



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12/40 SUPPORT FOR MATAWA FIRST NATIONS MORATORIUM AND RE- ESTABLISHMENT OF JURISDICTION IN THE HIGH MINERAL AREA OF TREATY NO. 9 REFERRED TO AS THE RING OF FIRE

WHEREAS the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs-in-Assembly have passed Resolutions 11/48, 11/49 and 12/27 supporting the Matawa First Nations in their efforts to exercise their right to provide free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in the area referred to by government and the mining industry as the Ring of Fire;

WHEREAS the right to provide FPIC is an international standard endorsed by NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly as the approach to resource development in the NAN First Nation territory as stated in Resolution 10/23 "NAN Right of Consent – Policies and Developments that Affect the Territory" and in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);

WHEREAS in July 2011, the nine (9) Matawa First Nations signed by unanimous consensus, the "*Mamow Wecheekapawetahteewiin*," a Unity Declaration agreeing to work together to assert the FPIC standard in the Ring of Fire;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has been operating under the assumption that projects in the Ring of Fire have received the FPIC of the Matawa First Nations and have proceeded with an Agreement-in-Principle with a mining proponent (Cliffs Natural Resources, an American transnational mining company) regarding the location of a \$3.2 billion ferrochrome production and refining facility outside of the NAN First Nation Treaty area, including initial capital investments;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is proceeding with the Comprehensive Study Environmental Assessment Study, despite Matawa First Nations' filing a Judicial Review Application against it in November 2011;

WHEREAS Ontario and Canada stand to make hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues on the projected \$1.4 billion in annual gross revenues the Cliffs mine will generate over the next 30 or more years;

WHEREAS the Matawa First Nations Council have expressed concerns about the proposed construction of a permanent road opening up their remote region and the untold environmental and social effects to their land, communities and waters (including the change in water flows in the Attawapiskat watershed and potential for toxic acid mine drainage);

WHEREAS on June 20, 2012, the Matawa First Nations Council passed a Resolution calling for a pause and putting forth the position that the Ring of Fire "will only proceed after their communities have participated in a full and thorough environmental review of all the proposed mines, refinery, roads and infrastructure and after fully informing

themselves and having negotiated appropriate terms and conditions that will protect the land, waters and sustainability of their way of life and then freely consent to the project”;

WHEREAS the Matawa First Nations Council also placed an “immediate moratorium on all mining exploration and development, government permits, infrastructure projects, transportation corridors, transmission lines, baseline studies, archaeological screening and any and all other land based activities in the Ring of Fire unless, and until, Ontario and Canada come to a government to government table with a mandate to negotiate fundamental questions of First Nations jurisdiction, a trilateral environmental assessment process and real resource benefits and revenue sharing for our First Nation”;

WHEREAS on June 22, 2012, six (6) Matawa First Nations announced they are in the final stages of issuing a 30-day eviction notice to all mining companies with exploration and development camps in the Ring of Fire;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly support the FPIC position taken by the Matawa First Nations on the moratorium and mining company eviction process in the area known as the Ring of Fire;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly demand that Canada, Ontario and industry engage the Matawa First Nations in a process that is grounded on their right to provide FPIC prior to any further development in the area known as the Ring of Fire;


FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED NAN Executive Council shall support the Matawa First Nations where requested, and shall provide a report at the next NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly to determine if other support and/or action from the NAN First Nations is needed.

DATED AT TORONTO, ONTARIO THIS 25TH DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

MOVED BY: CHIEF DAVID BABIN
WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION

SECONDED BY: CHIEF ANDREW SOLOMON
FORT ALBANY FIRST NATION

CARRIED


Grand Chief Stan Beardy


Deputy Grand Chief