



August 21, 2026

Grand Chief Frederick Blake Jr.
Gwich'in Tribal Council
PO BOX 1509
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0
Frederick.Blake@gwichintribal.ca

Dear Grand Chief Blake:

Dànch'ùh,

Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation on the anticipated Environmental Assessment of the Government of the Northwest Territories' proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Inuvik)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Infrastructure (INF) is initiating a formal consultation process related to the environmental assessment on the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) Project Extension (Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik) with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The GNWT-INF is proposing to construct an all-season, two-lane gravel highway from Wrigley, NT to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik, NT. The current Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (from Wrigley to Norman Wells) is undergoing environmental assessment with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board).

The current Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (Wrigley to Norman Wells) was originally part of the broader 800 km corridor proposed by the GNWT, extending from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway. Applications for the larger corridor were submitted to regulators in 2013. In 2015, the GNWT re-scoped the Project to 321 km, from Wrigley to Norman Wells, due to limited funding to advance the environmental assessment for the full corridor. The GNWT, as the Developer, initiated a consultation process on the current Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells) environmental assessment in August of 2023 (Attachment A).¹

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¹ Consultation was initiated with 27 Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations in August 2023 in the Sahtu and Dehcho regions.

On March 12, 2026, the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project was referred to the federal Major Projects Office (MPO). In July 2026, following extensive engagement with the MPO, the federal government, Indigenous Governments in the Dehcho, Sahtu, and Gwich'in regions, and the Review Board, the GNWT decided to re-integrate the Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor into the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project.

The Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor runs through the Tulita and K'ahsho Got'ine Districts of the Sahtu Settlement Area, and the Gwich'in Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories (see Attachment B). The Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor will now be included in the environmental assessment for the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

PLAN TO CONSULT

As the Project Developer, the GNWT-INF plans to consult with Gwich'in Tribal Council on any matters regarding the Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik) you have identified to us as being issues that may have the potential to adversely impact Gwich'in Tribal Council's established Treaty rights.

Please note that there will be a separate consultation process led by the GNWT Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC) on behalf of the GNWT ministers responsible for the Project regarding their eventual final decision on the Environmental Assessment. That consultation process will be initiated through a letter from the Minister of GNWT-ECC. The MPO has also initiated a separate consultation process related to the Project.

In addition to participating in this consultation with GNWT-INF, your Indigenous government should also raise any concerns about potential adverse impacts to your established Treaty rights through the Review Board's environmental assessment, unless and until they are resolved in a way that you regard as sufficient.

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

Please note that Mr. Michael Auge, Director of Strategic Infrastructure, Department of Infrastructure, is the GNWT senior official who has been delegated the task of coordinating the consultation process for the GNWT in its role as the Project Developer. Mr. Auge can be reached by email at Michael_Auge@gov.nt.ca, and by telephone at (867) 767-9082 ext. 31035.

At this time, we ask that you please identify your main contact person, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with your delegated representative who will coordinate this consultation process on behalf of Gwich'in Tribal Council. I would appreciate it if you could forward the appropriate contact information to Mr. Auge, at the above email address, by September 11, 2026.

Following confirmation of your delegated official, the GNWT will contact them to discuss:

- a) details of how the consultation will proceed;
- b) potential funding for participation in this consultation process; and
- c) any other noteworthy matters in relation to the consultation process.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Haj',



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister Responsible for Strategic
Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains

Attachments:

A – Consultation Distribution List for Consultation on Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells)

B – Map of proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway - Wrigley to Inuvik

