



August 15, 2025

Chair and CEO Duane Ningaqsiq Smith
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
BAG SERVICE 21
INUUVIK NT X0E 0T0
dsmith@inuvialuit.com

VIA EMAIL

Dear Chair and CEO Duane Ningaqsiq Smith:

Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Imperial Oil Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project – (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

On June 19, 2025, Minister Jay Macdonald initiated a joint Aboriginal consultation process in conjunction with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the proposed **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) on April 23, 2025. In the letter (enclosed), Minister Jay Macdonald delegated to me the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the EA of the proposed Project and the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada.

As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the established Treaty rights of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with Inuvialuit Regional Corporation on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);
3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and

.../2

4. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 11, 2025.

Background on the Project

Imperial Oil's application to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Norman Wells Operations was referred to EA. This referral includes the entire Norman Wells Operations (NWO), in Norman Wells, NT, for the next five to ten years (2024-2034), which is the expected remaining operating life of the field and allow for sufficient time for engagement and permitting a transition to closure of the facility.

On March 31, 2025, Imperial Oil formally requested that the Review Board conduct an EA for closure of its long-standing oilfield operation in the Sahtu Settlement Area under subsection 126 (3) of the MVMRA. On April 23, 2025, the Review Board issued a Notice of Environmental Assessment, formally initiating the EA process.

Information on the EA, including the Review Board's workplan and how to subscribe to public registry updates, is available on the Review Board's website at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project | Mackenzie Valley Review Board](#).

Our approach to consultation with Aboriginal Peoples

Both 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 Aboriginal¹ and/or Treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA. The Government of Canada will also be sending you a letter regarding this EA. The GNWT works closely with Canada throughout the EA and decision processes and will coordinate the consultation processes where possible.

.../3

¹ The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to demonstrating respect to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and recognizes the shift in preferred terminology from "Aboriginal" to Indigenous. The use of the term "Aboriginal Peoples" or "Aboriginal rights" is defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is used in this context, and throughout this document, as a reference to legally defined Aboriginal rights.

The Review Board's EA process is robust and inclusive of all potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. To this end, the GNWT will rely on the Review Board's EA process, to the extent possible, to assist in fulfilling our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the EA of the Project.

How to participate in the Environmental Assessment Process?

As the GNWT relies on the Review Board's process, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the EA, understand how the Project could adversely affect your established Treaty rights; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When identifying an adverse impact on your established Treaty rights, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

- a. The specific established Treaty rights 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 impacts could best be mitigated.

The Review Board strongly encourages developers to engage and collaborate with local communities and Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA process. The GNWT also encourages the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to participate in any engagement efforts by Imperial, as the developer is generally best placed to address concerns related to project design and implementation.

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

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 will send you another letter. At that time, we will request to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, appropriately accommodates any potential adverse impact (s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

Your views will inform the responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that have not been appropriately accommodated, the applicable responsible minister(s) within the GNWT will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is appropriate.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and
Security Management
Environment and Climate Change

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June 19, 2025

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BY EMAIL

Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is initiating a joint Aboriginal consultation process with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the environmental assessment of the **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was ordered by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on April 23, 2025.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - EA2526-01 | Review Board](#).

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

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

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

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

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At this time, I ask that you please identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on the Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by your government or organization. We would appreciate it if you could forward this information to Lorraine Seale prior to **July 19, 2025**.

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

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

The Government of Canada will also be sending a notification letter to potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to initiate consultation for this environmental assessment and to outline its consultation approach. If you have questions or would like to discuss the Project, please contact Lorraine Seale, by email at [Lorraine Seale@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Seale@gov.nt.ca).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Macdonald
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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Fort Providence Métis Council

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Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

Chief Lucille Lafferty
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Yamoga Land Corporation

President David Menacho
Tulita Land Corporation

President Aurora McNeely
Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54
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ʔek'wahtı́dó Danny Gaudet
Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government

Grand Chief Frederick Blake Jr.
Gwich'in Tribal Council

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Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Deborah Young
Administrative Assistant
North Slave Métis Alliance

Karen Kabloona
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated



August 15, 2025

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

VIA EMAIL

Dear Grand Chief Frederick Blake Jr.:

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On June 19, 2025, Minister Jay Macdonald initiated a joint Aboriginal consultation process in conjunction with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the proposed **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) on April 23, 2025. In the letter (enclosed), Minister Jay Macdonald delegated to me the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the EA of the proposed Project and the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada.

As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the established Treaty rights of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with Gwich'in Tribal Council on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);
3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and

.../2

3. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by Gwich'in Tribal Council. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 11, 2025.

Background on the Project

Imperial Oil's application to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Norman Wells Operations was referred to EA. This referral includes the entire Norman Wells Operations (NWO), in Norman Wells, NT, for the next five to ten years (2024-2034), which is the expected remaining operating life of the field and allow for sufficient time for engagement and permitting a transition to closure of the facility.

