite find on the continent of North America. The withdrawal and processing of the mineral, known as the company’s Black Thor deposit, would increase Canada’s role in a contentious playing field for chromium production. South Africa leads the world in the production of ferrochrome, which is used to make stainless steel, and is battling China to maintain its position of dominance. In addition to some infrastructure challenges that could interfere with maximizing the potential of the North American minerals, US-based Cliffs has the burden to satisfy both federal and local Canadian environmental requirements for chromite development. It also has the added responsibility to consider First Nations locals, who reside on the grounds where mining activity would commence. Representatives from a string of First Nations communities have called for their own participation in the review for chromite development in the region. According to a recent declaration by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, however, locals are being overlooked. The environmental group will instead take the reigns of the study to determine what access, if any, chromite miners will have to the area. “

| | An environmental assessment has begun on a chromite smelter proposed to be built north of Sudbury. But other Northern cities believe they are still in the running for the plant to process ore mined in the Ring of Fire. Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren said he has also been meeting with officials from Cliffs Natural Resources, the company looking at building a smelting facility for its proposed northwestern Ontario mine. “Do we think we’re part of the running? Absolutely,” said Laughren. “Would I be as confident as Sudbury, probably not. But again, I think there’s many places in northern Ontario that this could happen in.” Laughren said what’s most important is that the smelter is built somewhere in northern Ontario. He said northern leaders should not fight with each other, but rather lobby the province to offer lower hydro rates than Quebec and Manitoba. “

| | Ring of Fire Resources Inc. announces that it has engaged IBK Capital Corp. to raise by way of private placements on a best efforts basis $6,000,000 consisting of $3,000,000 in the form of units (“Units”) priced at 13 cents per Unit and $3,000,000 in the form flow-through units

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<td>18 Oct 11</td>
<td>The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has just launched the first of three public consultation periods for a federal environmental assessment of Cliffs Natural Resources' Black Thor chromite deposit in the Ring of Fire area of northwestern Ontario. The agency’s draft Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines has been prepared and identifies potential environmental effects to be addressed and information that needs to be included in Cliffs' Environmental Impact Statement. It can be viewed on the agency’s website at <a href="http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca">www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca</a> (Registry reference number 11-03-63927). The document is also available in print by request. The deadline to submit a comment with this first round of public input is Nov. 16. The agency is also making $40,000 available under its Participant Funding Program to assist groups and individuals to participate in the environmental assessment. Funding applications received by Nov. 16 will be considered. &quot;We put the Environmental Impact Statement on the website and now the people can write in, they can email, and there is a phone number if they want to talk to people,&quot; Celine Legault, an agency spokeswoman said Monday, on the first day of the public consultation period. When asked how many comments are made during a typical first-round public consultation period, Legault declined to give a figure. &quot;It really depends on the project,&quot; she said. &quot;We do all kinds of different projects all over Canada. It can vary a lot.&quot; ....&quot; [<a href="http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3337194">http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3337194</a>]</td>
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<td>17 Oct 11</td>
<td>The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is starting a comprehensive study type of environmental assessment for the proposed Cliffs Chromite Project located in northern Ontario. The Agency invites the public to comment on the project and the conduct of the comprehensive study. The Agency has prepared the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines that identify potential environmental effects to be addressed and information that needs to be included in the proponent’s EIS. Public comments on the draft EIS Guidelines are invited and will be reviewed and considered before the document is finalized and issued to the proponent. The draft EIS Guidelines and more information on this project are available on the Agency’s website at <a href="http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca">www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca</a> (Registry reference number 11-03-63927). The document is available in paper copy by request as well. All comments received by November 16, 2011 will be considered. The Agency is also making available $40,000 under its Participant Funding Program to assist groups and individuals to participate in the federal environmental assessment of this project. Funding applications received by November 16, 2011 will be considered. This is the first of several public comment periods that will occur during the environmental assessment of the project ....&quot; [<a href="http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/859847/cliffs-chromite-project">http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/859847/cliffs-chromite-project</a>]</td>
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<td>15 Oct 11</td>
<td>&quot;While First Nation leaders and environmentalists continue to have concerns about the approved environmental assessment process for Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.’s Chromite Project, the company maintains that the EA will mean a thorough review of all components of the project .... In a project report, Cliffs Ferroalloys president William Boor states that the EA will be a thorough and meaningful review of all components of the project. &quot;It will continue to include extensive discussions and consultation with all levels of government and communities, particularly the First Nations communities where the project is located,&quot; he said. In keeping with its core values, Cliffs says the company will ensure the project is developed in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. The extensive EA studies will help us to meet these goals, while also addressing the views of those who could be affected by the project, the company said. The company also said that it recognizes the value in working closely with First Nation members, whose knowledge of the land and environment is immense. Cliffs also recognizes First Nations' [<a href="http://business.financialpost.com/2011/10/17/ottawa-conference-celebration-of-aboriginal-businesses/">http://business.financialpost.com/2011/10/17/ottawa-conference-celebration-of-aboriginal-businesses/</a>]</td>
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unique connection to the land, and possession of traditional ecological knowledge. "We hope to gain the trust and respect of community members by encouraging them to take a meaningful role throughout the environmental assessment," the company said. Meanwhile, Noront says that the company is committed to responsible development. "The company is engaging local First Nations communities and forging strong relationships with all levels of government," a news release states. "The company will be consulting with all stakeholders through the development of its projects in order to minimize its environmental impact and to maximize the benefits of development to local communities and all Ontarians. We intend to be leaders in terms of engagement, inclusion and corporate responsibility," the company says."


13 Oct 11 "Doug West doesn't think the province's Liberal government will be a minority for long. The Lakehead University political science professor said the fact that the Liberals are only one seat away from another majority means there are probably already plans to convince an NDP or Progressive Conservative MPP to join the Liberal Party with the promise of a cabinet position ... As for what a minority government means for the north, West said Michael Gravelle will most likely keep his cabinet post in Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. "I don't think it's going to have a detrimental effect on the north at all," West said. West hopes that the minority means more dialogue with First Nations communities, especially on development issues related to the ring of fire. That would help Ontario's economy and start to benefit everyone from the provincial government to northern communities ...." http://www.tbnnewswatch.com/news/168677/working-with-minority

"Matawa Chiefs are in a state of disbelief about the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency’s (CEAA) decision to side with industry by choosing a Comprehensive Study Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the Cliff’s Chromite Project near Webequie and Marten Falls First Nations. The Matawa Chiefs have been calling for a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment since May 2011. “I don’t understand how the CEAA can make this kind of choice,” said Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation. “The area being affected is among one of the largest groups of intact wetlands in the world. These Ring of Fire developments are going to impact everyone in the region, one way or another, but especially the First Nations near these developments. These are First Nation homelands and we need the best EA process out there to protect them. A much smaller project near Marathon was bumped up to a Joint Panel Review EA process. Matawa First Nations would like the same for these larger projects in their region.” "Cliffs asked for a Comprehensive Study EA and got it. However, it is not the most appropriate EA for these projects. Currently, the Joint Review Panel EA is the most extensive and inclusive assessment required by government before approval of a project. It will give more time for community input and public hearings. First Nations are not stakeholders in these matters. These are our homelands since time immemorial,” said Chief Peter Moonias of Neskantaga First Nation ...." http://netnewsledger.com/2011/10/%E2%80%9Ci-don%E2%80%99t-understand-how-the-ceaa-can-make-this-kind-of-choice-chief-sonny-gagnon/

"Matawa Chiefs are in a state of disbelief about the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency’s (CEAA) decision to side with industry by choosing a Comprehensive Study Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the Cliff’s Chromite Project near Webequie and Marten Falls First Nations. The Matawa Chiefs have been calling for a Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment since May 2011. “I don’t understand how the CEAA can make this kind of choice,” said Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation. “The area being affected is among one of the largest groups of intact wetlands in the world. These Ring of Fire developments are going to impact everyone in the region, one way or another, but especially the First Nations near these developments. These are First Nation homelands and we need the best EA process out there to protect them. A much smaller project near Marathon was bumped up to a Joint Panel Review EA process. Matawa First Nations would like the same for these larger projects in their region.” “Cliffs asked for a Comprehensive Study EA and got it. However, it is not the most appropriate EA for these projects. Currently, the Joint Review Panel EA is the most extensive and inclusive assessment required by government before approval of a project. It will give more time for community input and public hearings. First Nations are not stakeholders in these matters. These are our homelands since time immemorial,” said Chief Peter Moonias of Neskantaga First Nation. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) announced the formal start of the EA process for the Cliffs Chromite Project earlier this week by notifying First Nations that it plans to use the Comprehensive EA process. It will also make a decision about Noront Eagle's Nest Project in early November. For over five
months Matawa Chiefs have been demanding that a Joint Review Panel EA be adopted in order to safeguard the sustainability and integrity of their lands. According to Kim Jorgenson, Environmental Assessment Officer for the Matawa Four Rivers Environmental Services Group, a Joint Review Panel EA is critical for this area. “It brings together the Provincial and Federal Governments to produce one EA for each project. There is no set timeline and more opportunity for public participation, allowing for oral hearings to be held in the communities. We need the best environmental assessment process that is currently available and that is the Joint Review Process EA. Ideally a new process would be developed to address all the potential environmental impacts from all proposed developments in the Ring of Fire Area, but for now a Joint Review Panel is the most appropriate EA for these projects.” ....” http://www.matawa.on.ca/upload/documents/media-release-matawa-chiefs-respond-to-ea-decision-dr-9-oct-11-2011.pdf

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency recently announced that Cliffs’ proposed chromite mine, the first for a remote area of northern Ontario, will undergo a ‘comprehensive study’ environmental review despite the request of two First Nations councils and several non-governmental organizations for a public panel review. The proposed project is a massive and complex undertaking that includes a mine and new infrastructure for transportation, power, and processing. The Matawa and Mushkegowuk First Nations representing 13 individual communities as well as MiningWatch Canada, Ecojustice, Wildlands League, and the Wildlife Conservation Society have all recommended that the project be evaluated through a joint federal-provincial review panel. Friday’s announcement indicated that this will not be the case and that the project will be reviewed through the less rigorous – and less participatory – comprehensive study process. Cliffs’ project is the most advanced of several projects being developed in the much-touted “Ring of Fire”. If approved, Cliffs’ project would open the entire region and establish the infrastructure for future developments. Located on the border between the Hudson Bay Lowlands and the boreal forest of the Canadian Shield, the “Ring of Fire” is ecologically sensitive and a valued part of the traditional territories of the Matawa and Mushkegowuk First Nations who have travelled, hunted, and fished throughout the area for millennia. The First Nations expect the federal and provincial governments to honour their obligations to share both the decision making process and any benefits that may come from development in the area. The decision to undertake a so-called “comprehensive study” instead of a review panel fell to Environment Minister Peter Kent. The decision threatens already strained relationships with affected First Nations. Comments Ramsey Hart of MiningWatch, “It is infuriating that our government is not meeting its obligations under the constitution, under our Treaties, and under international norms like the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” Hart also doubts that the decision will actually speed up development. “It is a mistake to think this kind of approach will streamline project approvals. In all likelihood it will only increase friction and uncertainty by poisoning relationships – and leave the government open to legal challenges.” Many of the potentially affected First Nations have repeatedly stated that they are not opposed to development but that the review process and ultimate developments must include their active participation as responsible authorities for their territories. A letter from Matawa First Nations written in May and another from Mushkegowuk in July invited Minister Kent as well as then Ontario Minister of the Environment John Wilkinson to discuss a review process for the projects, but went unanswered ....”

Oct. 17 will be the public’s first crack to comment on Cliffs Natural Resources’ massive integrated chromite project slated for the James Bay region. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) will start taking written submissions only on the multi-billion dollar regional mining, transportation and processing development. The agency announced Oct. 7 that a federal environmental assessment of the Cliffs project in the ‘Ring of Fire’ has formally started with a comprehensive study. While it’s clear that Black Thor will be the first chromite deposit to be mined starting in 2015, and the Nakina-Aroland area will be the site for a transload facility, the final location of a much-coveted ferrochrome production facility remains up in the air. But CEAA spokeswoman Celine Legault said the federal regulator will be working from the project description submitted by Cliffs, which identifies the Sudbury in its “base case” as the site for electric arc furnaces. “This is the information we will be using for the environmental assessment,” said Legault. “If this part of the project description changes during the (assessment), the agency will consider these changes carefully and make a decision at that time.” Sudbury was identified earlier this year by the Ohio-based international miner (and again in September) as the leading front-runner to host the ferrochrome plant, ahead of Nakina, Timmins and Thunder...
TSX-V-listed Noront Resources has appointed BHP Billiton's former Jansen potash project director Ted Bassett to its board, along with China's Baosteel Resources International Co. Ltd. holds a Senior Economist designation from the State Bureau of Metallurgical Industry in China, a Doctorate and Masters of Finance from Fudan University, Shanghai and a Bachelor of Engineering from the Beijing Agricultural Engineering University. Mr. Bassett is a Professional Engineer with over 40 years of experience in mine engineering and project management. Most recently, Mr. Bassett was the Project Director, Jansen Potash Project, BHP Billiton. Mr. Bassett has a successful track record in the supervision of and construction of large capital projects including: The Olympic Dam Expansion Project, The Goro Nickel Project, Vale's Voisey's Bay nickel mine and the Diavik diamond mine, which mine Rio Tinto and Harry Winston own. “Mr. Bassett's unparalleled knowledge in project and construction management will be vital in the coming years as we continue to advance our Eagle's Nest deposit towards commercial production,” Noront CEO Wes Hanson said in a statement. He added that Li's knowledge of Asian stainless steel markets would also benefit Noront ...."

A spokesperson with Mining Watch Canada says the environmental assessment underway for the biggest project in the Ring of Fire will shut many people out. He's alarmed that public hearings are not being held for Cliffs Natural Resources proposed chromite mine north of Thunder Bay. “[It’s] largely a paper process of submitting written comments, reviewing documents and providing written feedback back and forth,” said Ramsey Hart, Mining Watch's program co-ordinator. He said he can't understand why the government wouldn't call public hearings into such a massive project — as it has for a new mine near Marathon. Cliffs' project includes the construction and operation of a chromite mine, an all-season road south from the mine to the rail line near Nakina and a smelter, which could be located near Sudbury. Celine Legault, a communications advisor with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency said the project requires federal permits for its potential impact on fish and navigable waterways. This automatically triggered a federal environmental assessment. The first of three public comment periods begins on Oct. 17, with the government accepting written input. But Hart says public hearings should be required for a development of this scale, particularly because it affects so many First Nations ...."