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

**Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change**

**Kim Wickens
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure Corridors
Infrastructure**

**Paul Donald
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Gwich'in Tribal Council**

**David MacMartin
Special Advisor to Grand Chief
Gwich'in Tribal Council**

Michael Auge
Director, Strategic Infrastructure
Infrastructure

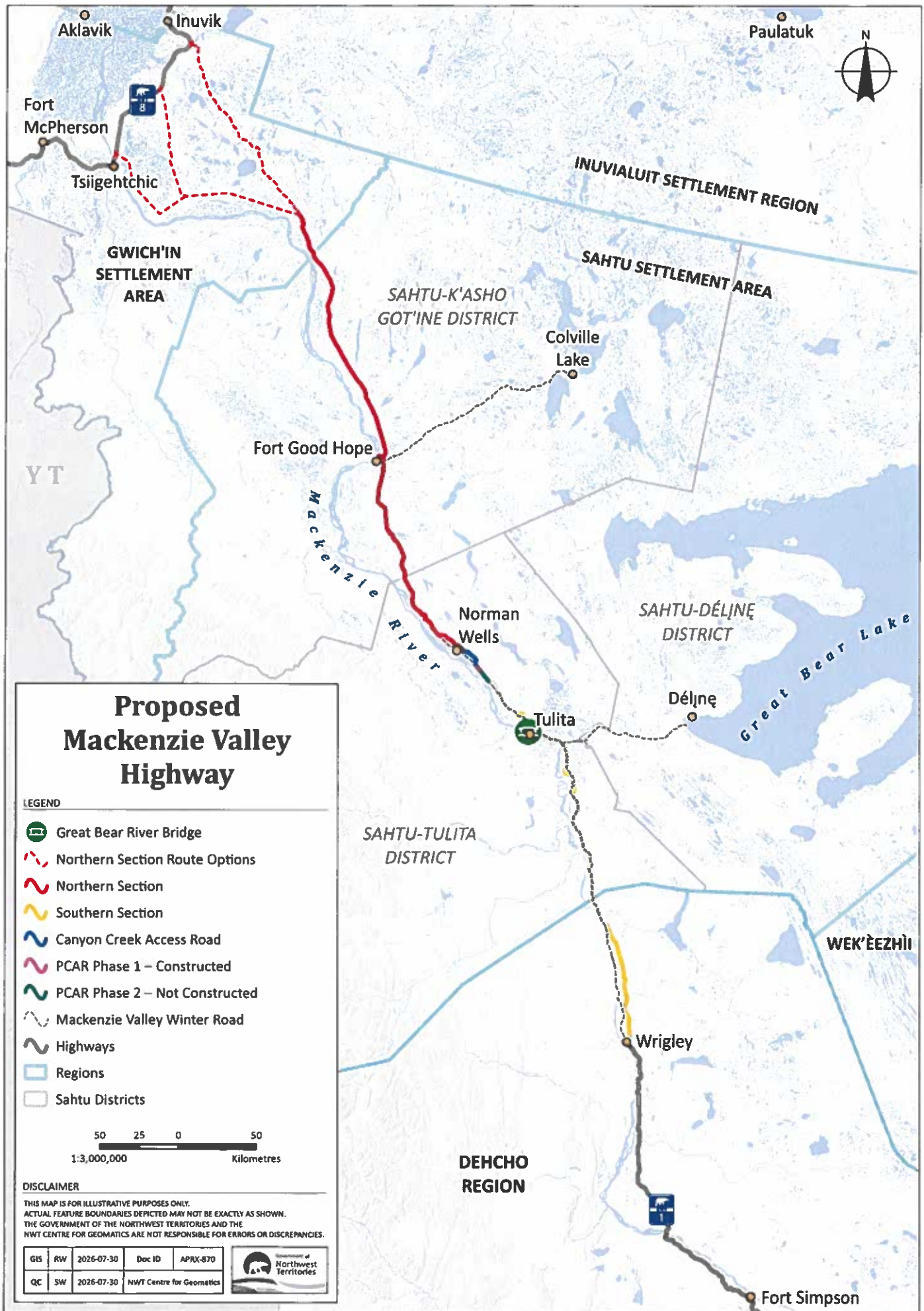
Patricia Coyne
Manager, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Affairs
Infrastructure