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How to participate in the Environmental Assessment Process?

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

Next Steps

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If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and Security
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June 19, 2025

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CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Macdonald
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

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Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer
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Administrative Assistant
North Slave Métis Alliance

Karen Kabloona
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated



August 15, 2025

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

VIA EMAIL

Dear President Marc Whitford:

Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Imperial Oil Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project – (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

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As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the asserted Aboriginal¹ rights of the North Slave Métis Alliance, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with North Slave Métis Alliance on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);

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3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and
4. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by North Slave Métis Alliance. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 11, 2025.

Background on the Project

Imperial Oil's application to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Norman Wells Operations was referred to EA. This referral includes the entire Norman Wells Operations (NWO), in Norman Wells, NT, for the next five to ten years (2024-2034), which is the expected remaining operating life of the field and allow for sufficient time for engagement and permitting a transition to closure of the facility.

On March 31, 2025, Imperial Oil formally requested that the Review Board conduct an EA for closure of its long-standing oilfield operation in the Sahtu Settlement Area under subsection 126 (3) of the MVMRA. On April 23, 2025, the Review Board issued a Notice of Environmental Assessment, formally initiating the EA process.

Information on the EA, including the Review Board's workplan and how to subscribe to public registry updates, is available on the Review Board's website at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project | Mackenzie Valley Review Board](#).

Our approach to consultation with Aboriginal Peoples

Both 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 responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA. The Government of Canada will also be sending you a letter regarding this EA. The GNWT works closely with Canada throughout the EA and decision processes and will coordinate the consultation processes where possible.

The Review Board's EA process is robust and inclusive of all potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. To this end, the GNWT will rely on the Review Board's EA process, to the extent possible, to assist in fulfilling our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the EA of the Project.

How to participate in the Environmental Assessment Process?

As the GNWT relies on the Review Board's process, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your asserted Aboriginal rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the EA, understand how the Project could adversely affect your asserted Aboriginal rights; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When identifying an adverse impact on your asserted Aboriginal rights, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

- a. The specific asserted Aboriginal rights 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 impacts could best be mitigated.

The Review Board strongly encourages developers to engage and collaborate with local communities and Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA process. The GNWT also encourages the North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in any engagement efforts by Imperial, as the developer is generally best placed to address concerns related to project design and implementation.

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

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 will send you another letter. At that time, we will request to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, appropriately accommodates any potential adverse impact (s) from the Project on your asserted Aboriginal 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 rights that have not been appropriately accommodated, the applicable responsible minister(s) within the GNWT will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is appropriate.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and Security
Management
Environment and Climate Change

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June 19, 2025

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BY EMAIL

Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is initiating a joint Aboriginal consultation process with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the environmental assessment of the **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was ordered by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on April 23, 2025.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - EA2526-01 | Review Board](#).

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

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

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

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

.../2

At this time, I ask that you please identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on the Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by your government or organization. We would appreciate it if you could forward this information to Lorraine Seale prior to **July 19, 2025**.

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

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

The Government of Canada will also be sending a notification letter to potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to initiate consultation for this environmental assessment and to outline its consultation approach. If you have questions or would like to discuss the Project, please contact Lorraine Seale, by email at [Lorraine Seale@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Seale@gov.nt.ca).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Macdonald
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

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Chief Lucille Lafferty
West Point First Nation

Chief Melania Norwegian-Menacho
Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı́) First
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Sambaa K'e First Nation

Chief Jesse Nekenya-Moses
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Chief Michael Vandell
Deh Gáh Got'ı́e First Nation

Chief Steve Vital
Nahanni Butte Dene Band

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

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Executive Director
Norman Wells Land Corporation (Tłegòhł
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Administrative Assistant
North Slave Métis Alliance

Karen Kabloona
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated



August 15, 2025

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

VIA EMAIL

Dear Chief Vital:

Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Imperial Oil Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project – (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

On June 19, 2025, Minister Jay Macdonald initiated a joint Aboriginal consultation process in conjunction with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the proposed **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) on April 23, 2025. In the letter (enclosed), Minister Jay Macdonald delegated to me the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the EA of the proposed Project and the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada.

As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the asserted or established Aboriginal¹ and/or Treaty rights of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with Nahanni Butte Dene Band on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);

.../2

¹ The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to demonstrating respect to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and recognizes the shift in preferred terminology from "Aboriginal" to Indigenous. The use of the term "Aboriginal Peoples" or "Aboriginal rights" is defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is used in this context, and throughout this document, as a reference to legally defined Aboriginal rights.

3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and
4. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by Nahanni Butte Dene Band. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 11, 2025.

