

OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION

Ring of Fire

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details/source</i>
11 Dec 11	<p>"If a tight budget won't allow the feds to add more money to FedNor, then Northern mayors want Ottawa to adjust how it doles out the cash. The economic development program for Northern Ontario offers one-time, one-year funding, but that may not suit larger multi-year ventures, especially infrastructure projects, said North Bay Mayor Al McDonald during an interview on the weekend. "If we can get that small adjustment made, that would help municipalities control their destiny," he said. McDonald and the city's CEO Dave Linkie were among the Northern representatives including Nipissing-Timiskaming MP Jay Aspin to accept an invitation to meet with FedNor Minister Tony Clement on Thursday to hash out priorities for Northern Ontario. FedNor's budget is about \$34 million for the year, compared to the \$100-million Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, yet the two programs are linked in a way that makes it easier to access federal money if the provincial dollars are already committed. Northern mayors want to uncouple the programs to make it easier to access FedNor money when Heritage funding isn't in place. The lines become blurry when some issues reach into provincial and federal jurisdictions, McDonald said. The Ring of Fire chromite find in the James Bay area was also on the table, with a push to prevent the resource from being shipped out of the province for processing at the expense of Northern jobs, but that's also a provincial responsibility, McDonald said. /He said North Bay engineers and other services benefit from mining ventures in the region, and the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission could provide rail service to James Bay" http://www.nugget.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3401086</p>
10 Dec 11	<p>"Noront Resources Ltd. is working on the environmental assessment process for its base-metal mining project in the Ring of Fire mining district. The company released its draft terms of reference for the Eagle's Nest Mine project last week and is seeking public input on its plans. The draft terms of reference have been prepared by Noront in compliance with Ontario Ministry of the Environment requirements. The document is available for review by the public, and copies can be downloaded at www.norontresources.com, or www.eaglesnestmine.com. The federal government's environmental assessment process for the project is also moving along, and the draft environmental impact statement guidelines for the Eagle's Nest Mine Project have also been released for public review. A copy of those guidelines can be downloaded from CEEA's website at www.ceaa.gc.ca, www.norontresources.com, or www.eaglesnestmine.com. These two reports signal the beginning of the public engagement in the regulated processes for the federal and provincial government reviews of the project. Noront has produced project reports and summary documents (including copies in Oji-Cree) to the general public and the local First Nation communities. Noront CEO Wes Hanson said in a news release that "this is an important first step in the project development and permitting for the Eagle's Nest Mine" http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/12/10/environmental-assessment-process-continues-mining-project</p>
7 Dec 11	<p>".... It's rather ironic that the supposedly "conservative mining industry" is consulting and making various agreements that ensure aboriginal communities get maximum benefits from mineral development of their traditional territories and that adhere to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples commitment to "prior and informed consent." Conversely, the Liberal-left McGuinty government and its environmental allies force unwanted parks on First Nations communities with a condescending colonial mindset from the past century. Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy - who represents 49 northern</p>

	<p>Ontario First Nations - has repeatedly stated that the Far North Act will stop his impoverished membership "from achieving economic independence by preventing development needed to build a viable economic base for NAN communities, while strengthening the Ontario economy." If southern Ontario's political and media elites as well as the general public are truly concerned about the impoverished living conditions, high teenage suicide rates, and hopelessness in the North's aboriginal communities than the Far North Act must be significantly changed to allow mineral exploration and sustainable mine development to flourish. This is the only way to both alleviate native poverty and give hope to the growing numbers of aboriginal youth" http://www.nationalpost.com/opinion/North+mischief/5822467/story.html</p>
	<p>"Some Manitoba chiefs called for "action" against existing oil pipelines on a day of heated words at a special chiefs assembly in Ottawa that heard from embattled Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence and saw an impromptu march to the doors of Parliament Hill that ended with police intervention. Terry Nelson, who is no longer officially chief of Roseau River, told the assembled chiefs that the only way to escape from Attawapiskat-like situations was to seize a portion of the resource wealth flowing from their lands. Nelson, who was given the microphone by Waywayseecappo First Nation Chief Murray Clearsky, said there were plans to launch actions against existing oil pipelines in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, along with several U.S. states. He said the only way First Nations can deal with the nagging funding problems plaguing their