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Attachment A

Consultation Distribution List for Consultation on Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells) - Potentially adversely impacted Indigenous Governments and Indigenous organizations

- Dehcho First Nations
- Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation
- Fort Providence Métis Council
- Fort Simpson Métis Local #52
- Łı́ı́dlı́ Kúé First Nation
- Ka'agee Tu First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Jean Marie River First Nation
- Sambaa K'e First Nation
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Sahtu Secretariat Inc.
- Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
- Yamoga Lands Corporation
- Tulita Land Corporation
- Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation
- Norman Wells Land Corporation
- Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation
- Délı́në Got'ı́në Government
- Sahtu Dene Council
- Tulita Dene Band
- Behdzi Ahda' First Nation
- Fort Good Hope Dene Band
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Tłı̨chǫ Government





August , 21, 2026

Acting Chair and CEO Jordan McLeod
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
BAG SERVICE 21
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0
ceo@inuvialuit.com

Dear Acting Chair and CEO McLeod:

Aaqana, Aatituu, Haluuqqagin,

Delegated Officials - Consultation on the anticipated Environmental Assessment of the Government of the Northwest Territories' proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Inuvik)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Infrastructure (INF) is initiating a formal consultation process related to the environmental assessment on the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) Project Extension (Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik) with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The GNWT-INF is proposing to construct an all-season, two-lane gravel highway from Wrigley, NT to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik, NT. The current Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (from Wrigley to Norman Wells) is undergoing environmental assessment with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board).

The current Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (Wrigley to Norman Wells) was originally part of the broader 800 km corridor proposed by the GNWT, extending from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway. Applications for the larger corridor were submitted to regulators in 2013. In 2015, the GNWT re-scoped the Project to 321 km, from Wrigley to Norman Wells, due to limited funding to advance the environmental assessment for the full corridor. The GNWT, as the Developer, initiated a consultation process on the current Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells) environmental assessment in August of 2023 (Attachment A).¹

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¹ Consultation was initiated with 27 Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations in August 2023 in the Sahtu and Dehcho regions.

On March 12, 2026, the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project was referred to the federal Major Projects Office (MPO). In July 2026, following extensive engagement with the MPO, the federal government, Indigenous Governments in the Dehcho, Sahtu, and Gwich'in regions, and the Review Board, the GNWT decided to re-integrate the Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor into the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project.

The Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor runs through the Tulita and K'ahsho Got'ine Districts of the Sahtu Settlement Area, and the Gwich'in Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories (see Attachment B). The Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor will now be included in the environmental assessment for the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

PLAN TO CONSULT

As the Project Developer, the GNWT-INF plans to consult with Inuvialuit Regional Corporation on any matters regarding the Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik) you have identified to us as being issues that may have the potential to adversely impact Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's established Treaty rights.

Please note that there will be a separate consultation process led by the GNWT Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC) on behalf of the GNWT ministers responsible for the Project regarding their eventual final decision on the environmental assessment. That consultation process will be initiated through a letter from the Minister of GNWT-ECC. The MPO has also initiated a separate consultation process related to the Project.

In addition to participating in this consultation with GNWT-INF, your Indigenous government should also raise any concerns about potential adverse impacts to your established Treaty rights through the Review Board's environmental assessment, unless and until they are resolved in a way you regard as sufficient.

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

Please note that Mr. Michael Auge, Director of Strategic Infrastructure, Department of Infrastructure, is the GNWT senior official who has been delegated the task of coordinating the consultation process for the GNWT in its role as the Project Developer. Mr. Auge can be reached by email at Michael_Auge@gov.nt.ca, and by telephone at (867) 767-9082 ext. 31035.

At this time, we ask that you please identify your main contact person, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with your delegated representative who will coordinate this consultation process on behalf of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. I would appreciate it if you could forward the appropriate contact information to Mr. Auge, at the above email address, by September 11, 2026.