“A federal environmental assessment is underway for Cliffs Natural Resources' Black Thor chromite deposit in the Ring of Fire area of northwestern Ontario. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has announced that based on information it has received, an environmental assessment is required. The project, the agency also said in a release, is subject to the environmental assessment requirements of the Ontario government. Celine Legault, an agency spokeswoman in Ottawa, said Tuesday the assessment could take a year or more,
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10 Oct 11

"Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. today announced it intends to release unaudited 2011 third-quarter financial results after the U.S.-market close Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011. The Company invites interested parties to listen to a live broadcast of a conference call with institutional analysts and investors to discuss the results ..."  

"Greater Sudbury officials are still awaiting word on whether an American company will build a smelter in the area to process chromite mined in the Ring of Fire. However, they've already identified a site for the facility. It's the site of the old Moose Mountain iron mine, north of Capreol. The mine shut down in the 1970s. Ward 7 city councillor Dave Kilgour said that history makes it a good spot for the smelter. "It's a brownfield already," he noted. "You're not going into fresh green virgin forest and trying to do something. It's already been used as a mine site for a considerable length of time, so I think some of the permits... might be easier to get." Kilgour said he thinks hydro rates will be the key factor in whether the smelter is built in Sudbury. The company with all the answers, Cliffs Natural Resources, has not said when it will make a decision ...
"  

11 Oct 11

"Ring of Fire Resources Inc. announces that it has engaged IBK Capital Corp to divest its 36.75% interest in its McNugget JV Project for cash. Macdonald Mines Exploration Ltd. has the remaining 63.25% interest in the project and is the operator. The McNugget JV Project is comprised of 6 claim blocks consisting of 92 claim units and totalling 1554 hectares and has drill-identified Vanadium Targets over 8km in strike length within large Titanio-Magnetite bodies averaging 5.9m in down-hole thickness and down to 125m vertical depths based on the current drilling data, as well as previously announced Nickel, PGE and VMS targets ..."  

"Ring of Fire Resources Inc. announces that it has entered into an agreement in connection with the potential purchase of a 100% title and interest in approximately 60,000 hectares of land in the Smooth Rock Falls, Iroquois Falls and Timmins area of Northern Ontario. The property consists of 2 blocks (Block "A" & Block "B" - collectively named "Project 81") of prime mineral exploration and productive forestlands in 15 townships in Northern Ontario. Block "A" comprises an area of approximately 58,000 hectares and is one contiguous parcel of land covering 10 townships, adjacent to the Kidd Creek Mine Complex near Timmins, Ontario. Block "B" comprises an area of approximately 2,000 hectares and consists of 35 parcels of land covering 5 townships around Iroquois Falls and Smooth Rock Falls .... The 2 blocks of lands are all currently freehold patented lands. A significant portion of the project area is considered to be productive forestlands ...."  

"Matawa First Nations and Mushkegowuk Council are banding together to apply the oral understanding of Treaty No. 9 as understood by the First Nations. Seven communities from each tribal council signed the declaration Sept. 27. "From now on, the First Nations that signed this declaration will be living by the oral treaty. That means we do not go by the written treaty document, but by the actual promises that were made to us at the time Treaty No. 9 was signed," said Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation. Gagnon said the implementation of the oral treaty is long overdue because for 100 years First Nations have kept the promises they made to the federal and provincial governments, but those governments have not made due on the promises they made to them at the time the treaty was signed. "Now they will have to acknowledge, respect and abide by the promises they made to us," Gagnon said. Gagnon noted that the agreements to equally share the land and that
traditional activities would not be compromised were two promises the governments have not lived up to since Treaty No. 9 was signed. The ‘Take It Up’ clause in Treaty No. 9, which says the province can use any land for mining or forestry was not discussed orally before the treaty was signed, Gagnon said. He said notes were taken at the time of the signing and what was said orally differs from what is written about land use. “We didn’t agree to that orally, we agreed to share the land,” Gagnon said. Also, Gagnon said it wasn’t discussed orally that traditional activities could only take place under the treaty areas and boundaries of individual reserves. “Treaty activities could have gone on anywhere, and people could go anywhere to do it,” Gagnon said. “There were no lines before and we were told there would be no lines.” ....

http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/10/11/declaration

8 Oct 11

“Ontario taxpayers were the real winners in Thursday’s provincial election, says Nipissing MPP-elect Vic Fedeli. The day after taking the riding in a decisive victory over Grit candidate Catherine Whiting, Fedeli said Friday a Liberal minority is good news for taxpayers because it means all three parties will have to work together. .... In addition to his orientation as a member of provincial parliament and setting up offices, Fedeli said he will be concentrating on organizing a trade mission involving local mining firms to the ring of fire chromite deposit near James Bay ....”

http://www.nugget.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3327067

7 Oct 11

“Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (the Act), the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is responsible for exercising the powers and performing the duties and functions of the responsible authority for certain projects subject to the comprehensive study requirements of the Act. Based on information it has received, the Agency has determined that the project is described in the comprehensive study list and that an environmental assessment of the project is required. As a result, the Agency commenced a comprehensive study on October 7, 2011. The proposed project consists of constructing, operating and eventually decommissioning an open pit/underground chromite ore mine (30 year mine life at predicted extraction rate of 6,000 to 12,000 tonnes/day) and ore processing facility. The proposal also includes an integrated transportation system consisting of a new north-south all-season road corridor and a new ferrochrome production facility, which would be located at a different location than the mine site. The project mine site is located approximately 540 km north of the City of Thunder Bay, Ontario and 240 km west of James Bay in an area known as the "Ring of Fire" ....”

http://www.cea.a.ca/05/0/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=63927
http://www.cea.a.ca/05/0/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=63927
http://www.cea.a.ca/05/0/documents-eng.cfm?evaluation=63927
http://www.cea.a.ca/05/0/documents-eng.cfm?evaluation=63927

6 Oct 11

“In a final campaign swing through the north Tuesday, NDP leader Andrea Horwath accused Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak of “scare mongering” the electorate with talk of a Liberal-NDP coalition .... The NDP leader was in Sudbury Tuesday morning before travelling to Thunder Bay in the afternoon for a final pitch of her Respect for the North platform, which would connect timber allocations to communities rather than businesses, strike the HST from electricity and home heating while easing the tax off gasoline and ensure First Nation communities reap the benefits from resources drawn from their territories. She has also committed to repealing the Far North Act to be replaced with legislation northern municipalities, business and First Nation communities all support. "It doesn't satisfy First Nations in terms of their role," she said. "What we've been set up for now is more and more and more of the same kinds of problems that are happening in KI (Kitchenuhmayoosib Inninuwug) to continue to happen in the future and particularly around the ring of fire." The band council in KI issued an eviction notice to God's Lake Resources in September after finding a prospector's camp on a burial site within its traditional territory. Six members of the KI band council were jailed in 2008 for blocking junior mining company Platinex from resources licenced to the company by the provincial government, which Horwath called an example of the Liberal government's poor leadership in the region ....”


“.... MPP France Gelinas is working to hold the riding for the NDP. She is being challenged by Tony Ryma (Liberals), Paula Peroni (PCs) and Stephanie-Lynn Russell (Green). In a release, Russell expressed frustration with commitments being made in connection with a proposed chromite processing plant in Capreol. "I believe the other parties are trying to convince the voters of Nickel Belt that they can deliver the mining
projects in the Ring of Fire and a chromite refinery in Greater Sudbury," Russell said in a release. "But what they're not telling voters is how they're going to do this. Consultations with First Nations located in the Ring of Fire area are ongoing, or have yet to start. Environmental assessments for the mining operations and the chromite facility haven't been initiated. "We can't simply ignore these realities and presuppose favourable outcomes, especially when it comes to nation-to-nation negotiations with aboriginal peoples. Any candidate which tells voters otherwise is being misleading." ...." http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3324848

Letter to the editor: "Re Can't Wait Forever — editorial, Oct. 2: Your editorial states that "The province and mining companies have struggled to find a balance between the right to exploration on public land . . . and the need to respect the cultural and land values of First Nations" and then argues that God's Lake Resources "can't wait forever." This contradiction illustrates how Mining Act reform in Ontario has fallen short of respecting First Nations' relationships with and rights in the land. The Mining Act still allows for free entry, which means claims can be staked on traditional territories without notice to First Nation communities. Free entry does not provide balance between the desires of mining companies and the province and the rights of First Nations because it grants rights to minerals before consultation. Free entry creates a gold rush mindset among mining exploration companies that they have a right to do what they like, as quickly as possible, with that mining claim. And conflict is then created with First Nations communities, like KI. Balance can only follow respect. Respect follows understanding. Exploring the Sherman Lake area after having been told that the community was concerned about especially spiritual sites in a sacred landscape demonstrates a lack of respect fuelled by a gold rush mindset. KI's concerns about mining exploration, as they have stated, are based in its spiritual connections with and duties to the land. Until the province and mining companies are willing to fully understand and accept this spiritual connection, they will not be able to provide respect in law or in practice. Rachel Ariss, Legal Studies, University of Ontario, Institute of Technology, Toronto" http://www.chroniclejournal.com/editorial/letters/2011-10-06/respect-first

"God's Lake Resources intends to defy an eviction notice from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (KI) but the First Nation is not backing down. The company claims multiple requests to identify cultural sites have been unanswered by the First Nation, who declared 13,000 square kilometres in its community's watershed off-limits to development by referendum until it completes its own assessment. Ontario has not acknowledged KI's declaration and God's Lake Resources intends to push on with its provincially-issued licence to explore. "Consultation protocols adopted in the referendum make outrageous demands of any mining company wishing to explore on their traditional homeland," God's Lake said in a release. "It can be interpreted as being a deterrent for any exploration or development and is a combination of religion, rhetoric, bureaucracy and some business and is not a workable document in today's modern business world." The company insisted it is operating under Ontario law and the First Nation is overstepping its legal boundaries. "The obligation to consult has been interpreted by many First Nation communities to mean 'obtain their permission.' Under the new Mining Act, claimholders in Ontario do not require permission from First Nations — rather they are required to consult with First Nations." According to the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, the company is "entitled to access those properties under Ontario's Mining Act." In a Sept. 28 letter the ministry addressed to KI Chief Donny Morris, it rejected KI's claims the company may be disturbing the graves of ancestors, stating to its knowledge, God's Lake Resources has not engaged in any activities "likely to disturb any spiritually or culturally significant sites." KI spokesman John Cutfeet said the protocol was written to ensure there won't be a repeat of the 2008 arrest of KI's chief and council, who were released on appeal amid public protest. Taking inventory of burial sites, sacred land and hunting ground, the First Nation said, will take time. "The community was prepared to ensure the duties were met and they were committed to protecting the land," he said. "The community will do what it needs to do to make sure that happens once again. We've often stressed there is to be no violence with this encroachment on our territory." ...."
http://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3323698

5 Oct 11 The KWG Resources Inc. Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of up to 31.9 million of its common shares by way of normal course purchases on TSX Venture Exchange, subject to regulatory approval. KWG intends to file the required notice with the TSXV to obtain such approval as soon as practicable. The common shares authorized to be purchased represent 5% of the common shares presently outstanding. KWG believes that its common shares currently trade in a price range that does not adequately reflect their underlying value based on KWG's
Lake president Ed Ludwig said he has tried to communicate with KI, but the response has always been riddled with "religion, rhetoric and (KI). The First Nation, located 600 km northwest of Thunder Bay, "The president of an exploration company said Monday he will not respect an eviction notice issued to him from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI). The First Nation, located 600 km northwest of Thunder Bay, said God's Lake Resources is operating on land it considers sacred. God's Lake president Ed Ludwig said he has tried to communicate with KI, but the response has always been riddled with "religion, rhetoric and

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<td>14 Oct 11</td>
<td>Stephanie-Lynn Russell is “frustrated” with the comments being made about the absence of technical information in other candidates comments made about the Ring of Fire. “I believe the other parties are trying to convince the voters of Nickel Belt that they can deliver the mining projects in the Ring of Fire and a chromite refinery in Greater Sudbury,” she stated in a media release. “But what they’re not telling voters is how they’re going to do this. Consultations with First Nations located in the Ring of Fire area are on-going, or have yet to start. Environmental assessments for the mining operations and the chromite facility haven’t been initiated. We can’t simply ignore these realities and presuppose favourable outcomes, especially when it comes to nation-to-nation negotiations with aboriginal peoples. Any candidate which tells voters otherwise is being misleading.” Cliffs Natural Resources, a Cleveland Ohio-based multinational mining company, has acquired the rights to mine chromite in northern Ontario’s Ring of Fire. Cliffs is also looking for a location to construct a chromite processing facility, and has been eyeing Moose Mountain, a former mine located outside of Capreol. “The people of Nickel Belt, and all Northern Ontarians, need more information about these projects before informed decisions can be made,” said Russell.”</td>
<td><a href="http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2011/10/04/ring-of-fire-green-sudbury.aspx">http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2011/10/04/ring-of-fire-green-sudbury.aspx</a></td>
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<td><a href="http://ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/ki-mining-forum-graves-cj05-oct-11.pdf">http://ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/ki-mining-forum-graves-cj05-oct-11.pdf</a></td>
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<td>“The Green Party’s top priorities are the same as any other party’s, says Nickel Belt candidate Stephanie-Lynn Russell — jobs and health care .... On the subject of jobs, Russell said she hasn’t made up her mind yet about locating a smelter near Capreol to process chromite from the Ring of Fire. “In the Nickel Belt, we really need jobs. We definitely need jobs,” she said. While she doesn’t want to limit employment opportunities in the riding, she said she can’t sit by and “watch big-mouthed, white, upper middle-class politicians sit there and make promises to the community without there being a strategy. “There has to be a strategy and community engagement,” she said, on everything from the effect of such a smelter on the environment to the impact on real estate prices ....”</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/ki-news-releases-10-04-2011.pdf">http://www.ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/ki-news-releases-10-04-2011.pdf</a></td>
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<td>“Ring of Fire Resources Inc. is pleased to announce that Franco-Nevada Corporation has agreed to fund part of ROF’s purchase of Project 81 from AbiBow Canada Inc., for a total funding commitment from Franco-Nevada to ROF of up to $4,000,000 ....”</td>
<td><a href="http://www.william">http://www.william</a> Attaché &amp; Associates Inc. (founded 1977) Westmount, Quebec</td>
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A skilled tradespeople shortage and keeping local industries relevant are just some of the many election issues plaguing northern Ontario construction associations. Denis Shank, Executive Director of the Sudbury Construction Association and Harold Lindstrom manager of the Construction Association of Thunder Bay are each responsible for areas larger than Southern Ontario. Both Shank and Lindstrom said it’s important that the smelter processing of ore chromite deposits in northwestern Ontario (also known as the Ring of Fire) stay in the province instead of going to Manitoba, Quebec or overseas.

