



# THE SPRINGPOLE EXPLORER

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## RELEASE OF THE 2022 ESG REPORT

First Mining Gold (FMG) published its second annual Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Report for the 2022 year. The ESG Report provides a comprehensive overview of the Company's ESG commitment, practices, and performance. The complete 2022 ESG Report can be viewed and is available for download at: <https://firstmininggold.com/esg/esg-report/>

### 2022 ESG Highlights:

- Published Draft Environmental Assessment
- 30% of full-time employees are female
- 19% of full-time employees self-identify as Indigenous
- zero recordable injury cases
- \$48k toward community investment, \$725k overall capacity support funding for Indigenous communities, including traditional knowledge studies



### 2023 Priorities:

- Springpole Environmental Assessment: Carry out consultation and engagement on draft EIS/EA and receive feedback from government agencies, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders for consideration in the final EIS/EA.
- Indigenous and Community Relations: Continue to support community studies regarding traditional land and resource use. Continue ongoing consultation efforts with Indigenous communities to address comments on the draft EIS/EA, and integrate the interest and comments raised in the final EIS/EA.
- Climate Change & Energy management: Refine predictions of effects on air quality from the proposed project, based on review of the draft EIS/EA, and identify mitigation measures if required.
- Water: Advance mine water management and treatment strategy through development of the final EIS/EA. Complete drogue study as part of hydrometric monitoring to gather additional data on velocity and lake currents.
- Land Use & Biodiversity: Advance concepts for future fish habitat offsetting/compensation options. Develop concepts for caribou habitat restoration, targeting existing disturbed areas in collaboration with Indigenous communities and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Further monitoring to confirm if Lake Sturgeon are present in Springpole Lake or Birch River, addressing Indigenous community interests.

### Corporate Values

- We Are Driven by Integrity, Transparency and Respect
- We Continue to Build Relationships and Partnerships for Future Success
- We Work Responsibly to Achieve Safe and Sustainable Operations at Our Projects
- We Embrace Challenges and Continuously Strive for Optimal Solutions
- We Value the Strength of Our Talented and Diverse Team
- We Respect Our Shareholders' Investment – In Our Projects, in Our People and in the Local Communities Where we Work



## IN THIS ISSUE



Aquatic Environmental DNA (eDNA) Sampling

**PAGE 2**

First Mining Gold In Your Community

**PAGE 3**

National Indigenous Peoples Day Acknowledgement

**PAGE 4**

## SPRINGPOLE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Kelly Keesickquayash, Camp Operations, Environmental**

Kelly Keesickquayash is from Bizhiw Zaaga'iganiwininiwag (Cat Lake) and has been working at the Springpole Project since 2010. During his time at site, Kelly has been involved in many aspects of the project including camp general maintenance, ice road /air strip maintenance, and sewage treatment plant operations. Most recently, Kelly has been assisting the Environment Department with the several environmental assessment baseline studies and water quality monitoring. His extensive knowledge of the Springpole area was especially relied upon during the archeology study, future mine site access route, water sample collection events, and sharing potential spawning locations for the sturgeon eDNA sample program.

When asked why he likes working at Springpole, Kelly said "I like the atmosphere and the people who I work with here. I like the outdoor activities and mentoring the young employees who join First Mining Gold. As well, it is close to the community which allows for good employment opportunities."

When Kelly is not at site, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and catching the occasional Montreal Canadiens game on TV. However, his greatest joy is spending time with his lovely wife, kids, and grandchildren.

## FIELD PROGRAM FEATURE

Representatives from Cat Lake First Nation joined First Mining Gold in the June Surface Water Sampling Program at the Springpole Exploration Camp.



**Left: Abraham Keesickquayash (Cat Lake First Nation), Kevin Shakakeesic (Cat Lake First Nation), Kelly Keesickquayash (FMG), Shane Hayes (FMG), Darren Thompson (FMG)**



**Left: Darren Thomson, Kelly Keesickquayash**

## AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTAL DNA (eDNA) SAMPLING PROGRAM

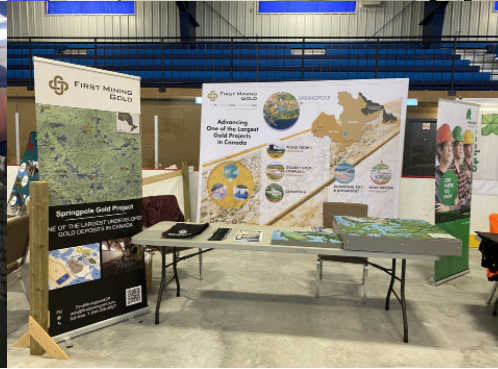
In May of this year, as well as last year, an Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling program was carried out to assess the presence of Lake Sturgeon in Springpole Lake and to incorporate a new line of evidence to corroborate the established fish community, which was derived from conventional fishing methods. The eDNA sampling program is considered non-invasive and does not result in any incidental mortality to fishes. This can be particularly advantageous when investigating relatively sensitive fish species that are less abundant, slow to mature and less resilient to physical capture methods. The eDNA program involved the collection of water samples from multiple locations in the lakes and at representative depths within the water column. The water samples were filtered and preserved on site, then transported to a specialized lab and analyzed using a metabarcoding technique that can identify the presence of multiple species by their individual DNA. This is a new and novel methodology being used in aquatic studies for confirmation of the fish communities, identifying the presence of rare and difficult to capture species, while mitigating the inherent fish mortalities associated with conventional capture methods.