Following confirmation of your delegated official, the GNWT will contact them to discuss:

- a) details of how the consultation will proceed;
- b) potential funding for participation in this consultation process; and
- c) any other noteworthy matters in relation to the consultation process.

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

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Quyanainni, Quyanaq, Quana,



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister Responsible for Strategic Infrastructure,
Energy and Supply Chains

Attachments:

A – Consultation Distribution List for Consultation on Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells)

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Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains
Infrastructure**

**Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change**

**Kim Wickens
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure Corridors
Infrastructure**

**Holly Campbell
Director, Administration
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

**Piers Kreps
Director, Government Affairs
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

Samuel Dyck
Intergovernmental Advisor
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Michael Auge
Director, Strategic Infrastructure
Infrastructure

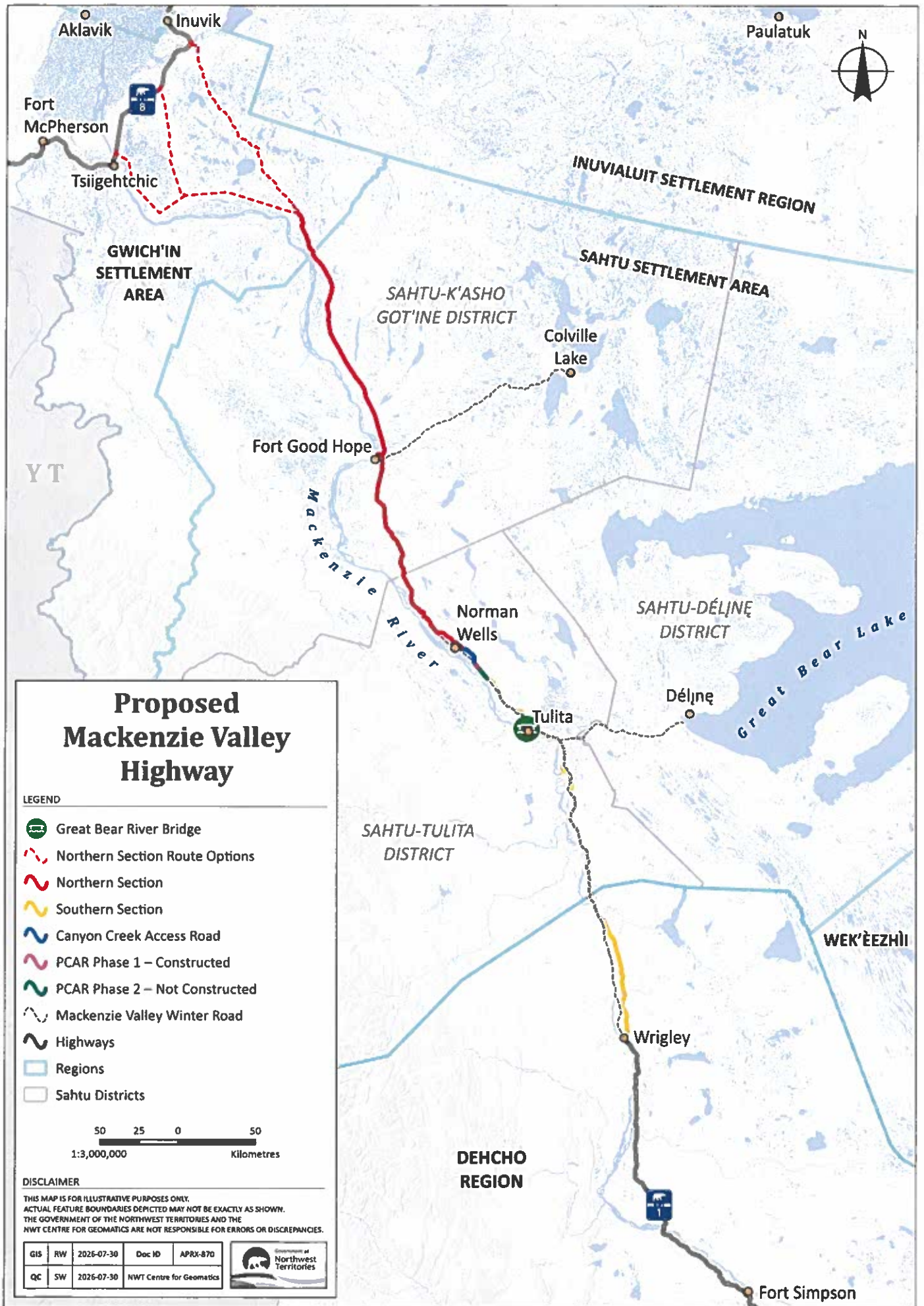
Patricia Coyne
Manager, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Affairs
Infrastructure

