



September 18, 2026

Chief Michael Vandell
Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation
P.O. BOX 200
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0
chief@dehgahgotie.ca

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Michael Vandell

Negha Dágondih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Deh Gáh Got'ie 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachments

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation, dated November 10, 2023.
Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).
- 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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate
Change

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and Supply Chains

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Protection Operations Directorate,
Environment and Climate Change Canada

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

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact Review Board

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

November 10, 2023

Chief Michael Vandell
Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation
PO BOX 200
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

Dear Chief Michael Vandell,

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 Deh Gáh Got'ie 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.

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.

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.

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**

**Greg Nylu
Executive Director
Deh Gáh Got'ıę 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,
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



September 18, 2026

Grand Chief Herb Norwegian
Dehcho First Nations
P.O. BOX 89
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0
Herb_Norwegian@dehcho.org

BY EMAIL

Dear Grand Chief Norwegian,

Negha Dágoᑎdih,

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Background on the Project

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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, is currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights with respect to the Project, we ask that you provide the following information to the Review Board:

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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 asserted and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Dehcho First Nations, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachments

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Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).
- c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Chief Michael Vandell
Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation

President Albert J. Lafferty
Fort Providence Métis Nation

President Shane Kwasney
The Métis Association Local 52- Fort
Simpson, NWT

Chief Kele Antoine
Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation

Chief Lloyd Chicot
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

Chief Devon Felker
West Point First Nation

Chief Melanie Norwegian-Menacho
Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı́) First
Nation

Chief Dolphus Jumbo
Sambaa K'e First Nation

Chief Jesse Nekeneyia-Moses
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation

Chief Steve Vital
Nahanni Butte Dene Band

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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and
Climate Change

Dora Tsetso
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Greg Nyuli
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First Nation

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Association Local 52 – Fort Simpson,
N.W.T.

Derek Squirrel
Executive Director, Łíídlı́ Kúé First
Nation

Ruby Simba
Council Manager, Ka'a'gee Tu First
Nation

Wendy Domes
Band Manager, West Point First
Nation

Erma Norwegian

Acting Senior Administrative Officer, Jean
Marie River (Tłtshets'éhk'édélj) First Nation

Ruby Jumbo
Band Manager, Sambaa K'e First Nation

Melissa Hardisty
Senior Administrative Officer, Pehdzéh Kí
First Nation

Soham Srimani
Band Manager, Nahanni Butte Dene Band

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

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

Vacant
Executive Director, Fort Providence Métis
Nation

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

Ron Pankratz

Regional Director General, Crown-
Indigenous Relations and Northern
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Andrew Randall
Regional Director, Aquatic
Ecosystems, Arctic Region, Fisheries
and Oceans Canada

Miranda MacPherson
Director, Chemicals and
Environmental Health Management
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Vera Haslett
Regional Director, Programs, Ontario,
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Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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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

November 10, 2023

Grand Chief Herb Norwegian
Dehcho First Nations
PO BOX 89
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0

Dear Grand Chief Herb 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 Dehcho First Nations 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.

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Our approach to consultation with Indigenous Peoples

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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.

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**

**Alison de Pelham
Executive Director
Dehcho First Nations**

**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



September 18, 2026

President Albert J. Lafferty
Fort Providence Métis Nation
P.O. BOX 319
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0
albertjlafferty@gmail.com

BY EMAIL

Dear President Albert J. Lafferty,

Negha Dágoᑎdih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Fort Providence Métis 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Fort Providence Métis Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Providence Métis Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Fort Providence Métis Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).
- 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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate
Change

Vacant
Executive Director, Fort Providence Métis
Nation

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

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

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural Resources and
Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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

Ron Pankratz
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

Vera Haslett
Regional Director, Programs, Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

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

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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



Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement économique du Nord



November 10, 2023

President Clifford McLeod
Fort Providence Métis Council
PO BOX 319
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

Dear President Clifford McLeod,

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 Providence Métis Council 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.