communities was to seize a share of the resources flowing from their territories The ongoing crisis in Attawapiskat seems to have galvanized some of the delegates, triggering a call from one chief to block the airstrip used to deliver supplies to the De Beers diamond mine, which is about 90 kilometres west of the community. Spence, who is battling Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan over his decision to impose a third-party manager to handle the band's finances, told the assembly it was time to take a stronger stand against the federal government. Chiefs passed a resolution calling on Duncan to reverse his decision to impose a third-party manager on Attawapiskat and instead work with the existing chief and council to find a solution to the housing crisis that has seen families living in shacks with no running water and using the bathroom in pails. The resolution also called on the AFN to ask the UN to appoint a special agent to monitor Canada's response to the housing and infrastructure woes on First Nations and "hold Canada" to its responsibility under treaties and international covenants. The resolution also calls on the AFN to back Attawapiskat's chief and council. "It is time to be really aggressive toward the government. We have been talking about our concerns. They are not listening, they just keep plugging their ears," said Spence. The Attawapiskat chief also urged chiefs to get a plan in place for their upcoming Jan. 24 meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "We should have a plan in place, even an agreement with a time frame and if they don't want to meet this time-frame, we need to do an action. Our grandfathers did action, they demonstrated courage and we need to do this for our youth, we need to build up their future," she said. The talk in response to Spence's speech featured strong words from chiefs. Six Nations Chief Bill Montour suggested blocking the airstrip De Beers uses to fly in its supplies and Mohawk Elder Billy Two Rivers said First Nations should take corporations "hostage" until they get their share of resource wealth" http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2011/12/07/chiefs-rally-around-attawapiskat-as-call-issued-for-oil-pipeline-blockade-in-three-provinces/</p>
	<p>Janet Sumner, executive director and Anna Baggio, conservation land use planning director, CPAWS-Wildlands League, opened,"Like many other Canadians, we've been searching our souls in response to the housing crisis in Attawapiskat, home to the Muskego Cree First Nation. We have visited Attawapiskat several times. We've stayed at the Kataquapit Inn and enjoyed the community's hospitality, including a traditional feast of caribou and lake sturgeon. Our work to conserve Ontario's northern boreal forest has been enriched by the insights of the elders and other members of the community. That is why the people of</p>

	<p>Attawapiskat are very much in our hearts today. While a donation to the Red Cross is always a good idea, we believe Canada needs to do far more to fix the problems bedeviling Attawapiskat and many other northern First Nations communities. It's time for a fundamental rethink of the relationship between major industrial players in the north, our governments and affected First Nations communities. We first became involved with Attawapiskat when the environmental assessment of the nearby De Beers Victor Diamond Mine was underway nearly seven years ago. As conservationists, our concern was that the federal and provincial governments were not adequately assessing the cumulative environmental and social effects of this proposed mine in a very sensitive landscape. We raised concerns about the mine's impacts on water quality and wildlife such as boreal woodland caribou. We also criticized the company's offer of guaranteeing only 12 per cent of the mine's jobs to the nearest community, Attawapiskat. In our view this was not nearly enough to enable the community to improve its dire economic circumstances. It was also very apparent to us that local First Nation communities had neither the time nor the capacity to plan for the massive changes to their traditional land use areas and communities that the Victor Mine and other such developments would bring. Although the provincial government had committed to undertake comprehensive land-use planning in advance of industrial development in this region, it had no policy in place to achieve this commitment, and offered scant resources to First Nations to engage in negotiations with sophisticated corporations such as De Beers. In spite of our objections, the mine was approved and is now in operation. Life has clearly not improved for the citizens of Attawapiskat. We've continued our connection with the community by providing it with scientific information about the potential effects of the mine on mercury levels in lakes and rivers, boreal woodland caribou populations and the formation of sinkholes. But that does not fix the tremendous social and economic problems the community is facing. Meanwhile, many more industrial developments are looming for Ontario's north. Next up are mega-mines being proposed to extract valuable minerals in the Ring of Fire upstream from Attawapiskat. Here are some essential elements that should be part of responsible planning for the future of the north:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous people must have the right to remain in their traditional territories. They are vital stewards of the land they have lived on for thousands of years. Although it may make life easier for resource companies to ramp up extraction of resources in what were once inaccessible areas, away entirely from watchful eyes, depopulating the north is not in the public interest. • It's time to ask hard questions about how communities are benefitting from mining and other industrial developments in their traditional territories. Recently, Grand Chief Stan Louttit of Mushkegowuk Council expressed great concern about impact benefit agreements that are signed between companies and First Nations. We agree. The agreements as tools should be evaluated and must be made transparent so all community members can be fully informed before making decisions" http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/article/1098714--rethinking-the-future-of-ontario-s-north