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Attachment A

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- Tulita Dene Band
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- Fort Good Hope Dene Band
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Tł̨chq̨ Government





Government of
Northwest Territories

August 21, 2026

President Paul Urngaut
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
P.O. Box 638
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
president@tunngavik.com

Dear President Urngaut:

Aaqana, Aatituu, Haluuqqagin,

Delegated Officials - Consultation on the anticipated Environmental Assessment of the Government of the Northwest Territories' proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Inuvik)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Infrastructure (INF) is initiating a formal consultation process related to the environmental assessment on the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) Project Extension (Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik) with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The GNWT-INF is proposing to construct an all-season, two-lane gravel highway from Wrigley, NT to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik, NT. The current Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (from Wrigley to Norman Wells) is undergoing environmental assessment with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board).

The current Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (Wrigley to Norman Wells) was originally part of the broader 800 km corridor proposed by the GNWT, extending from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway. Applications for the larger corridor were submitted to regulators in 2013. In 2015, the GNWT re-scoped the Project to 321 km, from Wrigley to Norman Wells, due to limited funding to advance the environmental assessment for the full corridor. The GNWT, as the Developer, initiated a consultation process on the current Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells) environmental assessment in August of 2023 (Attachment A).¹

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The Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor runs through the Tulita and K'ahsho Got'ine Districts of the Sahtu Settlement Area, and the Gwich'in Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories (see Attachment B). The Norman Wells to Dempster Highway corridor will now be included in the environmental assessment for the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

PLAN TO CONSULT

As the Project Developer, the GNWT-INF as the Project Developer plans to consult with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on any matters regarding the Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to the Dempster Highway, south of Inuvik) you have identified to us as being issues that may have the potential to adversely impact Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's established Treaty rights.

Please note that there will be a separate consultation process led by the GNWT Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC) on behalf of the GNWT ministers responsible for the Project regarding their eventual final decision on the environmental assessment. That consultation process will be initiated through a letter from the Minister of GNWT-ECC. The MPO has also initiated a separate consultation process related to the Project.

In addition to participating in this consultation with GNWT-INF, your Indigenous government should also raise any concerns about potential adverse impacts to your established Treaty rights through the Review Board's environmental assessment unless and until they are resolved in a way that you regard as sufficient.

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

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At this time, we ask that you please identify your main contact person, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with your delegated representative who will coordinate this consultation process on behalf of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I would appreciate it if you could forward the appropriate contact information to Mr. Auge, at the above email address, by September 11, 2026.

Following confirmation of your delegated official, the GNWT will contact them to discuss:

- a) details of how the consultation will proceed;
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If you have questions or would like to discuss the Project, Mr. Auge would be pleased to follow up with you or your staff.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Quyanainni, Quyanaq, Quana,



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister Responsible for Strategic Infrastructure,
Energy and Supply Chains

Attachments:

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B – Map of proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway - Wrigley to Inuvik

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Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains
Infrastructure**

**Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change**

**Kim Wickens
Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure Corridors
Infrastructure**

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

**Michael Auge
Director, Strategic Infrastructure
Infrastructure**

Patricia Coyne
Manager, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Affairs
Infrastructure

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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