

# SUMMARY

The community of TB/FWFN is clearly very interested and excited about the opportunity to host Noront's Ferrochrome Processing Facility (FPF) and looks forward to the opportunity of working with Noront to establish this facility in Northwestern Ontario. Our community has demonstrated a high-level of broad-based commitment to this project as evidence by the letters of support and the community's response at two public information meetings. Noront should be aware that the City of Thunder Bay and the Fort William First Nation have been working together for some time on this initiative and both continue to have extensive interactions with the Matawa communities.

Our community offers Noront world class transportation linkages, a skilled and experienced labour force, a site with infrastructure to meet the needs of the proposed facility and a culturally-rich community eager to host Noront's Ferrochrome Processor. Leveraging the world-class bulk materials handling facility at Thunder Bay Terminals will deliver cost savings to Noront and position them to play a pivotal role in developing Indigenous enterprise opportunities in the Ferrochrome Processor's industrial supply chain. In addition to the employment opportunities at the processor and mine, this project can support First Nation companies engaged in transporting chromite ore from the Ring of Fire District to the bulk

materials handling facilities at TBTL as well as future power and raw material needs.

Noront can outsource under contract all of its bulk materials handling to TBTL, including the handling and delivery of all raw materials to the processor and the shipment of slag and ferrochrome to domestic and international markets via the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway, railways or trucking. This removes the capital and operating costs associated with materials handling from the project and reduces the footprint of the Ferrochrome Processor site. The proximity of the processor to the City will be a key advantage in developing a financially attractive district heating system. Furthermore, the location of the processor will create an opportunity for educational institutions to explore and develop innovative ideas in such areas as alternative raw material storage and the feasibility of replacing coal as a feedstock in the process. These projects will directly contribute to improvements in energy and environmental efficiency, mitigate climate change and support regional power generation opportunities for Matawa Nation.

Locating the Ferrochrome Processor in our community will allow us to add value to our natural resources and create opportunities that will have a long-lasting economic benefit for Northwestern Ontario, including the Matawa and Robinson Superior communities. This development will start to change the social-economic issues in the Northwestern Ontario for all people no matter which

community they live in.

Community support for the project is in part due to the significant employment and economic opportunities that will be generated by this investment. Many supporters also believe that attracting this investment will also contribute to Thunder Bay/Fort William First Nation (TB/FWFN) and the Northwestern Ontario region (NWO) achieving their strategic objectives.

TB/FWFN offers Noront an opportunity to support entrepreneurial development within the First Nation community both in Thunder Bay and NWO. They can play a pivotal role in developing a long-term collaborative business relationship that provides a direct economic and financial benefit to TB/FWFN and Matawa Nation.

We understand that Noront intends to move forward with their development goals in conversation and partnership with local communities, including First Nations, and that it strives to be an industry leader in developing mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal communities. Fort William First Nation and Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission also believe in conversation and partnership as the key to achieving economic prosperity for all communities in Northwestern Ontario.

With that in mind, our proposal provides the opportunity for Noront to partner and collaborate with First Nations, something that the City of Thunder Bay has been doing for a long time.

More recently, in 2010, the City of Thunder Bay established an Aboriginal Liaison Strategy to enhance the well-being of the City's Aboriginal community and improve the quality of life for all citizens. In fact, the Matawa First Nations have confirmed they have 10,342 registered total members, 5,584 on reserve and 4,758 off reserve with most of off-reserve calling Thunder Bay home.

The Matawa First Nations are an integral part of our community and the City is happy to host a number of their organizations including:

- Matawa First Nations Management
- Matawa Education
- Matawa Learning Centre
- Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services
- Four Rivers Environmental Services Group
- Matawa First Nations Property
- Matawa Non-Profit Housing
- Minawshyn Development Corporation.

Over the years, Fort William First Nation and the City of Thunder Bay have worked together with the Matawa First Nations on a number of projects that address a number of social issues, including affordable housing, education/training and employment. The fact that Matawa First Nations are so ingrained in Thunder Bay, any investment like the Ferrochrome Processor that sets as its goal to maximize the economic benefits, employment opportunities and entrepreneurial businesses for the Matawa First Nations must come to Thunder Bay. This will not only help the Matawa First Nation communities around the Ring of Fire mine developments, but also help those Matawa members that are citizens of Thunder Bay.

Maximizing investment for all First Nation Communities will put Noront in an advantageous position.

It is with this record of co-operation and history that FWFN Economic Development and Thunder Bay CEDC have submitted our proposal to Noront, which demonstrates that we are the only logical location to build the Ferrochrome Processor.