<p>6 Dec 11</p>	<p>"Numerous First Nation Communities are working to bring transmission line connectivity and green energy development to remote First Nation communities currently operating on expensive diesel generators in Northwestern Ontario. Wataynikaneyap Power is being formed as a First Nation led company to design, permit, construct, own and operate a 230 kV transmission line to bring additional grid connection to Pickle Lake. The Company is proposing a two-phase planning and permitting process to bring connectivity to the remote First Nations. The first phase would reinforce the grid at Pickle Lake and the second phase would extend the grid north of Pickle Lake to service the remote communities. Significant pre-development work has been completed, including a routing study for the new line to Pickle Lake (Phase 1). The Team engaged a transmission Consultant to evaluate five potential route options to connect to Pickle Lake. A preferred route has been identified and further studies will take place over the coming months. Community consultations and the commencement of an Environmental Assessment is planned in early 2012.</p>

	<p>The need for this transmission line is supported by the Ministry of Energy as identified in the Long Term Energy Plan, released November 23, 2010 and the Ministry Directive to plan for remote First Nation community connectivity, February 3, 2011. Early engagement and participation of all First Nation Communities will be key to successful development. Each community will have the choice to be an equal owner in Wataynikaneyap Power. Reliable power in the region is a direct benefit for all, while allowing those communities with renewable energy projects to sell their clean power to the provincial grid, further supporting regional economic development. The opportunity to turn off the diesel generators used in the region will result in a meaningful reduction of greenhouse gas generation while allowing First Nations significantly more power capacity to enable community development projects" http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/890803/first-nations-to-develop-new-power-line-to-replace-diesels or http://netnewsledger.com/2011/12/06/wataynikaneyap-power-is-being-formed-as-a-first-nation-led-company</p>
	<p>"Cliffs Natural Resources' pledge to seek an exemption from the Ontario Mining Act to ship chromite concentrate from Ontario's Ring of Fire to Asia for processing has raised the ire of unions and municipalities representing the North. The company claims the raw chromite ore will undergo value-added processing in Ontario where it will be transformed into chromite concentrate, which is then shipped to Asia. However, critics say the ore should either be refined in Ontario or left in the ground. William Brehl, the head of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Maintenance of Way Employees, said the government risks squandering the economic potential of the Northern Ontario mineral bonanza. "Premier Dalton McGuinty's government has called the Ring of Fire the most promising mining opportunity in Canada in a century," said Brehl. "We urge this minority government to stand tall, protect Ontario jobs and help Northern Ontario's economy by denying the exemption. If you mine it here, then refine it here or go away and leave it in the ground." Twice as large as Prince Edward Island, the Ring of Fire is said to hold one of the world's largest and richest deposits of chromite, the key ingredient in making stainless steel. It is also said to possess nickel, copper, platinum, gold, zinc and magnesium. Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci promised to maximize the number of jobs from the operations, but gave no indication whether it is okay to ship a million tonnes of concentrate out of the country. Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren said if Cliffs gets the green light to ship up to one million tonnes of concentrate overseas, it would be a travesty for Northern Ontario's economy. "There's a huge opportunity for us in Northern Ontario to work with the proponents," said Laughren. Kapuskasing Mayor Alan Spacek had a slightly different take on the situation. "Unfortunately, I think it speaks to the market in Ontario," said Mayor Spacek. "It is lower cost, thus more profitable for the company to ship the chromite to Asia as opposed to doing that here. Having said that, I believe one of the strategies of the industry is to process the product (raw ore) to be shipped. What they do is start at the most lucrative part of the deposit, and ship it out. Instead of having to build a plant, they ship it. The revenue of shipping it will pay for the other expenses" said Mayor Spacek" http://www.kapuskasingtimes.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3395303</p>