Results of the eDNA metabarcoding completed in 2022 have been consistent with other aquatic studies, demonstrating that when sufficient samples and replicates are collected, the metabarcoding technique successfully identified 100% of the known species in the lake, and when fewer samples were collected, there was still a high percentage of the known community identified. The eDNA sampling completed this year, focused on known historical Lake Sturgeon spawning locations to assess if the sites are currently being used.

# FIRST MINING GOLD IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## Lac Seul First Nation Career Fair

First Mining Gold was pleased to be invited to attend Lac Seul First Nation's 2023 Career Fair on May 10th. It has been their biggest Career Fair event with hosting over 70 companies and businesses, and having over 1000 people attend the event! First Mining Gold looks forward to attending again in 2024!



## Community Engagement

First Mining Gold was in the Township of Ear Falls on May 30th and in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout on May 31st hosting Open Houses for the Springpole Gold Project! First Mining Gold is happy to have had the opportunity to meet with the public to share the findings of the draft Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Assessment (EIS/EA), and to seek input that will help shape the final EIS/EA.



Left: Shane Hayes, Meghan Bertenshaw

## NEW FACES



Jennifer joined the First Mining Gold team in late May 2023. She has spent the last 20 years working in the not-for-profit sector in both the employment and training field, and executive leadership. Prior to her career in the mining industry, she was honored to have devoted the last 15 years working with the Friendship Centre movement, focusing on the unique needs of Urban Indigenous community members. Originally from Newfoundland and Labrador, Jennifer has spent the last 24 years in Northwestern Ontario, in the community of Sioux Lookout, which she considers, "home away from home". When she is not working, she enjoys back country canoeing, fishing, and is an amateur birdwatcher.

Jennifer Thomas, Communications and Community Engagement Lead

## NWO Knights Hockey Team

First Mining Gold would like to give a shoutout to the NWO Knights 2012 Hockey Team for winning the Early Bird Winnipeg Hockey Tournament in the Silver Division! Way to go Knights!



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

3rd Annual Bombers Golf Classic – Sioux Lookout Bombers

Friends and Family Golf Tournament – Ojibway Nation of Saugeen

NWO Knights 2012 Hockey Team – Northwestern Ontario Region

Ear Falls Public Library Computer Replacement – Ear Falls, ON

150th Year Signing Of The Treaty Day – Nootkamegwaning First Nation

First Nations Memorial Classic Slo-Pitch Tournament – Slate Falls Nation

Ignace Golf & Country Club – Ojibway Nation of Saugeen



We love working with communities to make a difference in the Region!

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## National Indigenous Peoples Day

Today June 21, we join in celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. It is a day for all of us to reflect and honour the Indigenous people who inhabit their traditional lands since time immemorial. Today, and every day, all of us at First Mining Gold acknowledges the beauty of the Cultures, the strength in the teachings, and the resilience of past, present and future generations.



Celebrations were in full swing as onlookers enjoyed the Asham Stompers dance the Red River Jig, at National Indigenous Peoples Day in Sioux Lookout, ON.



First Mining Gold staff were honored to attend the June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Sioux Lookout, ON hosted by the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre, and Nishnawbe Gamik Friendship Centre.

You can find us on Facebook at First Mining Gold, please like and follow our page to receive updates about the Springpole Gold Project.



Sign up to our email list by sending your email address to [communityrelations@firstmininggold.com](mailto:communityrelations@firstmininggold.com) to receive important updates, news, and job opportunities!

### SAVE THE DATE!

First Mining Gold will have an information booth set up in Sioux Lookout, ON during the dates below to share information, and answer any questions you may have about this exciting project!

3rd Annual Bombers Golf Classic, Sioux Lookout Golf & Country Club

July 7, 2023

Sioux Lookout Chamber of Commerce 41st Annual Home, Craft & Trade Show - Booth #5

August 3 & 4, 2023

We look forward to seeing you there!

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General Camp Laborer

First Mining Gold is looking for a general camp laborer to join our team to assist with maintenance and daily operations at the Springpole exploration camp. Members of the local communities are encouraged to apply.

For more information, please contact Shelley Frost, Springpole Camp Manager (807) 808-0302 or [shelley@firstmininggold.com](mailto:shelley@firstmininggold.com).



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