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 Eugene Hope
Acho Dene Koe First Nation
GENERAL DELIVERY
FORT LIARD NT X0G 0A0

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Eugene Hope:

Negha Da gǫndıh

Continuation 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 Acho Dene Koe First Nation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

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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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. Your participation in this EA is important to help us understand how the Project could affect your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Your participation will also inform future steps in the Review Board's process, additional consultation that may be required, and allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and identify any potential adverse impacts to your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights with respect to the Project, we ask that you provide the following information to the Review Board:

.../3

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.

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 asserted Aboriginal and 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 asserted Aboriginal and 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.

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 Acho Dene Koe First Nation, please send

…/4

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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:00:17 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Acho Dene Koe First Nation initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

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A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gaeleen MacPherson
Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

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Spencer Dewar
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Andrew Randall
Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
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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

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Boyd Clark
General Manager, Acho Dene Koe First Nation

Mandy Cormier
Band Manager and Director of Operations, Acho dene Koe First Nation

Government of Northwest Territories Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

Chief Eugene Hope
Acho Dene Koe First Nation
GENERAL DELIVERY
FORT LIARD NT X0G 0A0

Dear Chief Eugene Hope,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

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Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

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How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

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Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Boyd Clark
Advisor/Band Manager
Acho Dene Koe First Nation

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Rinaldo Jeanty
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Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Ron Pankratz
A/Regional Director General
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

President David Codzi
Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
P.O. BOX 43
COLVILLE LAKE NT XOE 1L0

BY EMAIL

Dear President David Codzi:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Ayoni Keh Land Corporation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Ayoni Keh Land Corporation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

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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 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.

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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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

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a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), and
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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

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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.

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

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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 Ayoni Keh Land Corporation, please

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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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:01:08 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

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Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Joseph Kochon
Director, Ayoni Keh Land Corporation

David Little
Executive Director, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Justin Grandjambe
Land and Resources Advisor, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ruby Takazo
Executive Assistant, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President Joseph Kochon
Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
PO BOX 43
COLVILLE LAKE NT X0E 1L0

Dear President Joseph Kochon,

by EMAIL

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Purpose of this letter

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2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Ayoni Keh Land Corporation on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA); and
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When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

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The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

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Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Valerie Gordon
Government Relations/Resource Manager
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Director
Ayoni Keh Land Corporation

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman
A/Regional Director, Ecosystem Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mary Taylor
Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands and Mineral Sector
Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Ron Pankratz
A/Regional Director General
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

ʔekw'ahtı̨dǝ́ Kirk Dolpus
Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government
P.O. BOX 156
DÉLĮNĘ, NT, X0E 0G0

BY EMAIL

Dear ʔek'wahtı̨dǝ́ Kirk Dolpus:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

.../2

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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

…/3

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.

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.

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 Dél̨ı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government, 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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:01:47 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Délı̨nę Got'ınę Government initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Richard Vermette
A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gaeleen MacPherson
Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

Ron Pankratz
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Spencer Dewar
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Andrew Randall
Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Paulina Roche
Chief Executive Officer, Délı̨nę Got'ınę Government

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox
Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Délı̨ne Got'ı̨nę Government

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

ʔekw'ahtı̨dǝ̀ Danny Gaudet
Dél̨ı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government
PO BOX 156
DÉL̨ı̨NĘ NT X0E 0G0

Dear ʔekw'ahtı̨dǝ̀ Danny Gaudet,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Dél̨ı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

.../2

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

.../3

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

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Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
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Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, PhD
Director, Intergovernmental Relations
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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

President Aurora McNeely
Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation
P.O. BOX 11
FORT GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

BY EMAIL

Dear President Aurora McNeel:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

.../2

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 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, is 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

…/3

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.

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.

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 Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54

Land Corporation, 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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:02:40 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

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Chief of Staff

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Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

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Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

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David Little
Executive Director, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Justin Grandjambe
Land and Resources Advisor, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ruby Takazo
Executive Assistant, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President Aurora McNeely
Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation
PO BOX 11
FORT GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

Dear President Aurora McNeely,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

.../2

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Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

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.../3

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

.../4

Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
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Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
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Valerie Gordon
Government Relations/Resource Manager
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Office Manager
Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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Mary Taylor
Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands and Mineral Sector
Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Ron Pankratz
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Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

President Arnold Gaudet
Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation
P.O. BOX 36
TULITA NT X0E 0K0

BY EMAIL

Dear President Arnold Gaudet:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

.../2

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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

…/3

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.

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.