	<p>"Less than a month ago, Nickel Belt MPP France G�linas attended an open house in Capreol hosted by Cliffs Natural Resources. The Ohio-based mining company laid out plans for the ferrochrome production facility it may build in Capreol to process ore from its Black Thor chromite deposit in the James Bay coast region known as the Ring of Fire. "It is hard not to get excited when you see that kind of stuff in a room," G�linas said. Recently, however, G�linas has been hearing that Cliffs may seek an exemption to the province's mining act so that it can ship concentrate from the deposit to refineries outside of Canada, most likely to China. "I thought 'hmm, that was certainly not mentioned when I was (at the open house),' " she said. A booklet about the project handed out at the open house does mention that some concentrate may be shipped to foreign refineries. "The project will take advantage of the global market for chromite concentrate," the booklet said. "Approximately one million tonnes of concentrate could be sold</p>

	<p>annually to world markets.” For Gélinas, the idea of shipping chromite out of Ontario for processing is out of the question. “These are our natural resources,” she said. “They are there to create wealth for the people of Ontario. They are ours. We own this. To agree to have all of the prosperity that comes with the natural resources of our province shipped to China is a non-starter to us.”” http://www.northernlife.ca/news/localNews/2011/12/06-cliffs-chromite-china-sudbury.aspx</p>
5 Dec 11	<p>"@politixgirl (Gina Cosentino) Same question 4 FNs w/ chromite MT @NoLore @Knowledgewalker: any chance diamond folks want #Attawapiskat gone 4 better access to diamonds?" 5 Dec via UberSocial for BlackBerry https://twitter.com/#!/politixgirl/statuses/143887052616908801</p>
4 Dec 11	<p>"A Toronto-based mining company wants to ensure that 350 children in two remote First Nations near the Ring of Fire mining district have presents for Christmas. Noront Resources Ltd. in co-operation with the North-South Partnership for Children, is running its third annual Ring of Fire Christmas Fund. In the past two years the company has raised over \$40,000 and has ensured that every child under age 12, both on- and off-reserve in Marten Falls and Webequie has received a wrapped gift. Funds for the program are raised through donations from Noront, suppliers, investors, employees and friends of the company. Noront uses 100 per cent of the proceeds towards the gifts, wrapping, and transportation of Santa and his gifts; as well as hosting Christmas festivities in both of the First Nation communities. The company said in a news release that it believes in the importance of the development of the youth in both communities and has supported a variety of educational and community programs such as; mining matters, youth camps, student bursaries, role model programs, and community contributions. Last year, Noront also flew in two ex-NHL hockey players into Webequie to run a hockey clinic. Noront hopes to continue to bring athletic leaders, political leaders and Aboriginal role models into the communities of Marten Falls and Webequie to take part in the Noront Ring of Fire Christmas Fund festivities” http://www.chroniclejournal.com/content/news/local/2011/12/04/fund-cheer-kids-near-ring-fire</p>
	<p>"Cliffs Natural Resources' pledge to seek an exemption from the Ontario Mining Act to ship chromite concentrate from Ontario's Ring of Fire to Asia for processing has raised the ire of unions and municipalities representing the North. The company claims the raw chromite ore will undergo value-added processing in Ontario where it will be transformed into chromite concentrate, However, critics say the ore should either be refined in Ontario or left in the ground. William Brehl, the head of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference Maintenance of Way Employees, said the government risks squandering the economic potential of the Northern Ontario mineral bonanza. "Premier Dalton McGuinty's government has called the Ring of Fire the most promising mining opportunity in Canada in a century," said Brehl. "We urge his minority government to stand tall, protect Ontario jobs and help Northern Ontario's economy by denying the exemption. If you mine it here, then refine it here or go away and leave it in the ground." Twice as large as Prince Edward Island, the Ring of Fire is said to hold one of the world's largest and richest deposits of chromite, the key ingredient in making stainless steel. It is also said to possess nickel, copper, platinum, gold, zinc and magnesium. Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci promised to maximize the number of jobs from the operations, but gave no indication whether it is OK to ship a million tonnes of concentrate out of the country. Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren said if Cliffs gets the green light to ship up to one million tonnes of concentrate overseas, it would be a travesty for Northern Ontario's economy. Laughren said he appreciates some of the challenges of refining the chromite in the province, but said he is going to urge Queen's Park to make some concessions to encourage Cliffs to refine in Northern Ontario. "There's a huge opportunity for us in Northern Ontario to work with the proponents," said Laughren. "We should be looking at the whole gamut of our options."” http://www.thedailypress.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3393133</p>