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.

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
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**Dr. Erin Kelly
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change**

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**Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
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**Pearl Leishman
Executive Director
Fort Providence Métis Council**

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Shari Currie
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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



September 18, 2026

Chief Melanie Norwegian-Menacho
Jean Marie River (Tthets'ėhk'édėł) First Nation
GENERAL DELIVERY
JEAN MARIE RIVER NT X0E ON0
chief@jmrfn.com

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Melanie Norwegian-Menacho,

Negha Dágondih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Jean Marie River (Tthets'ėhk'édėł) 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Jean Marie River (Tthets'ėhk'édėł) First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı) First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsı,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı) First Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).
- c. Distribution List

Distribution List

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

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Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

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Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister,
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate
Change

Erma Norwegian
Acting Senior Administrative Officer, Jean
Marie River (Tłtshésh'éhk'édélı) First Nation

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

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

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural Resources and
Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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

Ron Pankratz
Regional Director General, Crown-
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Health Management Bureau, Healthy
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Branch, Health Canada

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

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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

November 10, 2023

Acting Chiefs Carla Norwegian and Ariel Sanguez
Jean Marie River (Ttthets'éhk'édél) First Nation
GENERAL DELIVERY
JEAN MARIE RIVER NT XOE ONO

Dear Acting Chiefs Carla Norwegian and Ariel Sanguez,

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 Jean Marie River (Ttthets'éhk'édél) 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.

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.

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.

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

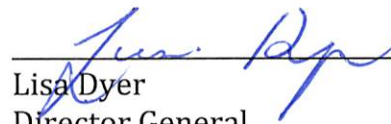
The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca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

**Tom Matus
Senior Administrative Officer
Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édél) 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,
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



September 18, 2026

Chief Lloyd Chicot
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
P.O. BOX 4428
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G3
kaageetu_chief@northwestel.net

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Lloyd Chicot,

Negha Dágoᑎdih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Ka'a'gee Tu 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate
Change

Ruby Simba
Council Manager, Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

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

Rinaldo Jeanty
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of
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Resources Canada

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural Resources and
Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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

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

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

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

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Health Management Bureau, Healthy
Environments and Consumer Safety
Branch, Health Canada

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Regional Director, Programs, Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

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

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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

November 10, 2023

Chief Lloyd Chicot
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
PO BOX 4428
HAY RIVER NT X0E 1G3

Dear Chief Lloyd Chicot,

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 Ka'a'gee Tu 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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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.

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
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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 asserted Aboriginal and 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 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

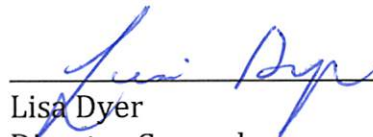
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Sincerely,



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
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**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**

**Ruby Simba
Council Manager
Ka'a'gee Tu 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,
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



September 18, 2026

Chief Kele Antoine
Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation
P.O. BOX 469
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0
chief@liidliikue.com

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Kele Antoine,

Negha Dágondıh,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Łíídlı́ Kúé 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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, is currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Łíídlı Kúé First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Łíídlı Kúé First Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

- 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

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

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Indigenous Affairs

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Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate
Change

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

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

Derek Squirrel
Executive Director, Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural Resources and
Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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

Ron Pankratz
Regional Director General, Crown-
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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

Vera Haslett
Regional Director, Programs, Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

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

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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

November 10, 2023

Chief Kele Antoine
Łíídlı Kúé First Nation
PO BOX 469
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0

Dear Chief Kele Antoine,

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 Łíídlı Kúé 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.

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.

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.

