

# EAGLE'S EYE

A news update from Noront Resources about development in the Ring of Fire

## “There’s Gold in Them Thar Hills!”

By Ryan Weston, VP Exploration

 Early last year, Noront began looking at the potential for gold mineralization in the Ring of Fire. The initial work involved reviewing the area’s geological and geophysical maps, and looking for key structures in the bedrock along which gold may have moved through the Earth’s crust billions of years ago.

Almost all past exploration in the area focused on “base-metals” (nickel, copper, chromium, zinc). Virtually no attention was paid to the potential for gold mineralization. It’s easy to see why, given the tremendous base-metal discoveries made between 2002 and 2009! But, in our view, the Ring of Fire has many of the right ingredients to host a large gold deposit, including major faults and reactive host rocks. Our review identified four areas of interest which led us to stake an additional 150 mineral claims last fall.

Our next step is to find the right partner to help us explore these new gold targets. We are looking for a well-financed company with a successful track record for gold exploration and development. It must also understand and respect the process of engaging and employing First Nations people, and have a strong commitment to health, safety and the environment. Stay tuned as we work to bring the right partner onboard and begin exploring for gold in the Ring of Fire!



A map of Northern Ontario with the two proposed road routes highlighted

## A Different Approach to Road Development

By Alan Coutts, President and CEO

 When a mine is built in Ontario, the mining company is usually responsible for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and access road construction. This makes the company the “proponent” of the development.

Because there is potential for several mines to be developed in the Ring of Fire, and the closest rail or highway is almost 300 km away, the province of Ontario is funding infrastructure to support the region, as it is in the interest of all Ontarians for development to take place.

Soon after the province announced a \$1 billion commitment to build infrastructure for the Ring of Fire, Noront received Terms of Reference for the Eagle’s Nest Mine EA. We were asked to consult with several First Nations communities and ensure their enhanced participation in the EA process. This request related to environmental sensitivities, traditional

land-use, and the gathering of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge for the mine and the 300 km road.

Upon receiving this, Noront management decided to re-think the entire permitting process. Since the access road crosses traditional land belonging to local First Nation communities, why not have the communities themselves be the proponents who lead the road proposals?

The province agreed with this approach and solicited submissions from the communities resulting in two First Nation-led road proposals: an East-West route championed by Webequie and Nibinamik and a North-South route with Marten Falls as the proponent.

Noront is transferring engineering and environmental information on the road routes to the new First Nation proponents, and along with four provincial ministries, we are providing *(continued on next page)*

## Employee Profile



**NAME:**  
DIXON WAPOOSE

**COMMUNITY:**  
WEBEQUIE FIRST NATION

**JOB POSITION:**  
GEOPHYSICS FIELD ASSISTANT

### Tell us about your experience working for Noront.

I've only been with Noront since January 2018, but I've had 3 roles and learned a lot in that time. First I was a field assistant, cutting a winter access trail. Then I assisted in the kitchen as a cook's helper and I currently work as a geophysical field assistant.

### Your roles have all been very different, what was the training like?

Each job taught me different skills. In the kitchen I learned how to make cookies and chili, and how to prepare salads. In the field, I learned how to work safely around a chainsaw and techniques for crossing small creeks with a snow mobile. The last rotation I learned how to understand the geophysics process, read the receivers, how to run the equipment and how magnetic coils work.

### What is a typical day for you?

I'm up at 6am and start the day by packing lunch and gear for the field. I head to breakfast—the most important meal of the day and attend a daily safety meeting.

In the warm months, I join the field team on the helicopter which takes us to the geophysical transmitter site where we set up cable links between the generator and

voltage regulator, sync the receivers with coils, and head out to cut lines that need to be surveyed.

The days can be hot and humid as the sun gets higher. We usually take a short lunch break and keep moving. At the end of the day we walk back to the geophysical transmitter site and prepare the equipment for the next day, fueling the generator and coiling up cables.

When we're done, we radio for the helicopter to take us back to Esker Camp where we relax and get caught up on laundry. We eat supper, socialize for a bit, and talk about how our days went. Then we go to sleep so we're ready for the next day.

### What's your favourite part about working at a remote camp?

Walking in the bush. I live on a small island that only has trees at the north and south ends. I also enjoy the meals that the cooks prepare for us at the end of each day.

### How do you see your future as Noront transitions into an operating mine?

I would like to be certified to work at the mine, operate heavy equipment and drive on the surface.

## National Indigenous Peoples Day

By Glenn Nolan, VP Government Relations

 June 21 was National Indigenous Peoples Day. It was widely celebrated with events that recognize the contributions and diverse cultures of Indigenous people across the country.

The idea for a day of solidarity for all First Nation people in Canada was initiated thirty-six years ago, in 1982 by the National Indian Brotherhood (now Assembly of First Nations) with the first Aboriginal Day held in 1996 on the summer solstice (June 21). The change to incorporate "Indigenous" into the title was made last year to be consistent with terminology used by the United Nations.

At Noront, one of our goals is to create awareness about the culture and knowledge that each community brings to a project, so that our staff can fully understand the important relationship we have with the first people of the north. The way we listen to our community partners is an example of how we do this, and one of the reasons why we invite Elders to conduct ceremonies before we begin work on an exploration program.

Staff at each of our locations participated in local National Indigenous Peoples Day activities. We were represented at a sunrise ceremony held at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. It included a smudge, tobacco pipe, drumming, drinking water and eating strawberries. Thunder Bay staff attended the Mount McKay (Anemki Wajiw) Pow Wow on Fort William First Nation Territory. Camp staff attended Pow Wows in Webequie and Sioux Lookout. Employees also took time during the daily toolbox meeting to reflect on the historical significance of the day and were invited to recognize the day in their own way.

We value the relationships we have with our Indigenous partners. We continue to build on the important values of sincerity, respect, honesty and cooperation to ensure our relationships remain strong and healthy today, and long into the future.

### A Different Approach to Road Development *(continued from previous page)*

technical consultation to the communities. We believe that having the First Nations with the traditional land use as proponents for the road is a creative and appropriate model to permit infrastructure, and we are proud to be participating in this novel approach to resource development in Ontario.