



# THE SPRINGPOLE EXPLORER

ISSUE 2 • DECEMBER 2021

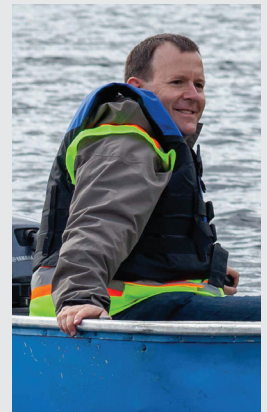
## MESSAGE FROM DAN

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to thank the local communities for your hospitality and time so we could share information about the Springpole Project. I would also like to thank our employees, consultants, and contractors for all their efforts in working safely and treating one another with respect this year. Finally, to the families of our workers who made it possible for them to be able to be away from home for extended periods of time, on behalf of our leadership team, thank you, you are truly appreciated.

On September 30th, 2021, we marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day was and will continue to be important as we seek reconciliation and ensure that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten. For us, it was important that we took time to acknowledge and honour survivors, their families, and communities. In the spirit of reconciliation, First Mining Gold has provided Indigenous Cultural Awareness training to our team. Our hope is that this step will help build further understanding and respect.

With the holiday season upon us, we would like to wish everyone a joyous festive season while enjoying time spent with your loved ones. May the New Year bless you all with health, prosperity, and happiness.

*First Mining Gold is privileged to work on both Treaty 3 & 9 lands, the traditional territory of Ojibway/Chippewa in the Kenora district of northwestern Ontario. As a modern mining company, we are committed to operating responsibly and working closely with local Indigenous communities near our project site.*



**Dan Wilton**  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Director, First Mining Gold

## NEW FACES

### Mark Deans – Community Relations Manager



Mark has spent the last 13 years working in the region at Newmont’s Musselwhite Mine in both community relations and environmental roles. Prior to his career in the mining industry he spent several years working in the forestry sector across northwestern Ontario.

When Mark is not working, he enjoys spending time out on his trapline with his family enjoying the bounties that the land has to offer. He is also a certified trapping instructor who teaches courses in the Thunder Bay area and across the far north region.

### Mark Ridgway – Environmental Coordinator



Mark Ridgway joined the team at the beginning of the summer bringing six years of environmental monitoring and compliance experience in open pit mining from the oil and gas industry in Western Canada.

Growing up in northwestern Ontario, Mark has fostered a love of the outdoors and a desire to preserve the natural resources for future generations. He is excited to be part of the team and to see the project and community partnerships progress.

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# FIRST MINING GOLD IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## SIoux LOOKOUT'S 39TH ANNUAL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

First Mining Gold attended Sioux Lookout's 39th Annual Blueberry Festival's Home, Craft & Trade show. We would like to thank the Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce and its organizers for inviting us to share information about the Springpole Gold Project. We were proud to support the week-long festival that brings entertainment and fun activities to the region.



Workshops for the restoration and preservation of the Mijim language – **The Métis Nation of Ontario**

Peacekeeper's initiative – **Lac Seul First Nation**

Community Indigenous Day Celebration – **Slate Falls Nation**

Ear Falls Family Safety Night – **Municipality of Ear Falls**

Cat Lake Moose Hunt Festival – **Cat Lake First Nation**

Slate Falls Nation's Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament – **Slate Falls Nation**

InclusivACTION Pickle Lake Community Clean up

We love working with communities to make a difference in our region.

## Forest Fire Activity Near Springpole

This past June, forest fires were rampant in northwestern Ontario due to dry conditions and electrical storms. At the peak of the season in mid-July there were more than 130 active fires burning in the region. In early July, an active forest fire within one kilometre of the Springpole camp caused us to suspend operations and evacuate all employees and contractors. Fire crews from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) stayed at our camp to suppress the fire and protect the area.

On August 5, 2021, the MNRF reported that the forest fire was classified as "under control." First Mining Gold would like to express our gratitude to the MNRF firefighters who safely protected the site and saved our infrastructure.



## Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference Update

First Mining Gold received approval of the Springpole Gold Project EA Terms of Reference on November 8 which triggers the formal EA process. We would like to acknowledge all those who provided feedback. Your input helped shape the ToR.

The ToR is the framework for the preparation and review of the Environmental Assessment. It describes:

- The purpose of the proposed project

- Alternative methods for the project and how they will be assessed
- How Indigenous communities, government agencies, public, and stakeholders will be engaged and consulted.

The next step of the EA process requires the submission of a draft EIS/EA in 2022 after consultation with communities.