A skilled tradespeople shortage and keeping local industries relevant are just some of the many election issues plaguing northern Ontario. People have to be careful because we don’t want to choke off what we’ve already got in front of us, but certainly finding a way to maintain and continue economic steady growth is important and reduces some of the fluctuations. "

http://dcnonl.com/article/id46958/

"Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug [KI] are calling on Ontario to honour a promise made by the McGuinty government in 2008 and create a joint panel to resolve longstanding issues regarding mining exploration on their homelands. In 2008, just before we were jailed, Ontario promised us a joint panel to resolve our outstanding issues with mining companies. We are still waiting for them to honour that promise" said KI Chief Donny Morris. "Minister Michael Gravelle has been reported as saying that he has accepted an invitation to visit the community and discuss matters, but he has made no clear commitment to the promised joint panel, he may no longer be Minister following the election, and the Ontario government has yet to ensure that our sacred burials will not be further disturbed. In 2008, the joint panel Ontario promised was never created, we went to jail, no discussions took place following our release by the Court of Appeal and now we find ourselves in the same situation with Gods Lake Resources threatening a sacred area and Ontario nowhere to be seen," stated Chief Morris. "In September 2009, in an eerily similar situation, mining exploration company Platixev described Minister Gravelle as a “bungler” and called on him to resign saying, ‘First he tells the media he’s offered both sides mediation. Then the very next day, he says he didn’t offer mediation. It’s small wonder that both Platixev and the KI First Nation have lost confidence in the Minister’ - continued Morris. KI has written to Minister Gravelle, requesting that he or his officials confirm the government commitment to the joint panel."


"God’s Lake Resources Inc. is responding to what the company says are “recent reckless accusations from Chief Donny Morris and the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation”. The company says that it would like to enter into what it says should be “consultation discussions instead of stirring media controversy and bringing accusations that are reckless and potentially damaging to GLR’s reputation”. Numerous phone calls and letters have been exchanged with the KI since Mid-August 2010. GLR has asked in writing for the Chief, Council and Elders to identify any burial sites and trap-lines so that no exploration would take place over those areas. At no time was it mentioned that the KI
The Ring of Fire News blog shares public information in accordance with the Fair Dealing provisions (§29) of the Copyright Act, and is not responsible for the accuracy of the original material. Inclusion of material or sources here should not imply endorsement or otherwise by the Ring of Fire News blog.

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<td>2 Oct 11</td>
<td>“The Grassy Narrows First Nations says its prepared for a prolonged legal battle. The Ontario and Federal government’s have indicated they plan to appeal an Ontario Superior Court Ruling that upheld Grassy’s Treaty Rights. Grassie chief, Simon Fobister says the courts ruled that clear-cut logging couldn’t take place in their traditional land use territory, and they are willing to continue the fight to protect their rights. The Ontario Superior Court ruled in Grassy’s favour back in August, but the province and federal government started the appeals process on September 15th.” <a href="http://89mix.blogspot.com/2011/10/bill-mauro-moving-forward-together/">http://89mix.blogspot.com/2011/10/bill-mauro-moving-forward-together/</a></td>
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<td>2 Oct 11</td>
<td>Editorial: “Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation has a reputation for making demands. But what does it want? …. If KI wants this thing resolved, it has to participate. It cannot expect God’s Lake to put its plans on hold indefinitely …. “We have full intentions of exploring this property,” Ludwig said, and the province has said it has no reason to order God’s Lake to stop, though that is another thing that KI is demanding. “Our door is always open,” said Ludwig, “and we would welcome (KI) as a partner, providing jobs for community members — without all the political rhetoric.” What is KI waiting for? Get the elders up there and show the exploration personnel what land is off-limits. What more does it want? The mining industry, the provincial government and the people of Northern Ontario want to know.” <a href="http://www.chroniclejournal.com/editorial/daily_editorial/2011-10-02/cart-wait-forward/">http://www.chroniclejournal.com/editorial/daily_editorial/2011-10-02/cart-wait-forward/</a></td>
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| 10 Oct 11  | “Ontario has fallen from first to 19th place in mining because of a Liberal government that’s sitting on opportunities like the Ring of Fire. Conservative Paula Peroni said at a debate in Lively. Peroni, Nickel Belt’s Conservative candidate, joined Liberal Tony Ryma, Green Party candidate Stephanie-Lynn Russell and NDP MPP France Gelinas at an all-candidates’ debate Wednesday …. During the debate, Peroni accused Premier Dalton McGuinty of not acting fast enough on the Ring of Fire, a mineral-rich area in the far North that could create jobs in the Nickel Belt and Sudbury areas. Cliffs Natural Resources, a Cleveland-based company, has said a chrome processing facility would create up to 500 jobs. A former mine site in Capreol has been identified as a possible location for the facility. While Ryma didn’t directly respond to her point, he did say that the Ring of Fire could mean a lot to Nickel Belt. “A lot of people know about the Ring of Fire … That would be a big boon to the Nickel Belt,” he said. While talking about jobs, Gelinas said the NDP government would make sure Ontario benefits from its natural resources …. “If we can not process those natural resources … the government would say OK, go process them someplace else, because we
can't. But if we have the manpower to support the industry, then you'd better come up with some arguments as to why you want (those jobs) to go somewhere else.” In response, Ryma accused Gelinas’ party of wanting to firewall Ontario, which would stop the province from processing foreign resources, leading to a loss of jobs. “A lot of people don't realize we process ore from... Chile and the U.S. This would put up a firewall. Hundreds of jobs will be lost ... How do you explain that to hard-working families in the Nickel Belt?” In response, Gelinas said that the NDP isn’t looking at a firewall, but “an adult discussion with our government.” ....”

http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3318211
"A junior exploration company that Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation is trying to kick off its traditional territory says its attempts to consult with the band have been met with silence.  God's Lake Resources CEO Ed Ludwig said Thursday that the company has tried to meet with the band, without success, about the existence of sacred burial sites near where the company is exploring for gold in the Sherman Lake area.  "We were told about (the potential of grave sites in the area) and have asked the chief and elders to locate them," said Ludwig, adding that the province has made the same request.  "We've asked that they please come and show us . . . we want to show the proper respect.  "I want to respect that avenue and develop a boundary, but when questioned about where there might be grave sites, the band has provided no response," he said. Ludwig added that company employees have so far found "no evidence of any grave sites up there."  "Our ultimate goal is to negotiate a deal with them, but," Ludwig said, "they will not respond. They have refused to sit down and discuss this for about nine months now."  God's Lake is exploring for gold on 16 surface and mineral claims under a 21-year Crown land lease with the province. Ludwig, an exploration geologist, and two employees left the site on Monday after conducting two weeks of data collection in the area. The site is about 120 kilometres northwest of KI .... KI spokesman John Cutfeet said the area being explored for gold is an "old settlement site where community members used to gather."  He said the band is in the process of identifying exactly where burial sites are located.  "One site we are aware of is about a 20-minute walk from the former (Sherman Lake) mine shaft," he said, adding that the entire area is "part of a spiritual landscape site."  The band also has an outstanding land claim in the area over land it says it was promised by the federal government and never received. Cutfeet said God's Lake has failed to get the consent of the community for its exploration project.  Ludwig said the company is determined to explore the property which was the site of a gold mine in the 1930s.  "Our door is always open, and we would welcome (KI) as a partner, providing jobs for community members — without all the political rhetoric," said Ludwig ...."


"The Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation has taken its latest mining dispute into its own hands.  The community has served an eviction notice to God's Lake Resources, the mining company the community believes was working on KI territory earlier this week.  Officials with KI First Nation say the company was trespassing when it conducted exploration on an area believed to be an ancient burial site.  The eviction notice says all operations must cease, and all personnel with the company must leave the Sherman Lake area. The band is also calling on the premier to set up a reconciliation panel to address their concerns about mining in the Big Trout Lake area."


"Less than one week before Ontario voters head to the polls, a controversy over mining in Ontario's Far North has a northern First Nation threatening to hold Premier Dalton McGuinty "personally responsible" for transgression of sacred burial grounds.  Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation has asked the premier to intervene and stop what it calls "reckless exploration" on its traditional lands by junior gold mining company God's Lake Resources.  The First Nation also issued an eviction notice to God's Lake Resources Sept. 29, banning the company from lands KI claims contain numerous sacred burial sites.  Hunters from the community discovered evidence of exploration work on the north shore of Sherman Lake, near an old gold mining shaft.  KI said that God's Lake Resources has staked new claims, without any negotiation, in an area where the First Nation had declared a moratorium on any development .... Morris called on McGuinty to prevent the company from exploring for gold on his people's sacred sites.  "Ontario has failed in its duty to recognize our rights to express our spirituality and protect our sacred sites and burials under international, Canadian and KI law," said Chief Morris.  "Premier McGuinty must intervene immediately to right this wrong or he will be personally responsible."  But Rick Winston, senior communications officer for the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forest (MNDMF) said the mining company was just "walking around the site" and not engaging in active exploration or drilling.  Winston said his department remains committed to working with both sides to resolve the issue .... the First Nation's
### Question 1: What is your party's position on the Ring of Fire mineral exploration area in the James Bay lowlands?....

**Matawa Chiefs** are deeply concerned about the type of Environmental Assessment (EA) process that will be used to determine the impacts of two resource development projects in their traditional territories. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) is expected to announce the formal start of the EA process for the Cliffs Chromite Project in early October and for the Noront Eagle’s Nest Project in early November. Concerns over the EA have prompted the Matawa First Nations Chiefs to demand that a “Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment” process be adopted in order to safeguard the sustainability and integrity of their lands. “These projects are on our traditional territories,” said Chief Cornelius Wabasse of Webequie First Nation. “As one of the First Nations closest to these Ring of Fire developments, we expect the highest level of study to be conducted. Our people live off the land and use it for hunting, fishing and gathering activities. The land is our livelihood and needs to be respected by all people. We do not oppose development, but as caretakers of the land it is our duty to protect the land, water and air that was given to us by the Creator. This means ensuring that any negative environmental impacts are properly mitigated and avoided wherever possible.”


http://www.facebook.com/RingoffireEnvironment

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### Question 2: What is your party's position on development in the north?....

"Debut Diamonds Inc. has been notified by the Canadian National Stock Exchange that its application for listing has been approved. The shares will trade under the symbol DDI and will be posted for trading on a date to be announced. KWG Resources Inc. (tsx venture:KWG) ("KWG") has previously announced its intention to distribute all of its shares of Debut to those KWG shareholders of record on a date to be established. In order to distribute the shares, KWG has sought an exemption from the Securities Administrators in its reporting jurisdictions, to include recently acquired shares of Debut which otherwise would be subject to a hold period. KWG has also made application to the Canada Revenue Agency for an advance ruling to confirm for its shareholders the return of capital nature of the proposed distribution. Shareholders of KWG will be notified of a record date for the distribution, when the ruling and exemption orders are received ...." 


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### Question 3: What is your party's position on the Far North Act?....

Wawatay round-up: "Question 1: What is your party's position on the Ring of Fire mineral exploration area in the James Bay lowlands?....

Question 2: What is your party's position on development in the north?.... Question 3: What is your party's position on the Far North Act?....

Question 4: The NDP has released a northern plan. Do any of the other parties have a specific plan for the north?...." 


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29 Sept 11 "An Ontario Superior Court ruling on treaty rights for Grassy Narrows First Nation is being challenged. The Federal and Provincial Governments and Abitibi-Consolidated are appealing that Grassy Narrows called a victory for their way of life. The Kenora-area band had challenged the province's right to permit industrial logging on its traditional lands, saying it would interfere with its rights under a treaty signed with Ottawa. It celebrated the court ruling, saying it set the stage for recognition and protection of Treaty 3 rights and, more importantly, would help protect the Anishinaabe way of life in Northwestern Ontario." 

Northern Shield Resources Inc. is pleased to provide an update on the exploration at Northern Shield's Storm Claim Group in the Wabassi area, northern Ontario. The Storm Claim Group, which is owned 100% by Northern Shield, consists of six claims blocks identified as Tempest, Typhoon, Blizzard, Squall, Gale and Monsoon. The VTEM survey over the Wabassi Joint Venture property and over the Storm Claim Group is now complete and interpretation is on-going. Numerous VTEM anomalies are apparent within the Wabassi Joint Venture Property and Storm Claim Group. Of particular interest is a series of moderate to strong VTEM anomalies on Northern Shield's 100% owned Tempest property (part of the Storm Claim Group) that coincide with magnetic features. Such characteristics are typical of Ni-Cu-PGE deposits. Northern Shield originally intended to undertake a 1600 meter drill program at the Highbank Lake property in the summer which was delayed as a result of forest fires in the area. Due to the compelling nature of the geophysical target at Tempest, management prioritized the Tempest target for drilling. As such, Northern Shield will test this target on the Tempest property with two drill-holes (approximately 1000 meters) in early October. On completion of the drill program at Tempest, the drill will be moved to Highbank where one drill-hole will be undertaken in order to meet assessment requirements. The drill program will be overseen by Christine Vaillancourt, Chief Geologist for Northern Shield and a Qualified Person under National Instrument 43-101. This news release contains statements concerning the exploration plans, results and potential for Ni-Cu-PGE mineralization at the Tempest property and Cu-Zn-Ag at the Wabassi property and within the Fort Hope Greenstone belt, geological, geophysical and/or geometrical analyses of the Tempest and Wabassi properties and Fort Hope Greenstone Belt.