<p>3 Dec 11</p>	<p>Op-ed attributed to NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy: ".... The core elements of every land use plan are subject to a provincial veto which is in complete denial of a standard that is being recognized internationally, that is, the right for First Nations to provide free, prior and informed consent. Canada and Ontario still have yet to catch up to this standard. The minister tried to justify the act based on First Nation participation in the LUP process. What the minister failed to mention was that First Nations are participating under duress. First Nations have been keenly interested in LUP for many years; they just never wanted the Far North Act. Tying funds to the act leaves First Nations with few alternatives; it is not a sign of acquiescence. In the recent Speech from the Throne, the government spoke of its plans to develop "good, leading-edge northern jobs." While the government moves to make this vision a reality (which is without a doubt, a vision shared by First Nations), the question that remains is how First Nation opposition to the Far North Act might factor in. Does it matter? First Nations have responded to this question with a resounding, "yes it does." Thus far, the government has taken the "elephant-in-the-room" approach where they seem to be thinking that if it is ignored, it might go away. Potential investors willing to put in the resources to create jobs are aware of the financial, operational, reputational and even legal risk of a tainted environment. Ultimately, it affects the very vision created by government and sadly, it stifles economic growth. First Nations do not see this as a positive approach moving forward. They want to close the socio-economic gap between First Nations and non-First Nations in Ontario. Imposing an unwanted act will not lead us towards this end." http://www.chroniclejournal.com/editorial/daily_editorial/2011-12-03/elephant-room-first-nations-perspective-far-north-act</p>
<p>2 Dec 11</p>	<p>"The threat of taking its concentrate to Asia for processing will be legally difficult for Cliffs Natural Resources and may, in the end, prove only to be a negotiating ploy, mining analysts say. Cliffs Natural Resources has announced plans to ship chromite concentrate from the Ring of Fire area in Northern Ontario to international markets, primarily China, to capitalize on the growing smelting capacity and booming demand for strategic metals in Asia. Although still planning to build a smelter somewhere in Ontario -- possibly in Sudbury -- company officials have said demand from Chinese smelters will drive volumes for the concentrate, making its export economically viable. Standing in the way of this plan is the Ontario Mining Act, which requires that ore produced in the region must be processed in the region -- though the province and Cliffs appear to differ on how processing is defined. While the company has taken the position concentrate is a processed, value-added and established commodity in world markets, a ministry of Northern Development and Mines official told The Star last week any company wishing to send concentrate to a refinery outside of Canada would need an exemption from the Act to do so. Cliffs has not applied for an exemption, Laura Blondeau, a ministry spokesperson, wrote in an email. "And it would be up to the company to argue they need one." There are no precedents for processing concentrate of strategic metals out of the country, a mining analyst says. Even Xstrata Nickel, which smelts product in Sudbury but refines it in Norway, needed an exemption decades ago to do so, said Stan Sudol, a Sudburian who runs a mining blog in Toronto (www.republicofmining.ca). Indeed, historically, Northern Ontario, and Sudbury in particular, have been destinations of choice for such operations, but the province's business climate appears to be changing that. Sudol has long advocated for the province to improve infrastructure in strategic northern locations to expedite both mine development and new exploration. "Ontario needs to help build the necessary key transportation routes to develop the North's enormous and strategic mineral potential," he said. "These include a railway to the Ring of Fire mining camp and all-weather highways to replace winter ice roads to isolated aboriginal communities. The first priorities should be regions with high mineral potential. The resulting economic spinoffs throughout the entire province and increased tax revenues will more than justify these public investments." The known Ring of Fire deposit is twice as large as Prince Edward Island and is said to hold one of the world's largest and richest deposits of chromite, as well as nickel, copper, platinum, gold, zinc and magnesium. But there is very</p>

	<p>likely more underground in remote northwestern Ontario than anyone yet knows, he said, and only improved transportation links -- such as a railway out of the Ring of Fire deposit -- will spur investment there, Sudol said" http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3391440</p>
	<p>"Noront Resources Ltd. ("Noront" or the "Company") (TSX Venture: NOT) has released the Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference. Noront is continuing with its work for the Environmental Assessment for the Eagle's Nest Mine Project in northwest Ontario. Since 2009, Environmental Baseline studies have been conducted around the mineral deposit, at infrastructure sites, and along the access corridor. Noront has also been advancing the engineering of the mine and infrastructure since 2009, incorporating means to protect the environment and support sustainable development. Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Eagle's Nest Mine project have been prepared by Noront in compliance with Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) requirements. The draft TOR is available for review by the public, and copies can be down loaded at www.norontresources.com or www.eaglesnestmine.com. The Federal government's Environmental Assessment process has advanced and a draft Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Eagle's Nest Mine Project has also been released for public review. A copy of the Draft Eagles Nest Environmental Impact Guidelines can be downloaded from CEAA's website www.ceaa.gc.ca, www.norontresources.com or www.eaglesnestmine.com. These two Notices begin the public involvement in the regulated processes for the Federal and Provincial government reviews of the project. These articles are available for public review on our website and additional project information is provided at www.eaglesnestmine.com. Noront has produced project reports and summary documents (including copies in Oji-Cree) to the general public and the local First Nation communities. Noront is committed to providing all relevant project information through public documents, open houses, websites, and community meetings through the consultation program. Additional information or clarifications can also be requested via email at consultation@norontresources.com " http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page674?oid=140965&sn=Detail&pid=102055</p> <p>15 Nov 11: Comprehensive Study List: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/information-eng.cfm?commencement=44668 Major Projects Management Office Tracker: http://www2.mpmo-bggp.gc.ca/MPTracker/projectssummary-resumedeprojet.aspx?pid=191 Registry Internet Site: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents-eng.cfm?evaluation=63925 Eagle's Nest Project: Public Comments Invited and Federal Funding Available: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/document-eng.cfm?document=53137</p>
<p>1 Dec 11</p>	<p>Column: "Ontario has an unenviable record of shipping natural resources out of the country, where they're used for finished products. The issue has again appeared on the Ontario legislature's radar screen and it could be trouble for the Liberals, since job creation is at the centre of that screen at the moment Cliffs says it can only justify the enormous scale of its operations at Black Thor --and the jobs it brings--by producing that much concentrate and selling it. And other mining companies have been shipping unfinished products out of the country for years. Xstrata (formerly Falconbridge) mills and smelts nickel in Sudbury, but the material is refined in Norway. And during a year-long strike by United Steelworkers at Vale (formerly Inco) in 2009-10, nickel concentrate from its Sudbury operations was shipped to its refinery in Wales. Can the province expect to put limits on Cliffs' exports? And if it can't, are job prospects being maximized? A Northern Development and Mines spokesman said requests for exemptions to ship unfinished material out of the country have been denied before. Still, to do so in this case might jeopardize jobs at Black Thor itself. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and MPPs Michael Prue and John Vanthof raised the issue of exporting concentrate to China in the legislature this week. Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci promised to maximize the number of jobs from the operations, but gave no indication whether it's OK to ship a million tonnes of concentrate</p>

	<p>out of the country. In an e-mail to a QMI Agency newspaper last week, a Cliffs spokesman said the company believes concentrate is sufficiently value-added to export. Cliffs will likely get permission to ship huge amounts of concentrate, but what should be a big win for the Liberal government is going to take a pounding along the way."</p> <p>http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3389751 http://www.lfpres.com/comment/2011/12/01/19044546.html</p>
	<p>"For the second time this week, NDP leader Andrea Horwath was up during Question Period in the Ontario Legislature on the Ring of Fire. The NDP leader is attempting to get Premier Dalton McGuinty to agree that to maximize the benefit to Ontario's economy, that the Ring of Fire resources be processed in Ontario. "Cliffs Natural Resources says it plans to send chromite concentrate mined in the Ring of Fire to China for processing. That would redirect good-paying jobs, value-added jobs out of northern Ontario. By refusing to answer the question yesterday, the minister suggested that he was okay with it. I want to know if the Premier's okay with it," asked Horwath. The Premier responded, "We are going to work with the community, we are going to work with our First Nations, and we're going to work with folks in the north to make sure we get this right. There is a tremendous opportunity before all of us, and we will work as hard as we can, I say to my honourable colleague, to ensure that we maximize the benefits for the people of Ontario." The economic firestorm started over comments reported that Cliffs Natural Resources would seek to process the chromite outside of Canada. That is allowed under Ontario legislation. It is an issue that likely will continue to crop up until a decision is made" http://netnewsledger.com/2011/12/01/it%E2%80%99s-one-of-the-most-exciting-mining-finds-in-canada-in-the-last-100-years-premier-mcquinty/</p>
	<p>"Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. (Cliffs) recently initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cliffs Chromite Project. This proposed Project includes the following components: a Mine Site, including an Ore Processing Facility; a Ferrochrome Production Facility (FPF); and an integrated Transportation System that will be used to move equipment, materials and people to and from the Mine Site. We want to provide you with information about the Project and hear what you think. To do so, we have scheduled an Open House to be held in the following community:</p> <p>Geraldton: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Geraldton Community Centre 200 Wardrope Avenue Geraldton, Ontario P0T 1M0"</p> <p>http://www.greenstone.ca/ResidentialLife/GreenstoneNews/tabid/836/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/744/Cliffs-Chromite-Project-Open-House.aspx or http://www.greenstone.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=C5cDreZHc7w%3d&tabid=836</p>