



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Michael V. McLeod

Member of Parliament/Député
Northwest Territories/Territoires du Nord-Ouest

June 18, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I write to you in strong support of the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MWH), which is presently an all-season 690km highway from northern Alberta to Wrigley, Northwest Territories. Historically, the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road has been constructed from Wrigley north to the Sahtu region in order to provide essential cargo to northern communities. In previous summers, barges have been able to transport fresh food, business supplies, construction materials and fuel to otherwise isolated communities. These solutions are no longer sustainable as the North faces the realities of climate change firsthand, seeing shorter winters and lower water levels.

This year, water levels in the Mackenzie River have reached record lows, resulting in the cancellation of the 2024 barging season to the Sahtu region. Communities are now left to organize their own transportation of goods, causing residents to bear the costs associated with that transportation. Businesses will suffer and basic groceries will increase beyond the high prices that residents are already paying. The Sahtu region, among others in the territory, cannot keep relying on barges and short winter road seasons to provide vital resources to communities. A climate crisis point has been reached and it is now time to commit to the construction of an extension to the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

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The construction of the additional section of highway into the Sahtu region will be a permanent, all-season solution for the residents of Northern communities. Along with improving the quality of life for residents, it will also provide them with better access to government services like health care and educational resources, reduce the cost of living, and promote economic opportunities.

The MVH should be one of federal government's top infrastructure priorities. Its location will be crucial to Canada's arctic sovereignty and defense operations, it will promote the use of green energy, and it will provide opportunities for local economic development and access to natural resources in the region.

I request that this project is completed in collaboration with the Sahtu Dene and Metis, who have continuously supported the extension of the MVH from Wrigley to Inuvik, NT, and have requested that this extension be a top funding priority.

For nearly 60 years, stakeholders in the Northwest Territories have understood the benefits of the construction of the MVH. As the world continues to face the climate crisis, there is no better time to invest in the security of the North and create a permanent infrastructure solution. The health of our communities and of the residents of the Northwest Territories depends on this highway.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. This project is a priority of mine and I have publicly advocated for its completion since I became an MP. I am hoping for your support to help complete the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Please contact me if you if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, identifying the sender as Michael V. McLeod.

Michael V. McLeod, M.P.