



August 21, 2026

Public Notice

Participant Funding Available

to facilitate participation in the *Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's environmental assessment of the Government of the Northwest Territories' proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project*

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) is inviting applications from groups and individuals seeking funding to support their meaningful participation in the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (the Review Board) environmental assessment of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway Project, connecting Wrigley and the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), south of Inuvik.

In examining the environmental and socio-economic effects of this project, the Review Board will, among other things, consider the interests of Indigenous people and their special relationship to the wilderness environment and the cultures, traditions, health and lifestyles of Indigenous people and other residents of the Northwest Territories.

Funding is available to support **Indigenous and public participation in the community and technical re-scoping meetings, review of the revised Terms of Reference and Developer's Assessment Report, and associated technical meetings and public hearings**. Funding will be made available for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 fiscal years. The Participant Funding Guide and Application form can be accessed on the Board's registry ([Mackenzie Valley Highway | Mackenzie Valley Review Board](#)) under the documents section, or by contacting CIRNAC staff at the email below. Please send your application to aidefinancierparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca by **11:59p.m. (EST) Friday September 18, 2026**.

If you have any questions about the application forms, eligibility, timing or expense details, please contact CIRNAC staff at aidefinancierparticipants-participantfunding@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

CIRNAC staff will provide all successful applicants with a funding agreement with CIRNAC, under which expenditures may be subject to audit.

The Proposed Project

The GNWT originally proposed (2013) to construct an all weather gravel highway up the Mackenzie Valley from Wrigley to Inuvik. The original project scoping was done for the entire



route. In 2014, the GNWT revised this route to be from Wrigley to Norman Wells. The Review Board re-scoped accordingly and released a revised Terms of Reference in 2015.

The Wrigley to Norman Wells route mostly follows the existing winter road and is approximately 321 kilometers. Many of the bridges along the all-season route were upgraded relatively recently for the winter route. The Bear River bridge is permitted and licensed separately from the Mackenzie Valley Highway project.

On August 14, 2026, the GNWT submitted a letter to the Review Board regarding the expansion of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway from the existing Wrigley-to-Norman Wells corridor to one extending from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), near Inuvik. To complete the necessary studies for the expanded corridor, the GNWT requested an extension to prepare a revised Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) (rather than a DAR Addendum) by March 31, 2027. The revised DAR would provide reviewers and parties with a single assessment document that considers the entire route. The GNWT "will work with the Review Board to establish an appropriate process for revising the TOR [Terms of Reference] and the environmental assessment work plan."

The Review Board will re-scope the environmental assessment to reflect changes in the project scope. Consultation with Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities is a legal requirement under section 127.1 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. As part of meeting these consultation requirements, the Review Board plans to:

- host community meetings to engage with Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities along the proposed road corridor,
- host a technical scoping session in Yellowknife to engage with technical experts and territorial and federal governments, and
- open a public review on the Online Review System for all parties to submit written comments about the scope of assessment and requirements in the Terms of Reference.

Further information regarding this review can be found on the Review Board's public registry at [Mackenzie Valley Highway | Mackenzie Valley Review Board](#).

