



## **INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY AT SCAN!**

### **INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY FUND: NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION**

The Breathing Lands (aka the Ring of Fire ) are located within the vast James Bay boreal lowlands that have sustained the lifeways of Anishinaabe and Anishini peoples for thousands of years. In addition, these lands are a massive carbon storehouse.

The Canadian mining company Noront is the single largest holder of mining claims in the Ring of Fire and the site designated for the proposed “Eagle’s Nest” multi-metal nickel mine, is located in the heart of Neskantaga’s homelands.

When in 2021, the Ontario government rejected a call from several First Nations for a moratorium on further exploration and mineral development pending completion of the environmental assessments, Chiefs of Neskantaga, Eabametoong, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Attawapiskat First Nations, asked the court to ensure the Crown fulfills its duty to consult and accommodate “ in a way that meets Canada’s obligations and commitments towards Indigenous peoples: co-designed and co-implemented with First Nations as full partners”

#### **Why is it important to support the court case?**

SCAN! Supports Neskantaga First Nation in its court case which argues that legitimate consultation is impossible with a community in crisis. They have listed several obstacles: suicides, a decades-long boil water advisory, and the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing them from in-person community decision-making protocols. Neskantaga wants to bring its community together in line with Anishinaabe and Oji-Cree protocols, in order to gather feedback and prepare a meaningful submission

#### **What will the ISF help do?**

SCAN! ISC is treating this issue as a serious climate of the Ford government. (See [Doug Ford’s Climate Crimes/CC 9](#))

SCAN! ISC with Environment Haliburton sponsored a conversation on May 12, 2022, on this issue, which further confirmed that we need to stop and take notice of the high handed, arbitrary actions of the governments and the mining companies.

The ISF donation will go to [the RAVEN campaign](#), which raises funds specifically to support important court challenges affecting Indigenous Rights. RAVEN will earmark these funds for the Neskantaga court challenge.

