The Ring of Fire is the name given to the emerging mining district in the James Bay Lowlands region, located 500 kilometers northeast of Thunder Bay in Northern Ontario. To date, deposits of chromite, nickel-copper-platinum-palladium and copper-zinc have been found including Noront’s three advanced development projects: Eagle’s Nest, Blackbird and Black Thor. Dozens of other showings have been noted, including those rich in gold, titanium-vanadium and diamonds.

The area is called the “Ring of Fire” due to the unique circular shape that the district displays on magnetic maps of the region. The “Ring” is roughly 100 kilometres in diameter and is caused by a belt of mafic and ultramafic rocks wrapping around a circular intrusion of granodiorite. The closest communities are Webequie First Nation, which is located 80 kilometers to the west and Marten Falls First Nation, located 120 kilometers to the south. Over 60% of Noront’s exploration staff are from these two local communities.

Noront believes that the Ring of Fire will become the next great mining district in Ontario and will create prosperity and opportunity for generations to come. It is for this reason that Noront has acquired over 85% of all claims in the district and is working hard with First Nation communities and the government to make this vision come true.

Noront holds 85% of all claims in the Ring of Fire district. Our properties are of comparable size to the entire Sudbury Basin with significant exploration potential.
Noront’s first project is the Eagle’s Nest Mine, a high-grade nickel-copper-platinum group element (PGE) deposit. It is expected to produce 3,000 tonnes of ore per day, which will be mined by underground methods and processed to deliver approximately 150,000 tonnes of nickel-bearing concentrate per year to Sudbury for smelting. The mine is expected to reach commercial production 3 years after permits are received with an anticipated mine life of 11 years with the potential for 9 additional years.

The Blackbird chromite deposit is planned to be the second mine in Noront’s project pipeline. It is one of a number of large tonnage, high-quality chromite discoveries in the Ring of Fire. It offers significant potential due to its size, grade and location (less than 1 km from Eagle’s Nest). Noront plans to process the chromite ore in a yet to be constructed ferrochrome plant located in Sault Ste. Marie.

Accessing the Ring of Fire is a challenge, as existing regional infrastructure in the form of paved roads is at least 300 kilometers away. In the 2017 budget, the Ontario government committed $1 billion toward industrial and social infrastructure in the Ring of Fire. All season gravel roads are being developed in partnership with local First Nations with environmental permitting and design work currently underway.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce’s analysis shows that within the first 10 years of its development, the Ring of Fire will make significant contributions to Ontario’s economy and will:

- generate up to $9.4 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- generate up to $6.2 billion for Ontario’s mining industry
- sustain up to 5,500 jobs annually (full time equivalents); and
- generate nearly $2 billion in government revenue, divided between the federal, provincial and municipal governments and First Nations communities.

Marten Falls First Nation became a Noront shareholder when they signed an Exploration and Pre-Development Agreement in 2017.