The chief of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation is calling on the province to stop a gold exploration company from working on a KI ancestral burial site. “Our ancestors deserve a place where they can rest undisturbed,” Chief Donny Morris said Wednesday. “People everywhere understand that cemeteries are sacred places. But in Sherman Lake, they want to put a gold mine on one.” The band claims that mining exploration company God’s Lake Resources has staked new claims despite KI’s well-publicized moratorium, and that the company has worked the site in spite of being informed that multiple grave sites are within the claim area. Government officials have told the band that they are powerless to stop God’s Lake from working their claims in spite of bands in indigenous title, and spiritual connection to the area. The growing conflict closely mirrors the events that led to the jailing of Morris and five other KI leaders in 2008 for refusing to allow platinum mining exploration on their homeland, the band says. Morris suggests that “Ontario has failed in its duty to recognize our rights to express our spirituality and protect our sacred sites and burials under international, Canadian and KI law. Premier (Dalton) McGuinty must intervene immediately to right this wrong or he will be personally responsible.”


Matawa job posting: "Established in 2011, The Gathering of Rivers for Community Care (GORFCC) is a Registered Charity dedicated to assisting the Matawa First Nations youth and families to achieve their goals in the areas of education, health and social and community living. GORFCC requires a Development Coordinator who will responsible for the day-to-day operations as well as the launch of the foundation, fundraising initiatives, stewardship, donor relations, and data collection. The Development Coordinator Internship will be reporting to the Chief Executive Officer of Matawa and GORFCC Board of Directors. Application deadline is Friday October 7, 2011 by 4:30 P.M." http://www.matawas.on.ca/upload/documents/gorfcc-development-coordinator-intern-job-posting-october-2011.pdf

Northern Shield Resources Inc. ("Northern Shield") (TSXV: NRN) is pleased to provide an update on the exploration at Northern Shield's Storm Claim Group in the Wabassi area, northern Ontario. The Storm Claim Group, which is owned 100% by Northern Shield, consists of six claims blocks identified as Tempest, Typhoon, Blizzard, Squall, Gale and Monsoon. The VTEM survey over the Wabassi Joint Venture property and over the Storm Claim Group is now complete and interpretation is on-going. Numerous VTEM anomalies are apparent within the Wabassi Joint Venture Property and Storm Claim Group. Of particular interest is a series of moderate to strong VTEM anomalies on Northern Shield's 100% owned Tempest property (part of the Storm Claim Group) that coincide with magnetic features. Northern Shield originally intended to undertake a 1600 meter drill program at the Highbank Lake property in the summer which was delayed as a result of forest fires in the area.
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http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/437046

28 Sept 11

"The City of Greater Sudbury has made its initial case to Cliffs Natural Resources to land a proposed ferrochrome production facility, but neither side will get into specifics about how things went at a meeting at the mining company's head offices in Cleveland, Ohio, on Monday. "The meeting was productive and it was a great opportunity to meet with the Cliffs team;" Mayor Marianne Matichuk said in a release Tuesday. The release went on to say the "very preliminary meeting" was an information exchange and that the mayor and her staff team will continue to work with Cliffs as they continue their deliberations. The release also said that "respecting business practices and the fact that Cliffs is still evaluating various site options, details of the meeting cannot be disclosed." Cliffs Natural Resources is looking at numerous communities across Northern Ontario in which to locate a ferrochrome processing facility to handle chromite ore from its Black Thor deposit in the Ring of Fire area of northwestern Ontario. What is working in Greater Sudbury's favour is that it has been cited by Cliffs as a "base case" for such a plant, Cliffs officials visited Moose Mountain, a brownfield site north of Capreol, earlier in the year, and that the city has considerable mining expertise and a vibrant mining services sector. Last week, city said it would argue that Sudbury is the best place for the facility because the community is a world-mining centre. Pat Persico, Cliffs Natural Resources' senior manager of media relations and marketing, said in a statement Tuesday that the company will not comment on the ferrochrome production facility issue until a decision on a location is made. "Cliffs understands that there are many interested stakeholders following this project," she said in an email. "At this time, we do not have updated information to share publicly about Cliffs Chromite Project located in the Ring of Fire nor any business meetings with various cities .... "When we arrive at a decision for the (ferrochrome production facility) site, we will make a public announcement," ...."

http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3315004

"Mayor Marianne Matichuk called the recent meeting with Cliffs Natural Resources "productive," but said in a press release that details of the meeting will not be made public. Matichuk joined city staff earlier this week to exchange information with Cliffs at a preliminary meeting to address the proposed site for a ferrochrome production facility. Once chromite is mined, processed and refined to ferrochrome, a product sold to producers of stainless steel. Cliffs has stated on its website that the plan is begin production in 2015. At full capacity, the ferrochrome production facility will produce 1,500 tons of ferrochrome per day. "The meeting was productive, and it was a great opportunity to meet with the Cliffs team;" Matichuk said in a press release. Respecting business practices and the fact that Cliffs is still evaluating various site options, details of the meeting cannot be disclosed, she said. Cliffs identified in a project description summary dated February 2011 that the potential site for the ferrochrome production facility is located near Wahnapiate First Nation, although the location of the ferrochromite smelter is still in its infant planning and location stages. The city will continue to liaise with Cliffs as they continue their deliberations. The choice on the smelter will be a Cliffs' business decision, but to date no decision has been made, as it is still early in the process, Matichuk said ...."


"The Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation is demanding a stop to mining activity on what Band Chief Donny Morris says is a sacred burial ground on the traditional lands of the KI First Nation. “Our ancestors deserve a place where they can rest undisturbed. People everywhere understand that cemeteries are sacred places. But, in Sherman Lake, they want to put a gold mine on one,” stated Morris. The First Nation says that the mining camp was discovered by hunters, and they suspect it is God’s Lake Resources who worked the site. Morris states that “Government officials say that they are powerless to stop God’s Lake from working their claims inspite of KI’s Indigenous Title, Rights, and sensitive spiritual connection to the area”. Suggesting that this situation, left unresolved could lead to greater action, Morris says this growing conflict closely mirrors the events that led to his and five other KI leaders being jailed in 2008 ...."

“Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy supports Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation in the community’s call for the Premier of Ontario to step in to halt mining activity within their traditional territory. “Ontario must take action to preserve its relationship with the First Nations in Ontario’s far north,” said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy. “Ontario must respect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, supported by Canada, which states that free, prior, and informed consent is required from First Nations. This province is failing to recognize First Nation jurisdiction over our homelands.” On September 26, 2011, KI Chief Donny Morris urgently called on Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to intervene on the mining activity occurring on sacred KI ancestral burial sites. A mining exploration company has staked new claims in violation of KI’s well publicized moratorium.

“Vic Fedeli, PC candidate for Nipissing, announced an exciting new strategy to create mining sector jobs in Nipissing. Fedeli has announced that he will lead a Sales Mission of local companies to the Ring of Fire, in the spring. The Ring of Fire is one of North America’s largest mineral discoveries, and is located 240 kilometres west of James Bay. Fedeli, who recently returned from the Ring of Fire, commented that as he flew in he was “thrilled to see a tent city filled with buildings made by Canadian Cantex, a Rutherglen manufacturer.” He added, “As I walked through the site and saw drill rigs, stacks of drill rods, and all the equipment needed to build a mining community, I knew that we needed to get Nipissing suppliers up here to see this opportunity firsthand and introduce them to the actual operators and purchasers.”

“First Nation leaders have the right to exercise their jurisdiction by protecting their homelands. They should not have to lose their freedom because of the government of Ontario’s failure to properly consult and accommodate First Nations,” said Beardy. “NAN urges Ontario to take this call by KI very seriously to allow for peaceful coexistence, and we support the community’s actions on this issue.”

Ontario Superior Court ruled in August that the Province doesn’t have the power to interfere with Grassy Narrows treaty rights. The Kenora-area band had challenged the province’s right to permit industrial logging on its traditional lands, saying it would interfere with its rights under a treaty signed with Ottawa. It celebrated the court ruling, saying it set the stage for recognition and protection of Treaty 3 rights and, more importantly, would help protect the Anishinaabe way of life in Northwestern Ontario.”

Ontario Court Ruling Being Challenged. The Federal and Provincial Governments and Abitibi-Consolidated are appealing a court ruling that Grassy Narrows First Nation called a victory for their way of life. The Ontario Superior Court ruled in August that the Province doesn’t have the power to interfere with Grassy Narrows treaty rights. The Kenora-area band had challenged the province’s right to permit industrial logging on its traditional lands, saying it would interfere with its rights under a treaty signed with Ottawa. It celebrated the court ruling, saying it set the stage for recognition and protection of Treaty 3 rights and, more importantly, would help protect the Anishinaabe way of life in Northwestern Ontario.”

There are changes coming, on an increasingly frequent level as many First Nations across Northern Ontario are working closer together. There are agreements on sharing information, and on mining and exploration rights being signed. Now, First Nations are uniting to implement the Oral Treaty. "Seven Matawa First Nations and Seven Mushkegowuk First Nations have signed a declaration to work together to achieve the implementation of the Oral Treaty. "First Nation leaders have the right to exercise their jurisdiction by protecting their homelands. They should not have to lose their freedom because of the government of Ontario’s failure to properly consult and accommodate First Nations," said Beardy. "NAN urges Ontario to take this call by KI very seriously to allow for peaceful coexistence, and we support the community’s actions on this issue."..."
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<th>Rich land in a way that benefits the First Nations who have traditional ties to this place. We can also choose to do so in a cooperative manner that would make sure we protect the land and its animals as much as possible so that the environment is not devastated by our development of the resources. At the same time we have the ability to develop all the resources so that First Nations and industry can all benefit and proceed in a harmonious way. Those opportunities are there but it is up to our Native and non Native leaders to figure out how to make it happen in a positive way. It makes no sense to go to war and start huge conflicts merely for the almighty dollar in developing these pristine traditional lands. Nobody would really win in this scenario. However, make no mistake about it no matter what government is in place or how much money or power industry has, if fair deals are not made with the First Nations of the “Ring Of Fire” nothing will ever be developed in this area. There will be a conflict that we will all have to endure for decades and we will waste a lot of energy, time and good will in a pointless fight .... * <a href="http://www.firstperspective.ca/news/3076-under-the-northern-sky.html">http://www.firstperspective.ca/news/3076-under-the-northern-sky.html</a> (PDF of column: <a href="http://ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/3076-under-the-northern-sky.pdf">http://ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/3076-under-the-northern-sky.pdf</a> )</th>
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<td>Another dispute between Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation officials and a junior mining company is threatening to explode. Calling God’s Lake Resources’ alleged exploration of their traditional territory “reckless” and accusing the company of deliberately ignoring advice from the First Nation, Chief Donny Morris said the gold mining company’s actions are unacceptable. Morris was upset that it appears a mining company may have begun exploration on KI’s traditional territory, lands that also happen to be part of a sacred burial site. “Our ancestors deserve a place where they can rest undisturbed. People everywhere understand that cemeteries are sacred places. But in Sherman Lake (God’s Lake Resources) wants to put a gold mine on one,” Morris said in a release issued on Tuesday. Morris told CKPR Radio a couple of hunters discovered a camp near Sherman Lake and reported it to community leaders. Morris said they will investigate the discovery in an attempt to determine who it belongs to – though the news release points to God’s Lake Resources .... * <a href="http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/Default.aspx?id=165756">http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/Default.aspx?id=165756</a></td>
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<td>KI Chief Donny Morris is urgently calling on Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to intervene to stop mining exploration activity on a sacred KI ancestral burial site. Mining exploration company God’s Lake Resources has staked new claims in violation of KI’s well publicized moratorium and has worked the site in spite of being informed that multiple sacred KI graves are within the claim area. Government officials say that they are powerless to stop God’s Lake Resources’ exploration from working their claim on the site, and that the project is under approval from the First Nation of KI’s Indigenous Title, Rights, and sensitive spiritual connection to the area. This growing conflict closely mirrors the events that led to the jailing of Chief Morris and five other KI leaders in 2008 for refusing to allow platinum mining exploration on their homeland .... * <a href="http://indigenouspeoplesissues.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;catid=52-north-america-indigenous-people&amp;id=12434:ontario-kitchenuhmaykoosib-inninuwug-calls-on-mcguinty-to-stop-mining-exploration-on-sacred-burial-site">http://indigenouspeoplesissues.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;catid=52-north-america-indigenous-people&amp;id=12434:ontario-kitchenuhmaykoosib-inninuwug-calls-on-mcguinty-to-stop-mining-exploration-on-sacred-burial-site</a></td>
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* Sudbury Mayor Marianne Matichuk and staff will be meeting with Cliffs Natural Resources Sept. 26 to pitch Sudbury as the preferred location for a proposed ferrochrome production facility. In 2010, Cliffs Natural Resources acquired the largest known chromite deposit in North America,
located in the James Bay lowlands in an area known as the Ring of Fire. The Sudbury location, north of Capreol, was deemed the best technical site for the refinery by the company. Other locations include Timmins, Thunder Bay and Greenstone. Over the past year, city officials have been meeting with decision-makers from all major companies involved in the Ring of Fire development, including the provincial government. A report has been drafted to show Cliffs the benefits in bringing this important project to the Greater Sudbury area. "Cliffs is looking at places to establish its smelting operation. To me, there is only one place; here in Greater Sudbury," said Matichuk. "If Cliffs decides to build in Ontario, we want Greater Sudbury to be the only choice for them. " We are aggressively marketing Sudbury as an economic engine and as the world’s expert in the mining and supply industry," said Scott Lund, chair, Greater Sudbury Development Corp. "Attracting Ring of Fire businesses such as Cliffs will allow us to become a more competitive, commercial and industrial rallying point in northeastern Ontario." The fact Sudbury is a global mining centre is one of the compelling reasons Cliffs Natural Resources should build a chromite processing plant here in Greater Sudbury, said Horwath. "The expensive part will be the railway. There will be a significant need for one to move ore out as far as the Ring of Fire is concerned. It's a necessity. It's a question of how fast can it be done? The world demand for metals will be increasing, led by China, over the next 10 years. This is a long-term concern that needs to be addressed now." Cachon doesn't see the issue of cheaper hydro for industry as a major one right now, as he predicts the days of cheap hydro are going to be coming to an end as the North American electricity consumption picture continues to shift. Ontario, he said, has to make a big decision whether or not to renew its nuclear electricity generating network, which provides a good chunk of the province's power needs, or shift to buying power from other provinces and northern states. That decision, he cautioned, will have a 50-year impact on provincial power users, including industry ...."
of Fire area in northwestern Ontario. New Democratic Party: The party’s Respect for the North plan includes helping business become more competitive with lower electricity rates, and amending the Mining Act so that resources such as minerals processed in the North stay in the North. That’s a comment aimed at Cliffs Natural Resources, which may choose to have its chromite ore from the Ring of Fire processed in Quebec or Manitoba where hydro is cheaper, and Xstrata for closing its Timmins smelter in 2010 and shifting the smelting work to Quebec. “Mining Tax revenue from new mines will stay in the North with First Nations and Northern Ontario municipalities to meet the challenges facing the North.” The NDP will continue the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program and extend it to include smaller companies. Progressive Conservatives: As outlined in Changebook and Changebook North, a stronger commitment to the Ring of Fire development and the scrapping of the Far North Act to allow for resource development ….” http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3311198

