

# EAGLE'S EYE

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

## Commuting to Esker

By Curtis Coaster, Field Assistant

 Travel is a significant part of working in a remote camp. Esker Camp is in the marshy James Bay Lowlands, so our methods for getting to work change with the seasons.

We start out with a travel plan organized by our Logistics Coordinator, Catherine Niemi. Depending on where you live, travel days can begin bright and early at 6am, then we start our long journey to Esker. We take a shuttle to the Nakina Airport during the winter and to the Nakina sea base in summer. Nakina is about 300 km north of Thunder Bay, and from there, we travel by plane to Koper Lake. I had my first ride in the front seat of a small plane while commuting to Esker, something many people have not experienced.

In winter, the plane lands on the Koper Lake ice strip. From there, we take a skidoo the remaining 10 km to camp. For this reason, we have to put our winter gear on before we even get on the plane in Nakina! In summer, we arrive at Koper Lake by float plane and a helicopter takes us the rest of the way.

My favourite travel season is fall. Spring and fall are known as “break up” and “freeze-up” seasons when we fly to the Webequie First Nation Airport about 70 km west of Esker, then catch a helicopter lift to start our work rotation.

And there you have it...that is how I get to work for my rotation!

**Check out the video of our commute to Esker on our Eagle's Eye Blog.**



Aroland's Stephen Sagutch during his first rotation at Esker Camp

## How do I get a Job at Esker Camp?

By Stephen Sagutch, Camp Support

 A lot of great employee stories have been shared in Eagle's Eye. For those interested in working at Noront, here's how I got hired and some tips about what to do if you'd like to work here.

When I heard there was going to be mining development in the Ring of Fire, I saw it as an opportunity. I'm from the Aroland First Nation Band, so I applied to Nishnawabe Education and Training (NEAT), a KKETS program in Thunder Bay that trains Matawa First Nation Community Members. That is where I got all the certifications needed to apply for work in the mining industry.

After speaking with Wilma Baxter (Kitchen Helper) about her experiences working at Esker Camp, I sent my resume to Noront numerous times to show that I was determined about seeking employment. I met with Ryan Weston (VP Exploration),

talked to Kaitlyn Ferris (Human Resources) and lo and behold...! I was given an opportunity! I started as Camp Support, and some jobs were tough, but I liked that we were helping Noront become a great company. I'm very proud to be a Noront employee.

### Tips for getting a job at Esker Camp:

- Talk to someone about the jobs that are available.
- Attend a Career Fair to learn more.
- Take advantage of local training (KKETS' NEAT programs, community-based training).
- Put together a resume.
- Include copies of your training certificates.
- Apply online or give your local Employment Coordinator your resume to fax or email.
- Be persistent!

*For any questions regarding employment, call Kaitlyn Ferris at 807 632 8103.*

## Employee Profile



**NAME:**  
JP GLADU

**COMMUNITY:**  
BINGWI NEYAASHI ANISHINAABEK

**JOB POSITION:**  
BOARD MEMBER

### What do you do at Noront?

I am honoured to serve on the Noront Board of Directors. I am also President & CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) which gives me the opportunity to speak on Indigenous issues across the country and around the world. One of the issues I'm most passionate about is representation of Indigenous people on corporate boards. Noront is leading by example.

### What does a typical day look like for you?

The CCAB is challenging the status quo in Canada when it comes to Aboriginal businesses and the Canadian economy. I manage the operations and resources of a growing and dynamic company, so my days are varied and include team activities like board meetings, strategy sessions, staff mentoring and/or making major business decisions. I often refer to my calendar as a game of Tetris. I travel a lot so I can share the success of Aboriginal business through speaking engagements and meetings in corporate board rooms and government offices (I've travelled nearly one million miles with Air Canada). I've met many people and carry their stories in my heart and mind—an important responsibility as this knowledge needs to be amplified to create better outcomes for our people.

### What do you like best about working with Noront?

I had the pleasure of meeting our amazing leader, Alan Coutts a few years ago. When I was asked to join the board, I was ecstatic. Al is a dynamic leader with energy and passion that are not lost on

the rest of the team. I feel stronger and more positive about the future of Noront after every board meeting. This team truly has the grit and focus to get the work done and better the lives and economies of our First Nations.

### How did you get into the mining industry?

I've been around natural resource development all my life—my grandfathers worked in forestry and oil and gas. I was introduced to mining in 2009, when I started working for my First Nation, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek. A lithium deposit was being re-explored by a company from out west and the road access went right through our community. We negotiated jobs, contracts and right of way access, and worked with our neighbouring First Nation to share in the opportunities offered by the mining site.

### How do you envision the future for Noront as we transition into an operating mine?

Mine development can transform a community. It provides opportunities to build business relationships, which are fundamental to any development. I'm a strong believer in working hard through our challenges to build resilience. At the base of everything moving forward are strong, resilient and respectful relationships based on the principle of reciprocity. Noront has a crucial role to play in development of the Ring of Fire. Leading by example with these values in mind, will generate the support needed to transition into an operating mine. I've seen this occur in many places across Canada.

## The Coldest Day Brings the Warmest Feeling

By Glenn Nolan, VP Government Affairs



When the weather gets rough, I always think of our workers.

Whether it's bone-numbing cold and hurricane force winds or hot summer days when the air is filled with biting flies, I am often taken back to my days working in the James Bay Lowlands cutting survey lines with my crew between '79 and '95.

We knew it was a colder than usual day when we could see our breath inside the prospector tent in the mornings and frost on the walls rained down on us whenever the wind blew.

We would start a fire in the wood stove, make breakfast and put together lunch for the work we would be doing away from camp. We filled our thermoses with tea and coffee and dressed in our warmest outdoor clothing. Layers of t-shirts, sweaters, vests, inner coats and over coats covered most of our bodies. With thick mukluks on our feet and warm fur hats on our heads, we ventured out to cut lines through black spruce.

We were confident we could remain safe (comfortable even) as the temperature registered -52. We made our way along established snow shoe trails with packs on our backs and axes at our sides.

On warmer days we built a fire, made tea and shared our lunch. On cold days, we remained in our own world of bundled clothing, balaclavas and frosted faces. We knew stopping would lead to getting chilled, then cold, something we couldn't risk. At the end of the day, we made our way back to camp, content that we were able to do our job and stay warm.

Clothes today might be lighter and warmer, and the machines better able to handle the cold, but it remains a challenge to stay warm, happy, safe and productive on cold days. My (fur) hat goes off to our camp workers who do their job well and safely regardless of the weather!