Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency | Agence canadienne de développement économique du Nord

Government of Northwest Territories | Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

November 12, 2026

President Paul Urngaut
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
P.O. BOX 638
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0

BY EMAIL

Dear President Paul Urngaut:

Initiation of Consultation by the Governments of the Northwest Territories and Canada on the Environmental Assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (MVEIRB File EA1213-02)

The Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change (GNWT), on behalf of territorial responsible Ministers , and the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, on behalf of federal responsible Ministers, are writing to the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02) (the Project) and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with you, on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT and the Government of Canada on the Review Board's Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA); and
3. Advise you that the Crown is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to assist in fulfilling the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT Department of Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains (GNWT-Infrastructure or the developer) is proposing an all-season highway extending from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik, NT. The Project is undergoing EA by the Review Board under file number EA1213-02. Information on this EA is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

The Project was originally planned to be an all-season highway from Wrigley to the Inuvik, NT area and was referred to EA in 2013. In 2014, the developer reduced the scope to an all-season highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells, NT.

Recently, on March 12, 2026, the Project was referred to the federal Major Projects Office (MPO). Following engagement with the MPO, Indigenous governments in the Dehcho, Sahtu, and

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Gwich'in regions, and discussions with the Review Board, the developer determined that the northern section from Norman Wells to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik, NT should be reintegrated into the Project and assessed as part of a single EA.

On August 14, 2026, the developer asked the Review Board to amend the scope of the EA to include the northern section. On August 20, 2026, the Review Board issued a Notice of Proceeding, indicating its intention to proceed with the EA on the basis of the expanded project scope proposed by the developer. In September and October 2026, the Review Board held community and technical re-scoping meetings to discuss the proposed changes and next steps in the EA process.

The developer is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, as outlined in its letter to you on August 21, 2026. We encourage you to participate in GNWT-Infrastructure's consultation efforts since the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Parallel, but separate, the Government of Canada, facilitated by the Major Projects Office, consulted on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the *Building Canada Act* (BCA). This consultation was carried out with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations whose section 35 rights (*Constitution Act, 1982*) may be adversely affected as part of the listing decision. This consultation process was initiated on June 24, 2026, and the *Canada Gazette* comment period was initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes formally concluded on October 1, 2026. For any questions about the process for listing the MVH as a Project of National Interest under the BCA, please contact: MVH-RVM@mpo-bgp.gc.ca.

Approach to Consultation with Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations on behalf of responsible Ministers

The GNWT and the Government of Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate, where there may be potential adverse impacts on asserted and/or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights resulting from a decision on the Review Board's Report of EA. Where possible, the GNWT and the Government of Canada undertake consultation jointly and rely on the Review Board's EA process as the primary means for assisting the Crown to fulfill its consultation and accommodation obligations related to this decision. For information on the Review Board's approach to engagement and consultation, please refer to the Review Board's Reference Bulletin on consultation and engagement in environmental impact assessment.

Because the GNWT and the Government of Canada rely on the Review Board's process to support Crown Consultation, your participation in this EA is important to help us understand how the Project could affect your established Treaty rights. Your participation will also inform future steps in the Review Board's process, additional consultation that may be required, and

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allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

If you identify any potential adverse impacts to your established Treaty rights with respect to the Project, we ask that you provide the following information to the Review Board:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) might be mitigated or accommodated.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and the Government of Canada actively monitor and track information provided by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations regarding potential adverse impacts to asserted and/or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights. The Crown will give full and thorough consideration to the information you provide during the Review Board's EA process, and during the decision phase, prior to any decision being made. The GNWT and the Government of Canada will share information received with one another, where possible.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's Report of EA, the GNWT and the Government of Canada will also consider the developer's efforts, through its engagement and consultation activities, as reflected in the EA public record, to address and mitigate potential adverse impacts of the Project.

Participant Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on October 16, 2026. The funding is intended to provide resources to facilitate meaningful and informed participation in the Board's assessment process. Although the application is now closed, those who missed the deadline are encouraged to contact the Program at aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry

End of Review Board's Process

At the end of the Review Board's process, the Review Board will issue its Report of EA. At that time, we will ask that you tell us whether the Review Board's conclusions, including any recommended mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, adequately address potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

Before a final decision is made by the federal and territorial responsible Ministers, we will assess whether consultation has been adequate, including how potential adverse impacts to your established Treaty rights have been considered, and whether accommodation of any outstanding concern(s) you may have is appropriate. Your views will help inform our decision making.

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The developer will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's Report of EA.

Government of Canada and GNWT contacts

The Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management within the Department of Environment and Climate Change is the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the EA, as delegated by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, or Alison Heslep, Manager, Project Assessment Branch, at ECC_IASM@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24021.

NPMO is the Crown consultation coordinator for the Government of Canada for the EA. If you have any questions for the Government of Canada, please contact Shannon Allerston, A/ Project Director, at shannon.allerston@cannor.gc.ca or 867-445-7230.

If you have designated someone to act as the primary contact, who is mandated and authorized to coordinate this consultation process on behalf of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, please send a letter from your elected leader confirming their name, contact information, and mandate to the Government of Canada and GNWT contacts identified in this letter, by December 16, 2026.

Sincerely,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:07:21 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

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Duwayne Williams
Regional Director General – Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Kilikvak (Karen) Kabloona
Chief Executive Officer, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

David Nivingalok
Acting President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Chairperson
Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association

Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency | Agence canadienne de développement économique du Nord

Government of Northwest Territories | Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

November 18, 2026

Chief Franklin Patterson
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
P.O. BOX 220
MAYO YT Y0B 1M0

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Franklin Patterson,

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The Government of the Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change (GNWT), on behalf of territorial responsible Ministers, and the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, on behalf of federal RMs, are writing to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02) (the Project) and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
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If you have designated someone to act as the primary contact, who is mandated and authorized to coordinate this consultation process on behalf of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, please send a letter from your elected leader confirming their name, contact information, and mandate to the Government of Canada and GNWT contacts identified in this letter, by December 16,2026.

Sincerely,

Jokela, Anneli Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli Date: 2026.11.18 10:08:07 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

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McGarry Selbee
Executive Director, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

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