“…. (Ontario NDP candidate Gilles) Bisson said development of the Ring of Fire, a large area northeast of Thunder Bay, has some companies making decisions about building mines and facilities for processing materials such as chromite, copper and zinc. The NDP would use a ‘carrot approach,’ in which companies would be offered an industrial hydro rate comparable to Quebec and Manitoba and help to defer some of the costs to build infrastructure to the site, but “the quid pro quo is you’ve got to build your processing facilities in Ontario,” he said. Livio Di Matteo, an economics professor at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, said there’s a risk attached to such an amendment. Companies decide to “process or to add value to the extracted minerals” based on factors such as the price of processing and transportation costs, he said. “It’s the cost of energy that’s a major ingredient into the value-added processing. Given the cost of energy right now in Ontario, decreeing that firms must process within Ontario could saddlem them with a lot higher costs,” unless certain incentives were given, Di Matteo said. Some companies might have preferred to send materials to other provinces or countries where energy costs are cheaper, so “you might end up with some firms simply deciding not to invest in further mining activity because of that. That’s a potential outcome,” Di Matteo said. “If a firm was going to invest in the mining sector already, then having such legislation might create a few more jobs than otherwise might have been the case, but it comes with the risk, of course, of killing off the industry also or aspects of it in terms of value-added processing. You can’t really predict up front which way it’s going to go.” Walid Hejazi, a professor of international competitiveness at the Rotman School of Management, said he agrees with a push for high-value processing in Ontario, “but the means to get there, I think the NDP got it all wrong.” Telling companies they can’t process materials in places that are more efficient and cost-effective would only make the province less attractive to investors, he said. “It would be counterproductive to mandate the companies do it here. If they want to create incentives for that, that’s fine,” Hejazi said. “If we were to somehow create an environment where the stuff can be processed here as efficiently as elsewhere, then we wouldn’t need that regulation or the change to the Mining Act because if it was most efficient to do it here, companies would do it anyway.” …. http://www.ottawacitizen.com/mining+platform+puts+focus+keeping+jobs+northern+Ontario/5454389/story.html

23 Sept 11 “Council will focus on the city’s competitive advantages as a global mining centre when it meets with Cliffs Natural Resources Sept. 26. The meeting is meant to continue deliberations on why Greater Sudbury is the best place to locate the proposed ferrochrome production facility, according to a press release. The project is still in its preliminary stages. Cliffs is one of the most significant mining and natural resources companies in North America, according to the press release. In 2010, the company acquired the largest-known chromite deposit in North America, located in northern Ontario. Earlier this year, Cliffs evaluated numerous locations and announced the Sudbury location, Moose Mountain, north of Capreol, as the benchmark site. Over the past year, city officials have been meeting with decision-makers from all major companies involved in the Ring of Fire development, including the provincial government. A report has been drafted to show Cliffs the benefits in bringing this important project to the Greater Sudbury area. “Cliffs is looking at places to establish its smelting operation,” Mayor Marianne Matichuk said in a press release. “To me, there is only one place; here in Greater Sudbury. If Cliffs decides to build in Ontario, we want Greater Sudbury to be the only choice for them.” …. http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2011/09/23/council-cliffs-meeting-Sudbury.aspx

22 Sept 11 “With potential developments such as the Ring of Fire on the horizon, Northwestern Ontario businesses need to find a way to harness that potential and help boost the economic profile of the region. On Wednesday, the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce hosted its Prosperity Northwest conference, aimed at helping business build business. “It’s primarily been organized to institute business with business,” said Nancy
Milani, the chamber’s show manager. “To get people to promote themselves and as well to build business relationships that will be lasting relationships so they can form partnerships and find out what opportunities for growth are in the region.” More than 300 people attended the conference during the day, with an additional 200 during the evening sessions. The conference included a tradeshow and covered a variety of topics relating to business opportunities in the North, such as health care, manufacturing, forestry and energy development. There was a strong focus on mining.  

“SLAM Exploration Ltd. and Beatrix Ventures Inc. are pleased to announce additional gold-bearing intercepts, from the 2011 summer drilling program at the Opikiegen Gold Joint Venture project located near Fort Hope, Ontario, and owned 50/50 by SLAM Exploration and Beatrix Ventures. Holes OG11-10 and OG11-11 intersected multiple gold bearing veins with individual samples ranging up to 7.59 g/t gold over 1.0 m within a larger 17.9 m interval grading 1.46 g/t gold.”  

“In matters of public policy, it’s sometimes difficult getting to the heart of the matter. Large bureaucracies formed to address major issues often are unable to tackle them on a community level, let alone among individuals who “fall through the cracks” in the all-too-familiar phrase. A variety of northern lifestyle issues currently challenges regional authorities: rampant drunkenness in Thunder Bay; painkiller addiction in Marten Falls and other First Nations; violence and abuse across the Far North; the unexplained deaths of seven aboriginal youth who came to Thunder Bay for schooling. It would be difficult to catalogue the number of services, agencies and departments that are set up to address these very things. Federal, provincial and municipal governments and First Nation organizations spend billions of tax dollars to operate programs aimed at pressing social issues. Yet many of the issues are getting worse. The disparities between those Northern Ontarians who are gainfully employed and those who have lost their jobs or never had one are growing. With enormous attention to “economic development,” the economy is holding its own while the population is not. Many see little or no hope of ever sharing in the dream of normalcy. While governments seek to be seen to be “doing something” about crime and trouble, a huge social network is increasingly unable to respond to its mandates, many of them set by government.”  

“.... Federal politicians campaigned hard here in the spring. This fall, provincial leaders are making frequent pilgrimages to cities such as Thunder Bay and New Liskeard to talk about their plans for the region. “For the North to be getting this much attention is unheard of,” said Laure Paquette, a professor at Thunder Bay’s Lakehead University. “There is really big long-term economic potential, but people don’t know how to play their cards. Local politicians don’t know how to handle the attention.” Ontario’s north accounts for 90 per cent of the province’s land mass and only 6 per cent of its population. The drive from Toronto takes about 21 hours. While the forestry sector has waned in the past decade, mining exploration and investment have ballooned. Last year, companies spent $8.5-billion seeking and developing mine sites. That number could increase exponentially with development in the Ring of Fire – a swath of land in a northwestern corner of the province that is rich in the stainless-steel component chromite.”  

“.... Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce president Harold Wilson said it is important for businesses in the region to be given the opportunity to plan for the future. “One of the challenges for our business people is that there are so many things to do in the day that you don’t always have the opportunity as much as you’d like to be strategic,” he said. Wilson added that remote communities are going to play a significant role in the economic engine of the country. “Places like Thunder Bay and a lot of the communities in our region and working with First Nations, that’s where the big opportunities are,” he said. “We need to get in front of those and try to figure out how we're going to maximize the benefit of the resources for all of us in the area.” One of the major topics of discussion was the Ring of Fire mining development. Wilson said the mining sector injects a great deal of economic activity into the region. More than $200 million is spent prior to a mine reaching operation, which creates opportunities for businesses and industry, he said. “The economic impacts are already being experienced here,” Wilson said. “But, can we do more? Are there business opportunities from outside of our area or outside of Ontario? We might be able to help bring some of those investments here. That means more jobs, more disposable income, and it helps our entire economy.”  

21 Sept 11 | The Township of Greenstone wants to be chosen as the site of a ferrochrome refinery as part of the Ring of Fire development. George Smitherman, chairman of G&G Global Solutions, said during a presentation on Tuesday that Exton is the most viable site for the chromite refinery. "At the heart of Exton’s strength is its proximity to the mine site and its relationship with First Nations," Smitherman, a former provincial Energy minister, said in an interview following his presentation in Thunder Bay. "What we were able to do is construct a resolution that is a benefit to so many players and brings more opportunities to First Nation communities and is the most environmentally sustainable." Exton is located on the CNR mainline between Nakina and the Aroland First Nation, and south of the Ring of Fire development. G&G Global Solutions was contracted by Greenstone to create a proposal for bringing the refinery to Exton. First Nation aspirations, energy supply and sustainability were the three keys in the proposal. Larry Doran, president and CEO of Imperium Energy, said it is feasible to supply Exton with the required energy, which would not only allow Greenstone to be home to the refinery, but benefit the entire region. "It’s both economically and sustainably positive and possible to provide the required power to build the refinery at Exton on the schedule that Cliff Natural Resources has requested," Doran said. "We’ve also found that it provides a base for a much better opening of the grid system in Northwestern Ontario for a variety of reasons." Doran examined several options for supplying Exton with adequate electricity, including constructing a gas plant in Exton or Geraldton, connecting Nipigon to Exton through a transmission line, or what he is calling the Northwest Kick-Start. The Northwest Kick-Start option involves a V-shaped grid connecting Nipigon to Dryden or Ignace through Greenstone. Doran said it would create social and economic transformation in the region by providing service to a wide range of existing needs and the grid would be strengthened. "It is the best option, because it meets the timeline with certainty," he said. "That certainty is very important to the business. "It also sets the stage for growth later," said Doran. 


“A report new concludes that siting a ferrochrome refinery at Exton for Ring of Fire minerals is technically, environmentally and economically feasible. George Smitherman and Don Huff were contracted by the Municipality of Greenstone to push for establishing a Chromite refinery at Exton. Exton is located adjacent to the railway in the Municipality of Greenstone between Nakina and the Aroland First Nation. Our analysis, with specific emphasis on the viability of supplying electricity to service the proposed arc furnaces concludes that Exton is well positioned to serve as the refinery site," stated former Ontario Deputy Premier George Smitherman. Smitherman observed, "The Exton site has the significant advantage of fitting with the territorial expectations of First Nations and is economically feasible." The Municipality of Greenstone asked that three major themes be addressed: 1. The Exton site must mesh with First Nation aspirations; 2. The viability of supplying adequate power; and 3. Sustainability considerations …”


21 Sept 11 | A new partnership aims to provide comprehensive business protection and risk management services to business clients across Northwestern Ontario, especially those involved with the Ring of Fire. Called LYNX, the group consists of Thunder Bay Insurance, Focused WealthCare, Buset & Partners and Safety Net Security. Education is an important part of the partnership. In that vein, (Adrien Ladouceur of Thunder Bay Insurance) announced that LYNX’s first workshop, The Unspoken Dialogue featuring Robert R. Rail, will be held in mid-November. He said the workshop is designed to help companies understand how improving non-verbal communication in the workplace can lead to greater success. Ladouceur said members of the partnership already have clients directly involved with the Ring of Fire, but due to confidentiality, he could not provide names. …”


21 Sept 11 | Green Party Sudbury candidate Pat Rogerson does not want to see a chromite refining plant in Sudbury. Rogerson was at The Star building Wednesday afternoon for an electronic town hall, where she fielded questions from readers. (The Star will hold etown halls with the eight main candidates in Sudbury and Nickel Belt.) "We’re talking about an open pit mine, which is extremely costly to the environment, and chromium mining and smelting both leave residue in the environment that would have to be cleaned," she said. "The chromium market is already extremely volatile. In the past 10 years, the price of chromium has fluctuated by as much as 80%, and there are several places in the world already producing it, so it’s not scarce. "Unless these problems are addressed, and the risk assessment done, I would have to say that..."
presently, with the information I have, financially it's not a feasible project.” ...." http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3307373

"Pat Rogerson wants to take a “sustainable approach” to managing northern Ontario's economy. That's why she called for full cost accounting of development proposals around the Ring of Fire, before commitments are made by political parties. “I've been very clear that we need better leadership for the North at Queen's Park, and that we have to start shifting the focus towards sustainable development and away from the idea of taxpayer-subsidized proposals which don't consider a full range of costs, including externalities,” Sudbury's Green Party candidate stated in a media release. Rogerson's comments came after Sudbury riding Liberal and Progressive Conservative candidates “promised their unequivocal support” for bringing a chromite facility to Greater Sudbury, “despite not having made a fully-costed economic case to do so.” The media release stated that for the facility to be run profitably, power would have to cost four cents per kilowatt. Ontario residents currently pay between 5.1 cents and 9.9 cents. “This means that Ontario's taxpayers will have to find a way to subsidize energy costs so that an American multi-national mining company can turn a profit,” said Rogerson. “Rick Bartolucci says he wants to bring a processing plant to Sudbury, but at what cost? I don't know. No one knows, and the Liberals don't want to talk about it.” ...." http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2011/09/23-rogerson-greens-ring-of-fire-sudbury.aspx