For more detailed information on the EA process and overview, please visit:

[firstmininggold.com](http://firstmininggold.com)

## THE SPRINGPOLE GOLD PROJECT Timeline at a Glance

**2015** – FMG completes acquisition of Gold Canyon Resources Inc., which wholly-owns the Springpole Gold Project.

**2017** – FMG announces a positive Preliminary Economic Assessment.

**2018** – FMG submitted the Project Description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (now called the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada). Based on the Project Description, a Federal Environmental Assessment was required, and the government issued Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines for the Project.

**2019** – FMG announces the positive results of an updated Preliminary Economic Assessment.

**MARCH 2021** – FMG announces positive pre-feasibility study for the Springpole Gold Project.

**APRIL 2021** – FMG submitted the Project's Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Provincial Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The ToR is the framework for the preparation and review of the provincial Environmental Assessment.

**NOVEMBER 2021** – ToR approved, Environmental Assessment formally underway.

## FAQ: WHY IS THE SPRINGPOLE PROJECT A PROPOSED OPEN PIT MINE?



Gahcho Kué Mine, De Beers Canada 2019

A question First Mining Gold is frequently asked, why is the Springpole Project proposed as an open pit mine; why is an underground mine not an option?

There are a few reasons why an open pit mine is the preferred alternative for the Springpole Project, and why an underground mine is not a viable option.

### The four primary reasons are:

- 1. Safety:** The ore is very friable or crumbly, so it would not support underground access. Tunnel construction would not be feasible in this rock type.
- 2. Economics:** The grade of gold in the ore would need to be much higher (at least 5 gpt (*grams per tonne*)). The Springpole ore is around 1 gpt which is too low to mine economically from underground.
- 3. Type of ore:** The Springpole ore body is one large mass of mineralization as opposed to bands of thin veins in *solid* rock at a depth that can be mined with more selective underground methods. The ore is also near the surface, so underground mining methods would not be suitable for this type of ore body.
- 4. Water management:** The amount of water inflow in an underground working scenario would be challenging to manage with the ore body near surface.

There are several mines in Canada that are similar in nature that have successfully and safely gone into production while achieving a high level of environmental protection. Two examples of this are the Meadowbank Mine and the Gahcho Kué Mine in the Arctic.

## Environmental Baseline Study Update

In addition to the environmental baseline study overview described in our last newsletter, there has been a great deal of environmental baseline work carried out during this past year at the Springpole site to support the EA process.



### This work includes:

- Hydrology – stream flow/lake level monitoring
- Surface and Ground Water Quality monitoring
- Terrestrial Bat Swarming/Hibernacula (shelters that are used by bats through the winter)
- New Air Quality Monitoring station put up at site (two Air quality stations now)
- Aquatics Surface Water Profiles and Plankton/Fish community



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## FIRST MINING GOLD'S SPRINGPOLE PROJECT KEY FACTS

- Our Springpole Gold Project is one of a kind in Canada, with the potential to produce more than 300,000 ounces of gold or more per year. That's more than nine tonnes!
- The expected life of the mine is a minimum of 12 years, providing sustainable employment and long-term community benefits. Approximately 350 job positions will be required at the on-site camp.

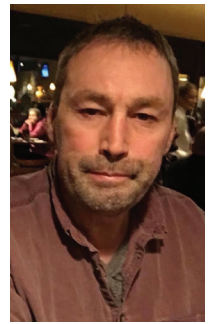
## FACEBOOK PAGE LAUNCH



First Mining Gold is excited to share with you that we now have a Facebook page where we will be sharing exciting updates and information about the Springpole Gold Project. We invite you to check out our page by typing First Mining Gold on your Facebook search bar, please hit the 'like' or 'follow' button to keep receiving updates.

## Project Newsletter Naming Contest

You may have noticed; our newsletter now has a name! Thank you for your participation in our Springpole Project newsletter naming contest. Going forward our newsletter will be known as "The Springpole Explorer." Congratulations to Joel Morin for coming up with the fitting name. This publication will be a great opportunity for us to connect with the people of the region and will be distributed on a quarterly basis.



Joel Morin

## Community Open House Events

First Mining Gold hosted open house events recently in Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Cat Lake First Nation, Slate Falls Nation and in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. These events will continue regularly throughout the EA process. First Mining will be sharing a draft EA in 2022 for feedback on the technical work carried out to assess potential effects and mitigation measures, as well as the projected benefits. Your input will help with our final submission in 2023. At First Mining Gold we are always learning, we look forward to your continued input and participation. Please watch for advertising and follow our Facebook channel to learn about the next community event near you. Come out and learn more about our Springpole Gold Project!

For more information, please contact Mark Deans, Community Relations Manager, First Mining Gold at (807)632-9695 or [markdeans@firstmininggoid.com](mailto:markdeans@firstmininggoid.com)



Fiona Christensen presents at a community open house in Mishkeegogamang Ojibway First Nation



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### If you have questions or comments about the Project, contact us at:

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[firstmininggoid.com](http://firstmininggoid.com)