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 Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation,

…/4

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

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli
Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:03:17 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Fort Norman Métis Community initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Richard Vermette
A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gaeleen MacPherson
Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

Ron Pankratz
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Lindsay Norwegian
Vice President, Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation

Nadine Gauvin
Executive Director, Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation

David Little
Executive Director, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Justin Grandjambe
Land and Resources Advisor, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ruby Takazo
Executive Assistant, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President Lindsay Norwegian
Fort Norman Métis Community
PO BOX 36
TULITA NT X0E 0K0

Dear President Lindsay Norwegian,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Fort Norman Métis Community on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

.../2

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

.../3

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

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Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

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Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

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Deputy Minister
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Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Judith Wright Bird
Executive Director
Fort Norman Métis Community

Valerie Gordon
Government Relations/Resource Manager
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Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
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JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

Interim Chief Shirley Lamalice
Kátł'odeeche First Nation
P.O. BOX 3060
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G4

BY EMAIL

Dear Interim Chief Shirley Lamalice

Negha Da gǫndıh:

Continuation 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 Kátł'odeeche First Nation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Kátł'odeeche First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

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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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. Your participation in this EA is important to help us understand how the Project could affect your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Your participation will also inform future steps in the Review Board's process, additional consultation that may be required, and allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and identify any potential adverse impacts to your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights with respect to the Project, we ask that you provide the following information to the Review Board:

…/3

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.

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 asserted Aboriginal and 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 asserted Aboriginal and 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.

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 Kátł'odeeche First Nation, please send

…/4

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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:03:55 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Kátł'odeeche First Nation initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

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The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
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Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

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

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Memory Murefu
Chief Executive Officer, Kátł'odeeche First Nation

Shelly Rahme
Lead Negotiator, Kátł'odeeche First Nation

Government of Northwest Territories Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

Chief April Martel
Kátł'odeeche First Nation
PO BOX 3060
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G4

Dear Chief April Martel,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Kátł'odeeche First Nation on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

.../2

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

.../3

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

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Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Alex Gresl
Chief Executive Officer
Kátł'odeeche First Nation

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman
A/Regional Director, Ecosystem Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mary Taylor
Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands and Mineral Sector
Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
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Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

President Marc Whitford
North Slave Métis Alliance
P.O. BOX 2301
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P7

BY EMAIL

Dear President Whitford:

Continuation 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 North Slave Métis Alliance to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the North Slave Métis Alliance on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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

.../2

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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. Your participation in this EA is important to help us understand how the Project could affect your asserted section 35 rights. Your participation will also inform future steps in the Review Board's process, additional consultation that may be required, and allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and identify any potential adverse impacts to your asserted section 35 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;

…/3

b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) might be mitigated or accommodated.

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 asserted section 35 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 asserted section 35 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.

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 North Slave Métis Alliance, 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.

Merci,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 09:25:13 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to the North Slave Métis Alliance initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

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Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

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Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

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Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

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Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Alan Harman Jr.
Vice-President, North Slave Métis Alliance

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President Marc Whitford
North Slave Métis Alliance
PO BOX 2301
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P7

Dear President Marc Whitford,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the North Slave Métis Alliance on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

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Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your asserted Aboriginal rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

.../3

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your asserted Aboriginal rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your asserted Aboriginal rights.

.../4

Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your asserted Aboriginal rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
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Deputy Minister
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Alan Harman Jr.
Vice President
North Slave Métis Alliance

Debra Young
Administrative Assistant
North Slave Métis Alliance

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman
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Mary Taylor
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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

Grand Chief Wilbert Kochon
Sahtu Dene Council
P.O. BOX 173
DÉLĮNÉ NT X0E 0G0

BY EMAIL

Dear Grand Chief Wilbert Kochon,

Negha Da gǫht'e:

Continuation 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 Sahtu Dene Council to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Sahtu Dene Council on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

.../2

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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. Your participation in this EA is important to help us understand how the Project could affect your residual established Treaty 11 rights. Your participation will also inform future steps in the Review Board's process, additional consultation that may be required, and allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and identify any potential adverse impacts to your residual established Treaty 11 rights with respect to the Project, we ask that you provide the following information to the Review Board:

…/3

a. The specific Treaty 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.

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 residual established Treaty 11 rights identified by the Sahtu Dene Council during the consultation process.

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 residual established Treaty 11 rights identified by the Sahtu Dene Council have been considered, and whether accommodation of any outstanding concern(s) you may have is appropriate. Your views will help inform our decision making.

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 Sahtu Dene Council, 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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:04:32 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Sahtu Dene Council initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

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The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

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Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

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Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

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Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

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Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

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

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Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Brenda Baton
Executive Director, Sahtu Dene Council

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

Brenda Baton
Sahtu Dene Council
PO BOX 173
DÉLĮNĘ NT X0E 0G0

Dear Brenda Baton,

by EMAIL

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

Thank you for your October 13, 2023 response to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT's) October 13, 2023 request to identify a main point of contact for consultation correspondence by the GNWT and the Government of Canada (Canada) on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (MVIERB File EA1213-02).