20 Sept 11

"A report released today concludes that siting a ferrochrome refinery at Exton for Ring of Fire minerals is technically, environmentally and economically feasible. George Smitherman and Don Huff were contracted by the Municipality of Greenstone to push for establishing a Chromite refinery at Exton. Exton is located adjacent to the railway in the Municipality of Greenstone between Nakina and the Aroland First Nation. “Our analysis, with specific emphasis on the viability of supplying electricity to service the proposed arc furnaces concludes that Exton is well positioned to serve as the refinery site,” stated former Ontario Deputy Premier George Smitherman. Smitherman observed, “The Exton site has the significant advantage of fitting with the territorial expectations of First Nations and is economically feasible.” The Municipality of Greenstone asked that three major themes be addressed: 1. The Exton site must mesh with First Nation aspirations; 2. The viability of supplying adequate power; and 3. Sustainability considerations. The specific request to review sustainability was made because developing any project of this scale has impacts - and there needs to be an awareness of how to avoid, minimize or mitigate them. If sustainability issues are not adequately addressed, there are risks to Ontario's natural environment and reputation and to the corporate evaluations of participating companies. “The prospect of moving massive amounts of unrefined ore hundreds of kilometers past Exton (the terminus of the proposed north-south rail link to the Ring of Fire) is unnecessary, costly and undercuts sustainability principles,” added Don Huff, President of Environmental Commutation Options, an environmental consulting firm with decades of experience in Ontario's environmental, energy and natural resources sectors. “An Exton location minimizes impacts and contributes the most to project sustainability,” Huff added. “It also has the significant attribute of following the principles laid down by area First Nations, who appropriately insist that the value-added exercise of refining must be done in close proximity to the point of extraction. Refining the ore at Exton also saves at least 28 million dollars per year in transportation costs.” .... Greenstone Mayor Ron Beaulieu, on receiving the report from Smitherman, Huff and Doran observed, “What began as a research project to assist Greenstone has emerged as a very real opportunity to build a new backbone for the economy of northwestern Ontario. It is clear that a decision to site a refinery in Greenstone will do the most to accelerate opportunity throughout our region.” “Area First Nations will not stand by and watch our economic opportunities being shipped out of the region or to another jurisdiction,” said Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation. “This report provides Cliffs and the Governments of Canada and Ontario with a game plan for moving forward.” Standing with Raymond Ferris, Ring of Fire Coordinator for Matawa First Nations, Mayor Beaulieu concluded, “We will continue to work with the First Nations as we make our case to Cliffs and to the Governments of Canada and Ontario.” “ http://www.huffstrategy.com/Manager/release/Municipality-of-Greenstone/20-9-11/New-report-concludes-Exton-is-viable-site-for-Ring-of-Fire-Refine/2347.html http://ringoffirenews.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/1316526611_greenstone-mediarelease092011.pdf

"The Municipality of Greenstone, Ontario announced Tuesday that a report co-authored by former deputy premier George Smitherman
concluded it is feasible to build a ferrochrome refinery at the community of Exton, located about 350 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay. Smitherman and Don Huff were contracted by the Municipality of Greenstone to push for establishing a chromite refinery at Exton, which is between Nakina and the Aroland First Nation. Greenstone was established in 2001 and encompasses a 200-kilometre stretch along Highway 11 east of Lake Nipigon, including the towns of Geraldton and Longlac. It is also south of a mineral-rich area in Northern Ontario, dubbed the Ring of Fire. Smitherman, an Ontario Liberal who served in a variety of portfolios in Premier Dalton McGuinty’s cabinet and unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Toronto in 2010, is chairman of G & G Global Solutions. Don Huff is president of Environmental Communications Options. The intent of commissioning the report was to determine whether chromite could be refined at Exton instead of moving unrefined ore hundreds of kilometres past it. The municipality asked Smitherman and Huff to take into account “First Nations aspirations,” electricity supply and “sustainability considerations.” “An Exton location minimizes impacts and contributes the most to project sustainability,” Huff stated in a press release. “It also has the significant attribute of following the principles laid down by area First Nations, who appropriately insist that the value-added exercise of refining must be done in close proximity to the point of extraction. Rerfining the ore at Exton also saves at least $28 million per year in transportation costs.”

Two consultants hired by the Municipality of Greenstone pick Greenstone as the perfect place to host the Ring of Fire chromite refinery. A Sept. 20 municipal press release said a research report prepared by former provincial Energy Minister George Smitherman and Don Huff of Environmental Commutation Options concluded the Exton site, west of Nakina, as the best spot for the processing furnaces due to its rail access, power supply and environmental sustainability. Smitherman said their analysis concludes Exton is “well positioned” with its power supply to service the proposed electric arc furnaces. “The Exton site has the significant advantage of fitting with the territorial expectations of First Nations and is economically feasible.” One mining company, KWG Resources, is extensively studying the costs behind running a 350-kilometre railroad from the Ring of Fire exploration camp, in the James Bay lowlands, to the Canadian National Railway’s Exton junction in northwestern Ontario. The concept has support from mining giant Cliffs Natural Resources. Huff says moving large amounts of unrefined ore past Exton for processing elsewhere is “unnecessary, costly and undercut sustainability principles.” Choosing the Exton location, he said, minimizes environmental impacts, contributes to project sustainability and follows the principles of area First Nations, who insist that refining must be done close to the point of extraction. Huff says moving unrefined ore at least $28 million per year in transportation costs.” The consultants’ power expert, Larry Doran of Imperium Energy, said a potential refinery at Exton would be the only major power user on the transmission system within 100 kilometres, and therefore any related project costs would be lower than other possible sites in Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Timmins ...

Probe Mines Limited announced drill results from its Borden Lake gold project near Chapleau, Ontario .... Regarding progress on Probe’s other properties, (President David) Palmer says, “Our next biggest project in terms of value would be our Black Creek project. Black Creek is a discovery we made in 2009, and it now has a measured and indicated resource of about 10 million tonnes of high-grade chromite. It’s very strategic because it sits in between two chromite deposits in the Ring of Fire, Black Thor and Big Daddy. It’s a very nice deposit—most of it is a single, high-grade massive lens of chromite. It comes straight to surface, so it’s probably open-pittable, and because of the high-grade it could be direct-shipping lump ore, which makes it very attractive in terms requiring less infrastructure on site. “We could continue drilling it to depth, but I think at this point we’re waiting to see what happens in terms of infrastructure in the Ring of Fire. A major hurdle to the Ring of Fire is the lack of infrastructure. So what we’d like to do is see how the other companies are doing and progressing in terms of infrastructure up there. “But we’re a small company, so our resources are all focused on Borden Lake right now. Borden Lake has done phenomenally well. It’s still early stage and we’ve got a lot left to do on it. But after less than a year after discovery to be at the stage where we have a 4-million-ounce resource, open in all directions, I think it’s really promising. We’ve probably only scratched the surface of the potential on Borden Lake. “I would say we’re definitely undervalued in the market right now. There’s probably a bit of a disconnect because we have disparate commodities. You never see chromite-gold companies, and I think what happens is people haven’t connected all the assets in the story. In terms of our market value now—
It’s almost like you’re getting Borden Lake for free, given the values of the chromite, and that we’ve also got a net-smelter royalty on a part of Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd TSX: AEM’s GolDEX Mine. So we’ve got these three very valuable assets, and I don’t know if the market values them all together—they seem to be looking at the individual assets when they think of Probe …. “ http://resourceclips.com/2011/09/20/probe-reports-ontario-gold-assays-as-high-as-10-9-ct-over-6-6m/ 

19 Sept 11 “Cliffs Natural Resources and the Marten Falls First Nation are working together to combat issues with drug abuse. Marten Falls or Ogoki Post is one of many northern First Nations dealing with an unprecedented rate of opiate addiction attributed to a misused prescription drug known as OxyContin. In 2009, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly unanimously passed a resolution declaring a State of Emergency as a result of the prescription drug epidemic. In a statement made earlier this year to Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Chief Eli Moonias said: “This drug’s effects can be highly destructive when misused. It debilitates the whole community”. Marten Falls First Nation Chief and Council today welcome members of an independent Treatment Team and Health Canada’s First Nation and Inuit Health representatives to initiate the planning for a community-based clinical withdrawal management program to help community members with opiate addiction. They are joined by Joe Gaboury, Director of Aboriginal Affairs for Cliffs Natural Resources Inc., an international mining company, who will cover the costs for the first program. Joe Gaboury stated, “We are so concerned that we have decided to invest some of our money in having a healthy, capable workforce coming from this northern community. We have made this a priority for our business.” The team of health professionals will use a substitution drug known as Suboxone and taper the drug over 30 days until clients can be taken off completely or continue on short-term low-dose maintenance. This approach has been successful in other programs in Nishnawbe Aski territory and is well-documented and used in other parts of the world.” http://netnewsledger.com/2011/09/19/marten-falls-first-nation-steps-up-fight-on-drug-abuse/ 

“.... There will be a presentation of the White Paper developed by G & G Global Solutions and Environmental Communication Options with a discussion of the Technical Appendix by Larry Doran Imperium Energy Inc. In attendance will be Greenstone Mayor Ron Beaulieu, Aroland First Nation Chief Sonny Gagnon and others. What: Technical Briefing on Greenstone’s findings related to the required electricity supply for a refinery at Exton in Greenstone Who: Project Advisors, George Smitherman of G&G Global Solutions and Don Huff, of Environmental Communication Options; Electricity Grid Consultant, Larry Doran of Imperium Energy Inc. When: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 20th, 2011 Where: Scandia Room, Valhalla Hotel, 1 Valhalla Inn Road, Thunder Bay, ON ....” http://www.huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/release/Municipality-of-Greenstone/19-9-11/Release-of-Greenstone-sponsored-White-Paper-on-providing-energy-t/2346.html 

16 Sept 11 “The city may be sending a team to Cleveland, the home base of Cliffs Natural Resources, to present Greater Sudbury’s case for landing a smelter to process ore from the company’s chromite deposits in northwestern Ontario. “There is something in the works,” Mayor Marianne Matichuk said when reached Thursday. “I can’t get into details. We don’t have everything firm’d up.” The Star has learned a team that includes Matichuk and chief administrative officer Doug Nadorozny could be heading to Cleveland as early as Wednesday to present a study about a former industrial site just north of Capreol. “I will be fighting for our community and giving Cliffs a good case for our community,” Matichuk said. Cliffs Natural Resources officials were unavailable for comment Thursday ....” http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3301591 

“Ontario Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty confirmed Thursday that he won’t participate in a Sept. 23 Northern debate that he will not be participating in a leaders’ debate in Northern Ontario Sept. 23, despite an offer from the Progressive Conservatives to foot his bill. The Tories offered Thursday to cover the costs for the premier to appear via teleconference for the debate, but McGuinty — the lone holdout in the challenge — didn’t bite. During a tour of the Bombardier plant in Thunder Bay on Thursday, McGuinty said he received the invitation to participate in an Northern debate in early August and said then that he couldn’t make it on Sept. 23. An alternative date wasn’t provided. McGuinty said he is looking forward to discussing Northern issues during the televised leaders’ debate in Toronto on Sept. 27. He added that he doesn’t want leaders saying one thing to a southern audience and another thing to a Northern audience. He used the example of NDP
Leader Andrea Horwath who, he said, tells southern Ontario that she wants to shut down development north of 51, which would put a stop to the Ring of Fire development, but tells Northern Ontario a different story. "In order to eliminate those kinds of opportunities, I think we should all be there together talking about the province together, including an important focus on Northern issues," McGuinty said ....

http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/09/16/mcguinty-prefers-1-big-stage

The Liberal Party of Ontario treated an invited audience of 500 to an old-fashioned, barn-burner of a political rally at the Caruso Club last night, and the star of the evening was the premier himself. Dalton McGuinty and wife, Terri, made a whistle stop in Sudbury at the end of a northern tour that started in Thunder Bay and moved to Sault Ste. Marie. The event in support of Sudbury Liberal incumbent Rick Bartolucci and Nickel Belt candidate Tony Ryma featured plenty of back-slapping, placard waving, hand-shaking and corny jokes, but no one seemed to mind .... The Liberals will "open" at least eight new mines in Northern Ontario and will "drive the development" of the Ring of Fire. He didn't mention in it his speech, but a news release reminded northerners that thousands of jobs will be protected by making the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program permanent ....

http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3301638

15 Sept 11

Premier Dalton McGuinty is still resisting calls to join a leaders' debate in northern Ontario despite an offer from the Progressive Conservatives to foot his bill. The Tories offered Thursday to cover the costs for the premier to appear via teleconference for the Sept. 23 debate, but McGuinty -- the lone holdout in the challenge -- didn't bite. The Liberal leader defended his decision during a tour of the north, saying his staff told organizers in August that the date they'd selected was "not suitable." He never received any alternate dates. McGuinty said he'd rather discuss northern issues during the televised leaders' debate in Toronto on Sept. 27. "I want to make sure that the opposition leaders in particular aren't delivering one message up here in northern Ontario and another message in southern Ontario," he said after touring the Essar steel plant in Sault Ste. Marie. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath tells southern audiences that she wants a moratorium on development north of the 51st parallel, which would kill development of the Ring of Fire chromite deposit and thousands of potential jobs, he said. "And then she's got another message when she's up here in the north," McGuinty said. "I think we need to have one debate where we're all on the hot seat, so to speak, where all Ontarians are watching us and our position on northern Ontario issues is one that we deliver in the south at the same time," he said after visiting the Essar steel plant in Sault Ste. Marie. The NDP said McGuinty's claim that Horwath wants to block development in the north is not true ....


During a stop in Thunder Bay Sept. 15, Premier Dalton McGuinty highlighted the Liberals' plan to protect northern Ontario jobs. McGuinty also due to attend a rally at the Caruso Club in Sudbury this evening (Sept. 15). Check back to NorthernLife.ca for coverage of this event. The Liberals plan to protect northern jobs by: Increasing the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to $110 million and increasing the number of jobs it supports; Protecting jobs by reducing industrial electricity rates by 25 per cent through the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program, which will be made permanent; Keeping the north moving by improving northern road, rail, and air links; Opening new mines — at least eight in the next 10 years; Investing in northern brainpower with a new law school at Lakehead University; Attracting new investment and jobs with the development of the Ring of Fire. ....


