

EAGLE'S EYE

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

Critical Minerals Collaboration

By Alan Coutts, President and CEO

 In January, Canada and the U.S. announced the Joint Action Plan on Critical Minerals Collaboration, an agreement that aims to increase production and secure supply chains for minerals that are critical to strategic industries like defence, aerospace and communications.

Several nations, including the U.S. and Canada, are concerned about being overly reliant on China and other risky jurisdictions for the import and processing of certain minerals. In 2018, the U.S. published a list of 35 minerals viewed as critical to its economic and national security. Noront has five of these in its Ring of Fire deposits: chrome, cobalt, platinum group elements, titanium and vanadium.

Of particular interest is the need for a secure source of chrome to supply America's stainless steel mills. All grades of stainless steel contain 10-30% chrome, and certain grades have significant amounts of nickel as well.

The U.S. has no domestic source of chrome ore and there are no chrome smelters in North America. Currently, all chrome used by American stainless steel makers comes in the form of ferrochrome (an iron-chrome alloy) from countries like South Africa and Kazakhstan.

It is Noront's vision to mine high-grade chrome ore deposits in the Ring of Fire and transform chrome into ferrochrome for export to the U.S. *(continued on next page)*



Rob and Roydon working together on Orange Shirt Day

What's a Cross Shift?

By Geological Technicians Rob Lyght and Roydon Spence

 At Esker Site work is scheduled on a two-week rotating basis and cross shifts are used to keep duties and work moving forward.

A cross shift is a type of schedule where two workers carry out the same or similar work passing tasks to a partner when they go home, on vacation or on break.

It's great to work a cross shift, because you don't have to worry about getting everything done before leaving site, which eliminates the need to rush. This helps create a safe, healthy team environment, because when workers or supervisors feel they have to rush to finish a job or task, injury and property damage can result.

Another benefit is saving money by keeping the yard, facilities and equipment well-maintained and ensuring PPE gear is up-to-date and tidy. Working a cross shift also lets you combine skills so you are each able to use your strengths to

work effectively as a group. There are some challenges of course. Lack of cooperation or poor communication can occur. It can be hard to remember what information to pass on to your shift partner so they can carry on from where you left off. Updating the "Work Notes" before leaving site can help by showing your partner what's complete and what's not.

Communicating on shift change day is also an important key to success. Duties for each role are broken down differently. For our role, work includes various types of field work like core storage and geotechning. When something comes up last minute, we either tell our supervisor or speak to our cross shift "partner" at the lake. If all else fails, we call or send an e-mail. This work arrangement sets you up for success by having a teammate you can rely on!

Looping and Learning



EMPLOYEE PROFILE:
CURTIS COASTER

COMMUNITY:
MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION

JOB POSITION:
FIELD ASSISTANT

What do you do at Noront?

I'm a Field Assistant, which is a job that changes depending on the current mining exploration program. The work I do may include line cutting, soil sampling, drill support, conducting geological surveys or providing support for geophysics and geo-tech activity.

What does your typical day look like?

Every day starts off with a morning tool box and meeting with the geologist where we talk about the daily plan. Then it's off to the field where the work varies. In summer we're transported by helicopter and in winter we use skidoos to get around. On geophysics days we head to the field and lay loops which I carry on a wire spool on my back. We walk through the bush, usually for 2-3 kilometres until the loop is complete. Some loops are bigger, others are smaller. When that's done, we set up a transmitting station and I help with reading stations down the grid lines off the loop. The lines are read with a receiver and coil. The purpose is to look for anomalies for potential mineral targets. When we hit our daily production quota, we radio our supervisor for a lift back to site. We end the day the same way we started, by meeting with the geologist.

What do you like best about your job?

Most of the time I'm working in the bush, which I really enjoy. Something about the fresh air brings me peace.

Is there anything you'd like to share about your career?

Although my work is physically demanding, the days go by really fast.

Also, flying in helicopters and planes is fun, and results we get make the hard work rewarding.

What is something you always bring to work?

I always bring an open mind and willingness to learn. I also bring different types of gear like jackets, boots and safety gloves because the weather changes frequently.

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

I plan on going back to school in the near future to take an environmental or mining Program. I really hope to be a mine supervisor one day!

What is your favourite experience at Esker Camp?

One of the things I love about Esker is the family that's been established there. Every night at supper we all sit together telling stories and sharing laughs. It's such a great time.

How has working at Noront shaped your plans for the next year, five years, ten years?

Working at Noront has helped me see how important and valuable learning and education are. My plan for the future is to keep learning, because the more education I receive, the more I can keep expanding what I know and what I do.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I've learned a lot over the years and I've gained so much experience at Noront. I'd just like to express my thanks for the opportunity to learn and grow.

Blackbird Chromite Geology Update

By Matt Deller, Senior Geologist

 The Eagle's Nest nickel-copper-platinum group metals deposit will be the first mine developed in the Ring of Fire. But soon after, Noront will start ore production from its Blackbird chromite deposit located less than a kilometer away. For this reason, Noront's geologists are taking another detailed look at all the information related to Blackbird.

When a deposit is initially discovered, geologists often do not have a good understanding of its geology or why certain mineralization is located where it is. Early stage exploration focuses more on defining a deposit's potential value (size and grade), rather than understanding its location and how it formed.

Once a deposit is determined potentially economic, a strong geological model is needed to take the analysis to the next stage. This requires sufficient information for the engineers to initiate mine design. Data that must be gathered includes rock types surrounding the ore, structures that may cause issues with ground stability, and alteration of the rock that may impact mineral recovery.

A lot of drilling was completed on Blackbird between 2008 and 2010, and a great deal of information was collected. We are taking this data, looking at the geology of the area with a larger view, collecting new data where needed and putting all that information together into a 3D model.

This will be a vital step in the successful development of Blackbird, which we hope will be our second mine.

Critical Minerals Collaboration

(continued from previous page) The Joint Action Plan is expected to provide incentives like infrastructure support, financial investment and committed offtake agreements (to secure a market for future output) for new mining projects and processing facilities.