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Sahtu Dene Council on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT and Canada regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

.../2

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights.

.../3

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

.../4

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Grand Chief Wilbert Kochon
Sahtu Dene Council

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman
A/Regional Director, Ecosystem Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mary Taylor
Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands and Mineral Sector
Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Ron Pankratz
A/Regional Director General
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

Chairperson Charles McNeely
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
PO BOX 155
DÉLĮNĘ NT X0E 0G0

BY EMAIL

Dear Chairperson Charles McNeely:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Sahtu Secretariat Inc. to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

.../2

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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

…/3

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.

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.

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 Sahtu Secretariat Inc., 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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 09:58:58 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Richard Vermette
A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gaeleen MacPherson
Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

Ron Pankratz
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Spencer Dewar
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Andrew Randall
Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

David Little
Executive Director, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Justin Grandjambe
Land and Resources Advisor, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ruby Takazo
Executive Assistant, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

Chairperson Charles McNeely
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
PO BOX 155
DÉLĮNĘ NT X0E 0G0

Dear Chairperson Charles McNeely,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

.../2

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In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

.../3

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
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Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

.../4

Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

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Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
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Principal Secretary

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Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Valerie Gordon
Government Relations/Resource Manager
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman
A/Regional Director, Ecosystem Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

President Sherry Hodgson
The Tłegǫ̀hłı̨ Got'ı̨nę Government Incorporated
P.O. BOX 69
NORMAN WELLS NT X0E 0V0

BY EMAIL

Dear President Sherry Hodgson:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 The Tłegǫ̀hłı̨ Got'ı̨nę Government Incorporated to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

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Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

…/3

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), and
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Participant Funding

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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.

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

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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 The Tłegǫ̀hłı̨ Got'ı̨nę Government

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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 10:05:23 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to the The Tłegǫ̀hłı Got'ınę Government Incorporated initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

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Premier

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Chief of Staff

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Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

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Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Andrew Randall
Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Paul Tan
Executive Director, The Tlegohli Got'ine Government Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President Sherry Hodgson
Norman Wells Land Corporation (Tłegǫ̀hłı Got'ınę Government)
PO BOX 69
NORMAN WELLS NT X0E 0V0

Dear President Sherry Hodgson,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Norman Wells Land Corporation (Tłegǫ̀hłı Got'ınę Government) on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

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Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

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How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

.../4

Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Paul Tan
Executive Director
Norman Wells Land Corporation (Tłegǫ̀hłı̨ Got'ı̨nę Government)

Valerie Gordon
Government Relations/Resource Manager
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Joanna Ankersmit
Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Hilary Oakman
A/Regional Director, Ecosystem Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mary Taylor
Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands and Mineral Sector
Natural Resources Canada

Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Ron Pankratz
A/Regional Director General
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty
Tłı̨chǫ Government
P.O. BOX 412
Behchokǫ̀ NT X0E 0Y0

BY EMAIL

Dear Grand Chief Lafferty:

Edànet'e

Update 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 Tłı̨chǫ Government to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

On October 13, 2023, the GNWT sent a Delegation letter to identify potential joint consultation obligations to the Tłı̨chǫ Government (see letter attached), regarding the Project EA and the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

At that time, the Tłı̨chǫ Government indicated that it did not intend to be actively involved in the Project because it is outside of Mǫwhì Gogha Dè Nı̨ı̨tłèè and it did not anticipate impacts within Mǫwhì Gogha Dè Nı̨ı̨tłèè. Although the expansion of the Project does not change its proximity to Mǫwhì Gogha Dè Nı̨ı̨tłèè, the GNWT and the Government of Canada remain open to engaging in consultation with the Tłı̨chǫ Government should it wish to revisit its position or share any views on the Project.

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.

.../2

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 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 continues to lead engagement on project design and construction matters, should the Tłı̨chǫ Government identify any concerns it wishes to raise.

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.

The Crown's approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

Should the Tłı̨chǫ Government choose to participate in EA1213-02 at any point, the GNWT and the Government of Canada would rely, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. Any input the Tłı̨chǫ Government chooses to provide would inform future steps in the Review Board's process and any consultation that may be required.

If you do 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.

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 reach out if interested in participant funding. 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, the Crown will consider 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 asserted and/or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

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.