Background on the Project

Imperial Oil's application to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Norman Wells Operations was referred to EA. This referral includes the entire Norman Wells Operations (NWO), in Norman Wells, NT, for the next five to ten years (2024-2034), which is the expected remaining operating life of the field and allow for sufficient time for engagement and permitting a transition to closure of the facility.

On March 31, 2025, Imperial Oil formally requested that the Review Board conduct an EA for closure of its long-standing oilfield operation in the Sahtu Settlement Area under subsection 126 (3) of the MVMRA. On April 23, 2025, the Review Board issued a Notice of Environmental Assessment, formally initiating the EA process.

Information on the EA, including the Review Board's workplan and how to subscribe to public registry updates, is available on the Review Board's website at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project | Mackenzie Valley Review Board](#).

Our approach to consultation with Aboriginal Peoples

Both the GNWT and Government of 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 responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA. The GNWT will work closely with Canada throughout the EA and decision processes and will coordinate our consultation processes where possible.

The Review Board's EA process is robust and inclusive of all potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. To this end, the GNWT will rely on the Review Board's EA process, to the extent possible, to assist in fulfilling our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the EA of the Project.

How to participate in the Environmental Assessment Process?

As the GNWT relies on the Review Board's process, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or 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 EA, understand how the Project could adversely affect your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When identifying an adverse impact on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

- a. The specific asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights 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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The Review Board strongly encourages developers to engage and collaborate with local communities and Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA process. The GNWT also encourages the Nahanni Butte Dene Band to participate in any engagement efforts by Imperial, as the developer is generally best placed to address concerns related to project design and implementation.

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

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 will send you another letter. At that time, we will request to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, appropriately accommodates any potential adverse impact (s) from the Project on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or 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 or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights that have not been appropriately accommodated, the applicable responsible minister(s) within the GNWT will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is appropriate.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Seale', written in a cursive style.

Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and Security
Management
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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June 19, 2025

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BY EMAIL

Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is initiating a joint Aboriginal consultation process with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the environmental assessment of the **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was ordered by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on April 23, 2025.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Macdonald
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

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Chief Lucille Lafferty
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Chief Melania Norwegian-Menacho
Jean Marie River (Tthets'éhk'édélı́) First
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Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Deborah Young
Administrative Assistant
North Slave Métis Alliance

Karen Kabloona
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated



August 15, 2025

Chief Dawna Hope
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
P.O Box 220
Mayo YT Y0B 1M0
chief@nndfn.com

VIA EMAIL

Dear Chief Dawna Hope

Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Imperial Oil Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project – (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

On June 19, 2025, Minister Jay Macdonald initiated a joint Aboriginal consultation process in conjunction with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the proposed **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) on April 23, 2025. In the letter (enclosed), Minister Jay Macdonald delegated to me the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the EA of the proposed Project and the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada.

As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the asserted Aboriginal¹ rights of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);

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¹ The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to demonstrating respect to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and recognizes the shift in preferred terminology from "Aboriginal" to Indigenous. The use of the term "Aboriginal Peoples" or "Aboriginal rights" is defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is used in this context, and throughout this document, as a reference to legally defined Aboriginal rights.

3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and
4. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 11, 2025.

Background on the Project

Imperial Oil's application to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Norman Wells Operations was referred to EA. This referral includes the entire Norman Wells Operations (NWO), in Norman Wells, NT, for the next five to ten years (2024-2034), which is the expected remaining operating life of the field and allow for sufficient time for engagement and permitting a transition to closure of the facility.

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- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the EA, understand how the Project could adversely affect your asserted Aboriginal rights; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

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- a. The specific asserted Aboriginal rights 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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The Review Board strongly encourages developers to engage and collaborate with local communities and Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA process. The GNWT also encourages the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to participate in any engagement efforts by Imperial, as the developer is generally best placed to address concerns related to project design and implementation.

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

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 will send you another letter. At that time, we will request to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, appropriately accommodates any potential adverse impact (s) from the Project on your asserted Aboriginal 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 rights that have not been appropriately accommodated, the applicable responsible minister(s) within the GNWT will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is appropriate.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Seale', written in a cursive style.

Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and Security
Management
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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June 19, 2025

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BY EMAIL

Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is initiating a joint Aboriginal consultation process with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the environmental assessment of the **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was ordered by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on April 23, 2025.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - EA2526-01 | Review Board](#).

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

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

CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION

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

.../2

At this time, I ask that you please identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on the Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by your government or organization. We would appreciate it if you could forward this information to Lorraine Seale prior to **July 19, 2025**.

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

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

The Government of Canada will also be sending a notification letter to potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to initiate consultation for this environmental assessment and to outline its consultation approach. If you have questions or would like to discuss the Project, please contact Lorraine Seale, by email at [Lorraine Seale@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Seale@gov.nt.ca).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Macdonald
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

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Land Corporation

Paul Tan
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Norman Wells Land Corporation (Tłegòhłı
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