The leader of the provincial Liberal party says he can't participate in a northern leaders debate on Sept. 23 because of a scheduling conflict. Dalton McGuinty said he initially received an invitation for the debate hosted by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association in early August. "We responded in the middle of August saying that date would not work for us," he said Thursday morning after touring Thunder Bay's Bombardier plant. "We never received alternate dates, so I'm very much looking forward to talking about northern issues in our province-wide debate. I look forward to debating those of course with my opposition." Last week NDP leader Andrea Horwath challenged McGuinty and Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak to a northern debate. Hudak accepted the challenge Wednesday leaving McGuinty the last to reply. Wednesday evening, the PCs issued a release stating they would foot the bill for McGuinty to participate in the debate via video conference from Toronto. "During the last eight years Dalton McGuinty has shown how out of touch he is with Northern Ontario. His refusal to attend the
northern leaders’ debate just shows that it is time for change,” said Thunder Bay–Atikokan PC candidate Fred Gilbert in the release. “The debate will cover topics from the Ring of Fire to energy costs. For McGuinty, the Ring of Fire is filled with promise and opportunity, but the challenge to move that development forward is building the necessary infrastructure. “That’s the kind of problem I like to have,” he said. “How do we make sure we have the necessary, whether it’s rails or roads or electricity? I think those are great kinds of challenges to have.” ....


“Four Matawa First Nations are looking for jobs, education and other benefits from the development of an infrastructure, transportation and service corridor to the Ring of Fire. “It’s going to create a lot of employment, a lot of opportunity, a lot of business interests,” said Neskantaga Chief Peter Moonias. “It will also bring in connections to the urban centres. That is the intention of this agreement: to try to have access roads to the First Nations.” Neskantaga, Webequie, Eabametoong and Nibinamik signed the collaborative agreement Aug. 31 to develop, own and operate a 230-240 kilometre east-west corridor from the Pickle Lake area to the Ring of Fire mineral exploration area in the James Bay lowlands with connections to the communities …. http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/9/15/four-matawa-communities-plan-ring-fire-corridor_21853

“Three Matawa First Nation communities have agreed to work together on common interests in their shared traditional territories about 350 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay .... Aroland, Ginoogaming and Long Lake #58 signed a letter of intent Sept. 7 to unite the First Nations and prevent industry from plotting communities against each other ....” http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/9/15/aroland-ginoogaming-long-lake-58-join-forces_21854

“Michael Fox will engage mineral resource companies in the Ring of Fire as Webequie’s Ring of Fire senior director. “We will be assembling our negotiating team and executing our community-based strategy with both companies (Noront Resources Ltd. and Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.) in the very near future,” said Fox, president of Fox High Impact Consulting. “We will also be engaging with Marten Falls First Nation at a council-to-council level for the mine sites developments. And we definitely look forward to continued discussions with regional First Nations on infrastructure corridor initiatives.” Fox said two project descriptions for Ring of Fire corridors that have been officially submitted to government, an east-west corridor submitted by Noront and a north-south corridor submitted by Cliffs. “Because we don’t know where the government sits in terms of both corridors or more than two corridors, we need to engage our neighbours around the impact on land as well as the impacts on community members around any potential corridor development,” Fox said. “We’re trying to structure a dialogue with those communities as well as make sure we all have the same understanding of what the impacts may be.” http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/9/15/michael-fox-joins-orex-boarding-ring-fire-director_21855

“Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) president & CEO Harvey Yesno has taken a one-year leave of absence from the organization. Yesno has been with NADF since 1993 and this will be his first extended leave from the organization .... Yesno said he discussed with the board how he would take the appropriate time off. “We agreed mutually that he should ask for a leave of absence, because the other option obviously was to resign, which I had considered,” he said. NADF Chairperson Madeline Commanda confirmed the board’s decision. “Considering his time and service with NADF, the board approved his leave of absence,” she said. “The leave took effect Aug. 12. But Yesno said taking personal time off from work was initially the plan “until a couple of business opportunities came up.” One of those opportunities was the opening of the new Ring of Fire office in Thunder Bay. Yesno began serving as the office manager and the director for Aboriginal community and stakeholder relations when the office opened Aug. 25 .... Yesno said there are two potential large projects within the Ring of Fire that interested him and these projects would require infrastructure such as hydro lines, railroads, roads and fibre optics. “It can become a fairly significant project,” he said .... Yesno said his plan is keep the NADF “option open” and “see how this position evolves” over the next 6-9 months. At that time, he said he will give the NADF board plenty of notice if he does not plan on returning. In the meantime, both the NADF board and Yesno believe the organization will continue to operate smoothly in his absence. “I set up the organization so that managers can run their division individually,” Yesno said. “It took time to recruit the right people ... so it’s in very good hands.” “The board believes that we have a very capable staff that can keep business going while he’s away,” Commanda said ....” http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/9/15/harvey-yesno.
Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose says Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty is ducking First Nations issues by refusing to participate in a northern Ontario leaders’ debate in the run-up to the provincial election. “The Premier has a duty to answer the tough questions that are being put to him by First Nations and other northern Ontario leaders. Dalton McGuinty is willing to come north for a barbecue, but won’t show up when there are tough questions to be answered,” said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose. “This is a question of accountability. If the Premier is a no-show for the debate, it simply proves our concern that First Nations are not a priority for the McGuinty Liberals.” While the other party leaders have committed to a Northern debate, Premier McGuinty has thus far refused to attend. This is not the first time that the McGuinty Liberals have failed First Nations. On land-use and resource development, without any meaningful consultation, the Far North Act (Bill 191) was passed while First Nations initiatives to modernize the Mining Act and input on the Forest Tenure Modernization Act were ignored .... In addition, the jailing of the leadership of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) in 2008 for protecting their homelands demonstrates a blatant disregard for the authority of First Nations leaders to exercise their rights over their lands ....”

http://www.nan.on.ca/article/mcguinty-ducks-on-first-nations-issues-732.asp

12 Sept 11

The Tories, Grits and New Democrats are all wooing Northern voters with platforms filled with promises of help for families trying to make ends meet. The latest Northern platform — Forward. Together. — was released by the Liberals Friday .... (Nipissing-Temiskaming Liberal candidate Catherine) Whiting defended the launch of the Liberal's Northern platform, noting the plan was also unveiled in Sudbury by Rick Bartolucci, who holds a key cabinet position as minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Nevertheless, Whiting said its not important to her where or by whom the platform is announced. "What's important are the new commitments and the continuing commitments and what they mean for Nipissing," she said. Whiting said she believes the plan has much more direct benefits for Nipissing than that of both the Conservative and New Democrats. She said the opening of new mines and driving development of the Ring of Fire chromite deposit near James Bay will benefit some 60 mining supply firms in North Bay ....” http://www.nugget.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3294124

Open letter, Steve Mantis, NDP candidate for Thunder Bay-Superior North: “It’s time for a change that puts people first. The Liberals have been critical of our NDP platform for the region and how that might affect the Ring of Fire. Well, let me explain the NDP’s plan for the Ring of Fire. It is clearly outlined in “Respect for the North” — our plan to create and protect Northern jobs and make life more affordable for families. We strongly support the sustainable development of the Ring of Fire that will create badly needed jobs here in the North. We will assist in the development of infrastructure such as roads, rail and electrical transmission lines to the Ring of Fire. We will draft new land use planning rules that protect the interests of First Nations and all our Northern Communities, provide clarity for development and are based on principles of good stewardship of the land. We will provide the local workforce with training and education opportunities so as to qualify for jobs at the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire offers First Nations and our Northern Communities huge economic opportunities. Sky high hydro rates and a lack of infrastructure, such as rail, are threatening to push refining from the ore-rich “Ring of Fire” out of the province. The NDP plan supports processing our natural resources here in the north, creating even more jobs and a more sustainable economy. Respect for the North means restoring hope, hope that our children don’t have to leave the north to find jobs and build their future somewhere else. That hope depends on choosing change that puts people first.” http://netnewsledger.com/2011/09/12/let-me-explain-the-ndp%E2%80%99s-plan-for-the-ring-of-fire/


11 Sept 11

Open letter, Steve Mantis, NDP candidate for Thunder Bay-Superior North: “Its time for a change that puts people first. The Liberals have been critical of our NDP platform for the region and how that might affect the Ring of Fire. Well, let me explain the NDP’s plan for the Ring of Fire. It is clearly outlined in “Respect for the North” — our plan to create and protect Northern jobs and make life more affordable for families. We strongly support the sustainable development of the Ring of Fire that will create badly needed jobs here in the North. We will assist in the development of infrastructure such as roads, rail and electrical transmission lines to the Ring of Fire. We will draft new land use planning rules that protect the interests of First Nations and all our Northern Communities, provide clarity for development and are based on principles of good stewardship of the land. We will provide the local workforce with training and education opportunities so as to qualify for jobs at the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire offers First Nations and our Northern Communities huge economic opportunities. Sky high hydro rates and a lack of infrastructure, such as rail, are threatening to push refining from the ore-rich “Ring of Fire” out of the province. The NDP plan supports processing our natural resources here in the north, creating even more jobs and a more sustainable economy. Respect for the North means restoring hope, hope that our children don’t have to leave the north to find jobs and build their future somewhere else. That hope depends on choosing change that puts people first.” http://netnewsledger.com/2011/09/12/let-me-explain-the-ndp%E2%80%99s-plan-for-the-ring-of-fire/


The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce and chambers of commerce from Timmins, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie are calling on the provincial government to address five key issues relating to the Far North Act that will provide more detail and make it friendlier to business. The chambers issued a joint statement Friday calling upon the party that forms the next government to address what they call weaknesses in the act .... First Nations, Northern Ontario municipalities, mining companies and business organizations fear the loss of growth opportunities and the creation of uncertainty if parts of the act are not clarified, the chambers said in the statement. “Over all, we agree with the act and we like it and we see there's value,” said Julie Denomme, vice-chair of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce .... The chambers also want the oversight and implementation of the Far North Act to be transferred from the Ministry of Natural Resources to the Ministry of Northern Resources.
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| 9 Sept 11 | "Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty regularly calls the Ring of Fire mineral deposit one of Ontario’s brightest hopes for a shiny new economy and "the most promising mining opportunity in Canada in a century." …. Murray Braithwaite works with Fasken Martineau, a law firm specializing in mining issues. He said the Ontario Superior Court’s Keeewatin decision has changed the rules regarding resource extraction in the region. In August, the court ruled that the province cannot authorize timber and logging if those operations infringe on federal treaty promises that protect aboriginal rights to traditional hunting and trapping. It’s still unclear how that decision will affect mining operations. “Everyone is trying to digest the decision,” Braithwaite said. “The implications of leases being invalid are difficult to accept.” Braithwaite said he expects the decision will trigger an appeal and lead to years of legal wrangling. As a result, it may be a long time before the rules about doing business in Ontario’s Far North can be clarified …. But First Nations aren’t waiting for court decisions to assert their authority over land they claim as their own. Many have taken their cue from the UN declaration on indigenous rights which states that consultation about development is not enough, consent is also required …. Among the three major provincial parties, only the NDP say they support First Nations’ right to say no to development. Even chiefs who are actively working with mining companies say the provincial government is a bit player in developing the Far North. Peter Moonias is the chief of Nesкатaga First Nation. His community, and three other First Nations on the edge of the chromite deposit, recently signed an agreement to work together to own and operate a road to the resources. “We can’t just sit back and wait for them to develop the land, we had to be part of it,” Moonias says. “We have to work with the companies, whoever wants to work with us. If they don’t want to work with us, I think it’s going to be a battle for them to get in there.” …. As for the province, Moonias says, “I’m sorry to say this, [but] I have kind of lost interest to deal with those guys because they give me the run around all the time. They say this is the land that belongs to the Crown. “But if they recognize that it’s the First Nations that have the last say on the land, then we will work with the provincial government on that basis.” Mining companies temper their concern about potential land disputes with their desire to assure investors all is well. Still, many are looking for the province to offer clarity and support. There are no roads and no power grid into the Ring of Fire. That’s infrastructure governments typically subsidize for large developments such as the chromite deposit, which could provide jobs and tax revenue for decades. Most mining company executives working in the Ring of Fire have spoken with party leaders to suss out their platforms, but to protect their investment, they’re spending much more time talking to chiefs." [http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontariovotes2011/story/2011/09/08/ontario-election-northern.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ontariovotes2011/story/2011/09/08/ontario-election-northern.html)

|  | "The Ring of Fire is one of the greatest economic development opportunities Ontario has seen in almost 100 years, said the Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. MPPs Michael Gravelle (Lib., Thunder Bay-Superior North) and Bill Mauro (Lib., Thunder Bay-Atikokan) announced the Ontario Liberals’ northern platform outside of AbitibiBowater Friday morning. The party’s commitment to the development of the Ring of Fire was one of the highlights. “We are going to commit to drive that development forward, working with all the partners in all of the sectors of the industry to make that happen, by working with the companies that are involved, with the First Nations, with the Métis Nation, with the communities to see that going forward,” said Gravelle. The party plans to open eight mines in the next 10 years ….” [http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/162993/Laying-it-out](http://www.tbnewswatch.com/news/162993/Laying-it-out)

| Letter to the editor: | "A Ring of Fire corridor is a hot topic in Anishinabe territory, because it means traffic to communities and Tim Hortons, Mr. Sub, KFC — all the good things which help make a community grow. It also means access to the south by wheels and vice versa. Currently the airlines rake up the money as wings is the only way to bring in a can of milk. Marten Falls is not signing this agreement. It is the north-south corridor we want, and we have actually started the road. We would prefer a gravel road, not a railroad. The problem with a railroad is, it will cross the Albany River 50 miles up and it will not bring traffic to town. If we could achieve some ownership of the rail line, whatever we could afford, then revenue could be achieved. Cliffs, the major proponent for the chromite deposit, wants the north-south route, by road or by rail. I understand the route will be decided by the government in consultation with the public. We are also in the process of planning with the..." |
government of Ontario for a land use plan of the area. This plan has not looked into the issue of the corridor. The east-west route is proposed by Noront, a junior company, not a mining development company. I find their proposal for this route not only environmentally unfeasible but economically impossible. They want to “slurry” the nickel, copper and palladium to the “Webequie junction.” This is a pipeline pumped by diesel generators through a thousand pristine lakes and creeks. Try getting environmental approvals for that, if the money could be had to actually do it. Land use plans should be completed before declaring where the corridor will go and what it might be, road or rail. The corridor issue was discussed at the Matawa AGM in Constance Lake. To request a corridor to the Ring of Fire through the east-west plan is contrary to the Unity Statement, because this plan leaves us watching on the sidelines as our territory is approached and encroached upon in a round-about way. We cannot allow that and will find a way to safeguard our interests other than relying on statements that do not mean anything. The proper way to conduct business is to consult first, not after the fact. With the creation of the Minawashyn project and approval of the east-west corridor, the resolution supporting Marten Falls to be in the lead has come into question. (Signed) Chief Elijah K. Moosas, Marten Falls


“.... the NDP and the Liberals were embroiled in a bitter squabble over the future of the Far North. The Liberals took the first shot by accusing the NDP of proposing a “moratorium” on development north of the 51st parallel — the location of Ring of Fire and other promising mining projects. The NDP plan “would kill the Ring of Fire and destroy jobs in every Northern community,” Thunder Bay-Superior North Liberal candidate and current Mining Minister Michael Gravelle said in a news release. “I can think of nothing more ill-informed or reckless.” Not so, said the NDP. Former party leader Howard Hampton didn’t dispute the reference to a “moratorium” the Liberals found in what he said was a 2006 NDP document. But Hampton, who is not running for re-election in Kenora riding, said it was only meant as a temporary measure until a plan for Far North development had been put forward. “Back in 2006, the issue was: Are you going to make a plan for the North, or have a free-for-all? A lot has happened in five years.” A Liberal party spokeswoman said the NDP document remained “current” as of this week and it was fair to bring it to light. “The NDP only promises to get rid of the (Liberal) Far North Act — there is no detail as to what they will replace it with,” the spokeswoman said. “The document we provided is the only official information publicly available on their thinking on this issue,” she added. Hampton said focusing on a position that’s five year’s old is just playing politics. “That would be like us focusing on Dalton McGuinty saying he’d never raise our taxes,” said Hampton. Both the NDP and the Conservatives have promised to repeal the Far North Act. It was opposed by Northern aboriginal and mining groups who said it’s too restrictive on development and weakens aboriginal autonomy.”


“Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath unveiled her party’s northern campaign platform Thursday, pledging “Respect for the North,” which was received warmly by more than 150 locals gathered at the Lakehead Labour Centre …. It includes hiring more doctors for underserved communities, removing HST from home heating and electric bills, capping gas prices and creating a Northern Ontario legislative committee to address Northern issues. Horwath said there is a problem with southern Ontario leaders creating policy for the North, because they are unaware of the issues. “The North has been ignored for far too long,” she said in an interview Thursday …. Part of Horwath’s plan involves changing laws so that companies mining raw materials in the North must process them in the province, which she said would create more high-paying jobs. Gravelle called it a “job killer,” saying that forcing companies to process mined materials here could stifle mining investments in the province. Thunder Bay-Atikokan Progressive Conservative candidate Fred Gilbert agreed, saying “the cost of achieving that will probably drive away potential mine development.” He added that the Northern committee plan didn’t sound much different than a standard northern caucus, usually created by the party in power to serve Northern communities …. Her plan would reduce energy costs for consumers by combining and streamlining multiple hydro companies, she said. She said that if she is elected, the Far North Act would be repealed, and the province would work harder to respect the needs and wishes of First Nations. “It’s not good enough to speak to First Nations as an afterthought,” Horwath said. She dismissed concerns about a rumoured plan to ban development north of the 51 degree latitude, saying people should not look to Liberals for their information about the NDP. She instead challenged Premier Dalton McGuinty to a Northern debate.”
Michael Gravelle statement: "What we’ve achieved together with Northern Ontarians in the past eight years is nothing short of amazing," enthuses Michael Gravelle, the Liberal candidate for Thunder Bay-Superior North. "Today, we're building new hospitals, training more doctors, expanding broadband high-speed internet to remote communities, and providing our youngest with the best possible start through full-day kindergarten. We're on track. But there is more to do." Gravelle put the New Democrats in his sights yesterday. "The NDP plan to impose a moratorium on development north of 51 would kill the Ring of Fire and destroy jobs in every Northern community. I can think of nothing more ill informed or reckless than Andrea Horwath’s job-killing plan," said Gravelle. "It couldn’t be more clear that Andrea Horwath’s NDP neither understands or cares about Northern jobs." "The Ontario Liberal platform for Northern Ontario, entitled, ‘Forward. Together’ is a plan to help Northern Ontario families meet the challenges we face as we emerge from the global recession,” is the message from the Liberals. Some of the key elements of the plan for Northern Ontario include: .... Opening at least eight new mines in the next 10 years; Driving the development in the Ring of Fire to support the creation of jobs .... “I am very proud of the level of investment that has come to Northern Ontario in the past eight years,” added Bill Mauro, the Liberal candidate for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. “The interests of Northern Ontario have never had a higher profile or received more attention than under our Government, and the evidence is all around us”. “These are uncertain times for the global economy. These are challenging times for our families. This is our plan to help. This is our way forward, together,” Anthony Leek, Liberal candidate for Kenora-Rainy River said. [http://netnewslelder.com/2011/09/09/gravelle-andrea-horwath%E2%80%99s-ndp-neither-understands-or-cares-about-northern-jobs/]

"Canada’s industry sector and the federal government need to work towards a “massive transformation” in how they deal with Aboriginal groups on energy and mining projects if they want them to proceed, said Assembly of First Nations Chief Shawn Atleo in a speech Friday. Nobody has an interest in endless negotiation,” he told a lunchtime crowd at the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Indigenous Bar Association in Toronto. We must establish a good faith process with a clear mandate to reach just conclusions. This is the way forward.” n the past, First Nations have felt that they were forced into a “false choice” when government and industry tried to impose economic and environmental values on them when it came to new energy projects on native lands. At other times, Aboriginal groups have been shut out of discussions completely, and this needs to change, said Atleo. "We have a clear right to determine the course and shape of development in our territories and to benefit from development activities on our lands," he said .... " [http://www.canada.com/head+calls+greater+inclusion+energy+mining+projects/5379088/story.html]

"Hundreds of billions of dollars worth of development projects across the country won’t ever break ground unless the federal government finally realizes First Nations have a final say over what happens on their territory, says Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo. With about $400 billion worth of resource-based activity expected across the country in the coming years that impacts traditional First Nations territories, Atleo said it was time for Ottawa and industry to get serious about respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples to have final word over what happens on their land. “We have much to gain by working together and a lot to lose if we don’t – because those projects cannot and will not take place without our agreement, without our involvement and without our active engagement from start to finish,” said Atleo Friday, during a Toronto speech to the Law Society of Upper Canada and the Indigenous Bar Association. Canada’s First Nations have the right to reject projects that impact their territories and continued attempts to minimize or ignore that right will lead to conflict, said Atleo. “We must not slide down the old slippery slope towards new conflicts. We must march forward on a new path,” he said .... Atleo said the right is “established in international human rights standards,” but Canada, despite endorsing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, continues to fight it both on the home and international front. “Canada and other states have said they want to constrict this standard saying that it is an impossible threshold, too close to a ‘veto’ and therefore unacceptable,” said Atleo, according to the text of his speech. “The right of Indigenous peoples to approve or reject activities that affect their rights is a fundamental element of self-determination.” " [http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/09/09/ndp-pledges-%E2%80%98respect-north%E2%80%99]
Three northwestern Ontario First Nations are joining forces to speak with one voice to prevent industry from pitting communities against one another on industrial development. The First Nation communities of Aroland, Ginoogaming and Long Lake No. 58 have signed a letter of intent, Sept. 7, to work together to develop processes on how they can jointly benefit from developments through consultation and consent. “Currently companies and industry are approaching our First Nations individually and we don’t have the resources,” said Chief Veronica Waboose of Long Lake No. 58. “Working together as three First Nations, we can assist each other and guarantee we are all in the know about projects happening within our traditional territories.” The three communities are 350 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay and are close to the junction of a proposed railroad to the Ring of Fire chromite deposits in the James Bay lowlands. Last July, the Matawa First Nations chiefs signed a unity declaration to stand together to protect natural resources and their traditional territories. Aroland Chief Sonny Gagnon said their interconnected communities must do the same. “These are our shared territories. This isn’t about divide and conquer.”


8 Sept 11

"... The NDP plan will protect and create jobs: Make it the law that resources that can be processed in Ontario won’t be shipped away .... Get electricity costs and bureaucracy under control and establish an industrial hydro rate that can be used by northern industries - Tackle the high cost of living in the North .... Eliminate duplication in Ontario’s electricity system, stop the private power deals and make hydro CEOs more accountable to consumers .... Respect for Northern decision-making: Ensuring First Nations benefit from resource development and are empowered to play a full role in improving their communities, give the north a voice at Queen’s Park by setting up a Northern Ontario Legislative Committee, Ensure Mining Tax revenue from new mines stays in the North with municipalities and First Nations ....”


7 Sept 11

"In attempt to unite First Nations and prevent industry from pitting communities against each other, three Northern Ontario First Nations have signed a letter of intent to work together on common interests in shared traditional territories. Aroland, Ginoogaming, and Long Lake # 58 First Nations have committed to develop processes together to ensure that the First Nations are aware of activities occurring, or about to occur, within their traditional territories and that they jointly benefit from developments through proper consultations and consent. Chief Veronica Waboose of Long Lake #58 First Nation says; “Currently companies and industry are approaching our First Nations individually and we don’t have the resources. Working together as three First Nations, we can assist each other and guarantee we are all in the know about projects happening within our traditional territories.” All three communities are located approximately 350 kilometers Northeast of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland First Nation says: “Our First Nations are all going to be impacted by development happening in the area - not just one of the communities. These are our shared territories...this isn’t about divide and conquer.” The three First Nations have identified that the absence of a government to government process for consultation and accommodation between First Nations and the Federal and Provincial governments as a major issue. The Matawa First Nations Chiefs signed a Unity Declaration in July to stand together to protect the natural resources and territories of member First Nations; The three Chiefs agree that signing the letter of intent, is the next step for the declaration. Chief Celia Ecum of Ginoogaming First Nation says: “If you look at the history, these three communities are all interconnected. All of our membership has ownership of the lands - it is shared territory.”

Three Matawa First Nations communities have agreed to work together on common interests in their shared traditional territories about 350 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay. “Currently companies and industry are approaching our First Nations individually and we don’t have the resources,” said Long Lake #58 Chief Veronica Waboose. “Working together as three First Nations, we can assist each other and guarantee we are all in the know about projects happening within our traditional territories.” Long Lake #58, Aroland and Ginoogaming signed a letter of intent Sept. 7 to work together in an attempt to unite First Nations and prevent industry from plotting communities against each other. “Our First Nations are all going to be impacted by development happening in the area — not just one of the communities,” said Aroland Chief Sonny Gagnon. “These are our shared territories … this isn’t about divide and conquer.” The three First Nations identified the absence of a government-to-government process for consultation and accommodation between First Nations and the federal and provincial governments as a major issue. The three chiefs agreed the signing of the letter of intent is the next step after the nine Matawa chiefs signed a Unity Declaration this past July to stand together to protect the natural resources and territories of member First Nations. “If you look at the history, these three communities are all interconnected,” said Ginoogaming Chief Celia Echum. “All of our membership has ownership of the lands — it is shared territory.”

The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce is asking candidates in the Oct. 6 provincial election to outline their positions on six key issues the chamber has identified as important to members: Energy, infrastructure, skilled labour, the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, the Far North Act and the Workplace Safety Insurance Board. Chamber chair Mark Weiman unveiled his organization’s platform at a news conference Monday, one day before the writ is officially issued for next month’s election. … The chamber is particularly interested in energy prices, because that’s a major issue to Cliffs Natural Resources, the company looking at Sudbury to process chromite from the Ring of Fire. While the Ring of Fire isn’t specifically mentioned in the chamber’s platform, the organization is pushing the province to make sure it stays in Ontario. Nicholson said the high cost of “energy is the issue for (Cliffs) right now, so they may be going to Manitoba or Quebec.” Said Weiman: “Right now, what the chamber is concerned about is just keeping it in Ontario.” …. http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/9/2/adam-nicholson-the-sudbury-chamber-is-concerned-about-maintaining-chromite-processing-at-sudbury...

2 Sept 11 Former Constance Lake chief Arthur Moore is now district manager, First Nations relations with Cliffs Natural Resources, one of the mining companies in the Ring of Fire mineral exploration area. “With my experience and knowledge, I think I can provide good input,” Moore said of his new job. “So far it’s been good. It’s a good environment at the office.” …. Moore began his employment with Cliffs Aug. 2. His role is to work with First Nations and government agencies to prevent misunderstandings and ensure good communications are in place, especially in the environmental assessment process to ensure correct information is delivered to the communities. “We are planning to do bulletins with the First Nations,” Moore said. “We need that dialogue and the dynamics to have a good relationship.” Moore said it is important to prevent misunderstandings and improve relationships with First Nations. Moore had three good job offers before he decided to accept the offer from Cliffs. “I work with senior management from Cliffs’ headquarters,” Moore said. His immediate supervisor is Joe Gaboury, director of Aboriginal Affairs with Cliffs, and he also works with the company’s directors of environment and development at the new Cliffs office in Thunder Bay. “I hope to see growth in the communities and establishing of good relationships,” Moore said. “They (Cliffs) know that is a priority and they know they need to establish contacts with First Nations and governments as well.” Moore wants to see more prosperity, wealth generation, capacity building and employment opportunities in the communities as well as an improvement to the health and wellbeing of community members. …. http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2011/9/2/adam-nicholson-the-sudbury-chamber-is-concerned-about-maintaining-chromite-processing-at-sudbury...

1 Sept 11 A First Nation-developed service corridor in the Ring of Fire will help ensure First Nation residents have a chance to participate in the vast mining development, area chiefs say. Four Northern Ontario First Nations — Webequie, Neskantaga, Eabametoong and Nibinamik — signed an agreement Wednesday under which they will team up to develop the service corridor, which will run through their traditional territories in the Ring of Fire, a potentially major mining development in the James Bay Lowlands. …. http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/09/01/chefs-hail-new-deal