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

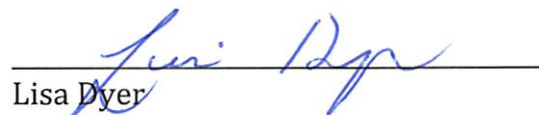
The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca 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
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**Liza McPherson
Executive Director
Łíídlı́ Kúé 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
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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



September 18, 2026

Chief Steve Vital
Nahanni Butte Dene Band
GENERAL DELIVERY
NAHANNI BUTTE NT X0E 2N0
chiefsteve.nbdb@gmail.com ; chiefvital@nahadehe.ca

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Steve Vital

Negha Dágondih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Nahanni Butte Dene Band 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Nahanni Butte Dene Band on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Nahanni Butte Dene Band, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

c. Distribution List

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Band Manager, Nahanni Butte Dene Band

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Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

Elliot Holland
Consultant, Nahanni Butte Dene Band

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

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
Regional Director General – Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
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Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact Review Board

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

November 10, 2023

Chief Steve Vital
Nahanni Butte Dene Band
GENERAL DELIVERY
NAHANNI BUTTE NT X0E 2N0

Dear Chief Steve Vital,

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 (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 Nahanni Butte Dene Band 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.

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 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.

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.

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

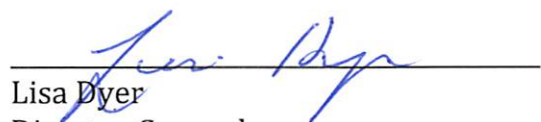
The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca 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
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**Soham Srimani
Acting Band Manager
Nahanni Butte Dene Band**

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Director General, Natural Resources and Environment Branch
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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



September 18, 2026

Chief Jesse Nekeneyia-Moses
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation
P.O. BOX 56
WRIGLEY NT X0E 1E0
chief@pkfn.ca

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Jesse Nekeneyia-Moses

Negha Dágondih, Negha Dágqht'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 (RMs), are writing to the Pehdzéh Kí 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Pehdzéh Kí First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Pehdzéh Kí First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsí,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Pehdzéh Kí First Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

- 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
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Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy
Minister, Executive and Indigenous
Affairs

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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and
Climate Change

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

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

Melissa Hardisty
Senior Administrative Officer,
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural
Resources and Environment Branch,
Crown-Indigenous Relations and
Northern Affairs Canada

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

Ron Pankratz
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

Vera Haslett
Regional Director, Programs, Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region,
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Christopher Aguirre
Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations
Unit, Ontario, Prairies and Northern
Region, Transport Canada

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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

November 10, 2023

Chief Lloyd Moses
Pehdzéh Kí First Nation
PO BOX 56
WRIGLEY NT X0E 1E0

Dear Chief Lloyd Moses,

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 Pehdzéh Kí 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.

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.

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.

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

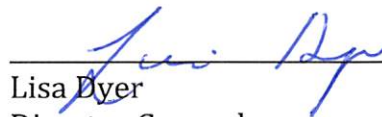
The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca 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
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Deputy Minister
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**Kyle Clille
Band Manager
Pehdzéh Kí 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,
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



September 18, 2026

Chief Dolphus Jumbo
Sambaa K'e First Nation
P.O. BOX 10
SAMBAA K'E NT X0E 1Z0
chief@sambaakefn.com

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Dolphus Jumbo

Negha Dágondih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the Sambaa K'e 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the Sambaa K'e First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 Sambaa K'e First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the Sambaa K'e First Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

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Health Management Bureau, Healthy
Environments and Consumer Safety
Branch, Health Canada

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Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact Review Board

Ruby Jumbo
Band Manager, Sambaa K'e First Nation

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

November 10, 2023

Chief Dolphus Jumbo
Sambaa K'e First Nation
PO BOX 10
SAMBAA K'E NT X0E 1Z0

Dear Chief Dolphus Jumbo,

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 Sambaa K'e 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.

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

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

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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.

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.

