

Speaking Notes for Roy Hains:

Thank you, Brian and Al. And thank you all for being here today.

Like Brian, the employees he represents, and most of you here, I too am from the North. This is my home. It just happens to be at the other end of Lake Nipissing.

That above all explains why I have taken such a keen and active interest in this project. Brian and I were on different sides of the table when I last worked on the revitalization of ONTC. We both share a passion for the North and its people, and we are both committed to creating jobs and building a stronger economy in the region.

The Ontario government's planned divestment of ONTC, and the enormous opportunities presented by the Ring of Fire, have put us back at the table. Brian and his colleagues have been instrumental in the design and development of this plan over the last stressful six months.

With broad and building support, I am very confident that our plan is workable and sustainable.

The Ring of Fire offers perhaps the largest economic development opportunity in all of Ontario today. We are talking about the potential for thousands of construction jobs, thousands of mining jobs, a multi-billion dollar GDP impact, a wealth of new tax revenues and new prosperity for many First Nations communities.

The New Deal we are unveiling today is the best way to unlock those opportunities.

The rail solution we propose is by far the most economic and greenest solution for bulk transport of supplies in and heavy ore out. Rail produces significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than road, and much less pollution.

I know from my discussions with First Nations communities in the region that this is important to them. Moreover, rail offers all-weather

transportation – a key consideration in Northern Ontario’s tough winter climate.

I would like to recognize the invaluable help provided by the First Nations in discussions with them over the last six months.

Chief Gagnon for stressing the importance of developing the Pagwa sub from Hearst to Nakina. Chief Eli Moonias for his assistance with the design of the organizational model for the regional economic development committees, which are outlined in the backgrounder.

Chief Wabasse for his countenance and encouragement to keep improving this model. Grand Chief Stan Louttit for representing the interests of his people over many discussions, and his invitation to join him and his tribal council at the Fox Lake Reserve to discuss the plan in detail, which we did.

(best wishes for GC Louttit’s recovery)

One of the key players in this initiative is a major Ring of Fire claim holder, Canada Chrome Corporation. Looking ahead to the need for rail transportation, Canada Chrome made a significant investment to study and secure a viable right of way to its Ring of Fire claims. Thanks to their foresight and work, we have a solid base from which our plan can move forward.

Another key player I have had the pleasure of working with on this project is Nipissing-Timiskaming MP Jay Aspin. Jay is actively promoting this plan to his colleagues in Ottawa.

The federal government is a major stakeholder the New Deal as it oversees the Canada Marine Act. We are proposing to execute our plan within a Ports Authority under the Marine Act, which offers the perfect vessel to:

- Establish and coordinate infrastructure systems for the benefit of the region’s residents;
- Enable and ensure that the First Nation communities have direct governance participation

- Operate the existing ports of Moosonee and Webequie
- Construct the new Port of Koper Lake and the connecting railway from the port of Koper Lake to Exton; and
- Acquire and make viable the continuing assets of ONTC.

Our plan contemplates a territory framed by the Ports Authority assets from the Ring of Fire mine site, south to Nakina, southeast to North Bay, and north to Moosonee.

This model will ensure that the social, economic and environmental benefits of the Ring of Fire are shared with the people in this territory as they are realized over time.

We are fortunate to have our federal representative in Ottawa, Jay Aspin, as an enthusiastic supporter of our plan. It is with pleasure that I invite him now to say a few words.

Thank you.