

Speaking Notes

Missinabie Cree Media Briefing

Tuesday January 19th, 10:00 a.m. Holiday Inn Express

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone, I'm pleased to be joining you here today.

I'd like to thank Chief Jason Gauthier of the Missinabie Cree First Nation for inviting me to attend this morning's proceedings. I'd also like to thank Chief Gauthier for joining us. I will also take this opportunity to acknowledge the other dignitaries we have in attendance:

Today's announcement underscores the importance and value of partnerships. It also shows the benefits to adopting a regional perspective towards economic development opportunities.

To that point, I'd like to congratulate the Missinabie Cree First Nation and its seven business partners for the launch of these joint ventures. It's a great example of identifying a synergistic opportunity and then taking action to seize it.

The joint ventures announced today will focus on providing services to mining projects taking place in Missinabie territory. Though we don't always think of this area as a mining hub, our part of northeastern Ontario has been home to many mining developments in the past and there are some promising ones on the horizon.

I know right now there is particular interest in the Magino mine project of Prodigy Gold, located northwest of Wawa. A little closer to Sault Ste. Marie, Superior Copper is doing exploratory drilling for copper near Batchewana Bay.

And further north, there is of course the fabled Ring of Fire with its substantial deposits of copper, nickel, chromite and other minerals.

Some of these developments are still years away from fruition. However, to ensure that our region derives benefit from them when they do come to pass, it's important that we begin making plans and forging partnerships today.

So on that note, I just want to commend everyone who worked to make today's good news announcement a reality. I wish you much success with these new joint ventures and I am confident that they will help bring significant economic benefits to our region.

Thank you.