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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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**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



September 18, 2026

President Shane Kwasney
The Métis Association Local 52- Fort Simpson, NWT
P.O. BOX 408
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0
metisnation52@northwestel.net

BY EMAIL

Dear President Shane Kwasney ,

Negha Dágoᑎdih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the The Métis Association Local 52- Fort Simpson, NWT 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the The Métis Association Local 52- Fort Simpson, NWT on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 The Métis Association Local 52- Fort Simpson, NWT, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the The Metis Association Local 52- Fort Simpson, NWT, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

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

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate
Change

Darlene Sibbeston
Executive Director, The Métis Association
Local 52 – Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

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

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

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural Resources and
Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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

Ron Pankratz
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

Vera Haslett
Regional Director, Programs, Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
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Ontario, Prairies and Northern Region,
Transport Canada

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
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

November 10, 2023

Acting President Danny Peterson
The Métis Association Local 52 - Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
PO BOX 408
FORT SIMPSON NT X0E 0N0

Dear Acting President Danny Peterson,

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 The Métis Association Local 52 - Fort Simpson, N.W.T. 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.

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.

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.

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

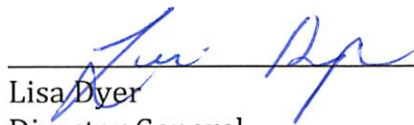
The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change will be the consultation coordinator for the GNWT for the environmental assessment. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, at Lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca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

**Mary Isaiah
Finance Officer
The Métis Association Local 52 – Fort Simpson, N.W.T.**

**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



September 18, 2026

Chief Devon Felker
West Point First Nation
1-47031 MACKENZIE HIGHWAY
HAY RIVER NT X0E 0R9
chief@wpfn.ca

BY EMAIL

Dear Chief Devon Felker,

Negha Dágoᑇndih,

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 (RMs), are writing to the West Point 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 (as represented by federal RMs) initiated consultation with the West Point First Nation on November 10, 2023 (see letter attached), on the future decision that will be made on the Review Board's 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. The Review Board issued a Terms of Reference for this revised Project in 2015.

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. The Review Board has also indicated that it will hold community meetings starting in September and a technical session in Yellowknife in October 2026, 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 currently consulting on its consideration for listing the Project as a "Project of National Interest" under Schedule 1 of the Building Canada Act (BCA). This consultation is being 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 formally initiated on June 24, 2026, and a *Canada Gazette* comment period was also initiated on August 29, 2026. Both processes conclude on October 1, 2026. Following the conclusion of these processes, the Government of Canada will render a decision by November 2, 2026, on whether or not to list the Project under the BCA. 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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

Funding is available to individuals and groups to support their participation in the EA process through the [Northern Participant Funding Program](#). On August 21, 2026, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada announced the availability of participant funding for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The intent of the funding is to provide resources to facilitate meaningful participation in the EA. The [funding guide](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the Review Board's public registry. You can also request these documents and more information by contacting:

aidefinanciereparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 and/or established Aboriginal and/or 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 West Point First Nation, 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 October 22, 2026.

Máhsi,



Lorraine Seale
Director
Impact Assessment and Security
Management

Anneli Jokela
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office

Attachment

1. GNWT and NPMO Letter to the West Point First Nation, dated November 10, 2023. Initiation of Consultation - EA of the proposed MVH (EA1213-02).

- c. Distribution List

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The Honourable R.J. Simpson
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Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and
Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and
Indigenous Affairs

Wendy Domes
Band Manager, West Point First Nation

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

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

Anita Walker
A/Director General, Natural Resources and
Environment Branch, Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

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

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Regional Director General, Crown-
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Health Management Bureau, Healthy
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Branch, Health Canada

Vera Haslett
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Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

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

Duwayne Williams, P.Eng., MBA
Regional Director General – Ontario,
Prairies and Northern Region, Transport
Canada

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley
Environmental Impact Review Board

John Sexsmith
Land Manager, West point First
Nation

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

November 10, 2023

Chief Kenneth Cayen
West Point First Nation
1-47031 MACKENZIE HIGHWAY
HAY RIVER NT X0E 0R9

Dear Chief Kenneth Cayen,

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 West Point 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.

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

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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 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.

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.

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
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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board