Masì,

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Jokela, Anneli Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli Date: 2026.11.18 09:26:41 -06'00'

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories to the Tłı̨chǫ Government identifying potential joint consultation obligations for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), October 13, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Richard Vermette
A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gaeleen MacPherson
Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

Ron Pankratz
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Spencer Dewar
Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Andrew Randall
Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

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

…/5

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Jason Snaggs
Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer, Tłı̨chǫ Government

Grace Mackenzie
Director, Department of Planning and Partnerships, Tłı̨chǫ Government

Antonia Dryneck
Acting Manager of Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Planning and Partnerships
Tłı̨chǫ Government

October 13, 2023

Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty
Tłı̨chǫ Government
PO BOX 412
BEHCHOKǪ̀ NT X0E 0Y0

Dear Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty:

Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (MVEIRB File EA1213-02)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is initiating a joint Aboriginal consultation process with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the proposed **Mackenzie Valley Highway Project, EA1213-02** (the Project) which was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for environmental assessment in 2013.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

Multiple GNWT ministers will be responsible ministers on the Review Board's recommendation as to whether the proposed Project should proceed or not. Therefore, the GNWT must fulfill its duty to consult with your Indigenous government or Indigenous organization for those aspects of the responsible ministers' decision within the GNWT's jurisdiction. This consultation and potential future accommodation will be in relation to those matters identified by your Indigenous government and/or Indigenous organization during the environmental assessment process which have the potential to cause adverse impacts on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights.

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The GNWT will work closely with the Government of Canada throughout the environmental assessment and decision processes and will coordinate Aboriginal consultation processes where possible.

As you may be aware, the Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is initiating a separate Aboriginal consultation process to fulfill its duty to consult with Indigenous peoples and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project.

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

I am responsible for GNWT-wide consultation processes related to Environmental Assessments. I have delegated to Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project. I have also tasked Lorraine Seale with the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada. Lorraine Seale can be reached by email at Lorraine_Seale@gov.nt.ca and by telephone at 867-767-9180, ext. 24020.

At this time, I ask that you please identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on the Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by your government or organization. We would appreciate it if you could forward this information to Lorraine Seale prior to **November 30, 2023.**

Shortly, the GNWT and Canada will jointly send a letter with more detail to continue this consultation on the Project. That letter will discuss:

a) details of how the consultation will proceed using the Review Board's process;
b) potential funding for participation in this EA; and
c) any other noteworthy matters in relation to the consultation process.

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If you have questions or would like to discuss the Project, Lorraine Seale would be pleased to follow up with you or your staff.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Shane Thompson
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

c. Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

Honourable Diane Archie
Minister
Infrastructure

Shaleen Woodward
Principal Secretary

Martin Goldney
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Steve Loutitt
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure

Joanne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

.../4

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Bertha Rabesca Zoe
Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer
Tłı̨chǫ Government

Itoah Scott-Enns
Director, Department of Planning and Partnerships
Tłı̨chǫ Government

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

President Clarence Campbell
Tulít'a Land Corporation
P.O. BOX 63
TULITA NT XOE OKO

BY EMAIL

Dear President Clarence Campbell:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Tulít'a Land Corporation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Tulít'a Land Corporation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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.

.../2

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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

As you continue to participate in the EA and 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:

…/3

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.

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.

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 Tulít'a Land Corporation, please send a

…/4

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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli Date: 2026.11.18 10:05:51 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Tulita Land Corporation initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Richard Vermette
A/Director General, Environmental Protection Operations Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Gaeleen MacPherson
Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

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Regional Director General, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

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Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

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Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Alain Gagnon
A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Lorraine Doctor
Executive Director, Tulít'a Land Corporation

David Little
Executive Director, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Justin Grandjambe
Land and Resources Advisor, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ruby Takazo
Executive Assistant, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President David Menacho
Tulita Land Corporation
PO BOX 63
TULITA NT X0E 0K0

Dear President David Menacho,

by EMAIL

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

Thank you for your November 2, 2023 response to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT's) October 13, 2023 request to identify a main point of contact for consultation correspondence by the GNWT and the Government of Canada (Canada) on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (MVIERB File EA1213-02).

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Tulita Land Corporation on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT and Canada regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

.../2

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea1213-02.

In addition to the joint territorial and federal consultation process for the environmental assessment of the Project, the Department of Infrastructure is conducting its own separate consultation process with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department of Infrastructure, as a government entity developer, has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from constructing and operating the Project. We encourage you to participate in the Department of Infrastructure's consultation efforts because the developer is best placed to address concerns related to project design and construction.

Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

The GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government on the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment. The GNWT and Canada rely on the Review Board's process as the primary means to fulfill our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the environmental assessment of the Project. By relying on the Review Board's process, we integrate the Review Board's interim engagement and consultation policy (https://reviewboard.ca/reference-library-page/policies-and-standards) with our approach.

In reaching our decision on the Review Board's recommendation, we will also consider the developer's efforts to hear, through its engagement and consultation activities, how the Project could have potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights.

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT and Canada actively monitor and track all statements of adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights made by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. Canada and the GNWT share information received with each other, including information received by the GNWT in its role as developer.

How to participate?

In addition to participating in the developer's consultation efforts, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the environmental assessment, understand how the Project could affect you; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When raising adverse impacts, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific right(s) that may potentially be adversely impacted;
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impact(s) could best be mitigated.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's environmental assessment process or received by the GNWT or Canada during the decision phase of the environmental assessment process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT and Canada.

Funding

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada closed a Northern Participant Funding Program call for applications on November 2, 2023. 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 reach out if interested in participant funding. Additional information is available on the Review Board's public registry.

.../4

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT and Canada will send you another letter. At that time, we will want to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any measures and the developer's commitments, provides meaningful accommodation to any potential adverse impact(s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

The Department of Infrastructure (the developer for the Project) will be excluded from the internal government decision-making process on the Review Board's recommendation but may be required to provide additional information to the decision makers if requested to do so under the provisions of the MVRMA.

Canada and GNWT contacts

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will be the consultation coordinator for Canada for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for Canada, please contact Krista Magee, A/Senior Project Manager, at krista.magee@cannor.gc.ca or 867-334-4565.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Premier

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Principal Secretary

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Chantal Roberge
National Director, Environmental Health Program
Health Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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

President Joseph Tobac
Yamoga Lands Corporation
P.O. BOX 18
FORT GOOD HOPE NT XOE OHO

BY EMAIL

Dear President Joseph Tobac:

Negha Da gǫht'e

Continuation 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 Yamoga Lands Corporation to advise that the scope of the environmental assessment (EA) of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project) is being expanded to include the construction of an all-season highway from Wrigley to a connection with the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

The GNWT and the Government of Canada initiated consultation with the Yamoga Lands Corporation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of EA, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This consultation process continues and is not interrupted by the recent changes to the Project and EA scope.

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..

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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 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.

Your continued participation in EA1213-02 is important to us

The GNWT and the Government of Canada are relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate. The GNWT and the Government of Canada invite your continued participation in the Review Board's EA process and any related engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the developer. 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 allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and federal and territorial responsible Ministers.

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As you continue to participate in the EA and 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.

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.

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.

…/4

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 Yamoga Lands Corporation, 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.

Máhsı,

Jokela, Anneli

Digitally signed by Jokela, Anneli
Date: 2026.11.18 09:59:42 -06'00'

Jaida Ohokannoak
Acting Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. Letter from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada to Yamoga Land Corporation initiating consultation for the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (EA1213-02), November 10, 2023.

c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
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Chief of Staff

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Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

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Director, Chemicals and Environmental Health Management Bureau, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada

Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region, Transport Canada

.../6

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

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Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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A/Senior Project Manager, Northern Projects Management Office

Jacinta Grandjambe
Executive Assistant, Yamoga Lands Corporation

David Little
Executive Director, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Justin Grandjambe
Land and Resources Advisor, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ruby Takazo
Executive Assistant, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

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

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

November 10, 2023

President Edwin Erutse
Yamoga Land Corporation
PO BOX 18
FORT GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

Dear President Edwin Erutse,

by EMAIL

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

Purpose of this letter

The purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the upcoming steps of the environmental assessment process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate formal Crown consultation with the Yamoga Land Corporation on the future decision that will be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada (Canada) regarding the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the Project). The decision, made at the end of the environmental assessment, will be in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, 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 fulfill the Crown's duty to consult, and if appropriate, accommodate.

Background on the Project

The GNWT's Department of Infrastructure, acting as the developer, is proposing to advance the Project, construction and operation of a 321 km all-season gravel highway, between Wrigley and Norman Wells. The GNWT referred the Project to environmental assessment in 2013. The Review Board issued the current Terms of Reference for the Project in 2015. The Department of Infrastructure has reinitiated the Review Board's environmental assessment process with the submission of the GNWT's Developer's Assessment Report on October 12, 2023.

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Your views will inform the Responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that were not meaningfully accommodated, the applicable ministers within the GNWT and Canada will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is meaningful. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure, as the developer, will not participate in this assessment.

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Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security Management

Lisa Dyer
Director General
Northern Projects Management

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Environment and Climate Change Canada

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Lands and Mineral Sector
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Shari Currie
Director General, Prairie and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

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