



Tłıchǫ Government

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July 30, 2026

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Review Board
200 Scotia Centre, Box 938 – 5102 50th Ave
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mark,

The report below contains the 2025-2026 reporting by the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) for all of the required actions by our government to manage and report on the Tłıchǫ Highway, or Highway 9. The Tłıchǫ Government remains committed to monitoring and reporting.

In this year's reflection, we have focused on the achievements and lessons from the co-managed monitoring programs. These programs are vital and allow our TG departments to track what is happening both in our communities and on our lands from the use of the Tłıchǫ Highway.

In 2025-2026, through the **wildlife monitoring program**, we continue to improve our understanding of the Tłıchǫ Highway's impacts on caribou, wildlife harvesting, fish, birds, and other values. A highlight of this year was the introduction of scat sampling and completion of a full year of dust sampling. The program receives guidance and input from the Tłıłı Deè Committee, which continues to be concerned about the number of non-Tłıchǫ hunters using the Highway. The TG again emphasises that the wildlife monitoring program must continue. Five years is not sufficient to understand and develop adaptive management for impacts and patterns. The data and lessons learned from this program are especially important as all governments currently explore and consider the potential outcomes of other road projects in the region. *TG requires funding from GNWT for this vital and significant Indigenous-led program to continue.*

The **socioeconomic monitoring program** is similarly critical and will continue until at least 2031. Through the program, we are seeing alarming trends in both Whatì and Behchokǫ. A focus of this coming year's program is identifying service gaps and needs to support Tłıchǫ citizens' mental health, cultural wellbeing, education, early childhood development, and addiction. *More social programs are needed and discussions between the TG and the GNWT must occur to address resourcing.*

The goal of providing this feedback is to continue developing co-governance that supports the safety and prosperity of Tłıchǫ communities and citizens while building and strengthening the TG's relationship with the GNWT. We wish for commitment and continued support of these vital programs by all parties and look forward to our continued collaboration.

In Tłıchǫ Unity,

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault
Director, Department of Culture and Lands Protection



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Measure	Required Completion Date	Measure 14-2(a) Impacts, TG's Recent Progress and Upcoming Dates	Measure 14-2(b) Reducing or Avoiding
5-1 Developer's support of monitoring and adaptive management of adverse health and well-being impacts (Part 1: Monitoring adverse health and well-being impacts to the Community of Whatì)	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	Ongoing: The Tłıchǫ Highway Socioeconomic Monitoring Working Group meets quarterly to monitor indicators under the following values: ● Health and well-being ● Child and family services ● Economic well-being ● Cultural well-being ● Early childhood and education ● Community safety and policing	2025/26 continued collecting and analysing data for the Tłıchǫ socioeconomic values and tracking trends and changes over time in Whatì and Behchokǫ since the road opened. With each year of monitoring Tłıchǫ Government understands more about the changing socioeconomic conditions in the communities, both positive and negative. Some alarming trends need resourcing, and 2026/27 monitoring efforts will include a review of existing programs and supports to identify the opportunities and gaps for addressing emergent challenges. Funding this year was used to prepare analysis of all the trends, and a full report was released.
5-1 Developer's support of monitoring and adaptive management	Annually during construction & for at least 10	TG reports annually to the Chief's Executive Council on the progress and outcomes of socioeconomic monitoring.	2026/2027 will focus on community outreach. Community dinner and info sessions will be hosted in Whatì and Behchokǫ in Fall 2026 to share back



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of adverse health and well-being impacts (Part 2: Reporting)	years of operations	An 85-page annual report, <i>Tłıchǫ Highway Socioeconomic Monitoring Program: 2025 Data Analysis and Summary</i> , was prepared in March 2026 and shared with the Socio-Economic Working Group.	monitoring results, share about current programs and supports, and hear from Tłıchǫ citizens.
5-1 Developer's support of monitoring and adaptive management of adverse health and well-being impacts (Part 3: Adaptive management and re-evaluation)	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	2026/27 will include an analysis of service and programming opportunities and gaps (TG, TCSA, GNWT) to identify the programs and supports that exist or are needed to support adaptive management planning of adverse health and well-being impacts.	No formal re-evaluation was completed. Suggestion from 2025/26 could carry over, which is for the Developer to work with TG on leading a mid-term evaluation and develop an adaptive management plan.
5-2 Tłıchǫ Monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and well-being	Annually during construction & for at least 10	Ongoing monitoring program where territorial and community-scale data is tracked and analyzed in accordance with six core values and subsequent indicators	Further collaboration with Tłıchǫ Highway Socioeconomic Monitoring Working Group members and the organizations they represent is needed to understand available



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impacts (Part 1: Tłıchǫ monitoring of adverse health and well-being impacts)	years of operations	pertaining to community socioeconomic well-being. This includes trend-over-time analysis and comparison of community trends/data to territorial data, where available. Qualitative elements of current services, programs and initiatives by TG were included in this year's reporting to gain a preliminary understanding of how Whatì and Behchokǫ citizens are supported with respect to the six core values.	services, programming, initiatives and gaps thereof.
5-2 Tłıchǫ Monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and well-being impacts - Part 2 (Public engagement)	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	A regional meeting was held in October 2025, and a meeting with TG department managers in May of 2025. TG shared back the results of socio-economic monitoring publicly with Tłıchǫ citizens on multiple occasions in 2025.	2026-2027 plans for holding community meetings in Whatì and Behchokǫ, as well as providing updates to TG staff, Chief's Executive Council, and the Tłıchǫ Tłìì Deè Committee.



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		The 2025 monitoring report (completed in March 2026) is currently undergoing final review by the TG and the Socio-Economic Working Group and will eventually be made publicly available.	
5-2 Tłıchǫ Monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and well-being impacts - Part 3 (Reporting)	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	TG compiled a 2025 socio-economic monitoring report with the support of consultants. The report was inclusive of quantitative and qualitative data from TG, GNWT departments and TCSA, including community meeting input, across the following values: ● Health and well-being ● Child and family services ● Economic well-being ● Cultural well-being ● Early childhood and education ● Community safety and policing	Qualitative data from TG, TCSA, and GNWT sources were reviewed to inform current programming, initiatives and services available to support Whatı and Behchokǫ community members with respect to these six core values. 2026/2027 plans for an analysis of service gaps to identify areas of importance for mitigation.



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5-6 Include Behchokǝ in accident response planning	Before road opens to public	There has been no update on this measure since 2023. Further action is required from GNWT to inform TG, the Community Government of Behchokǝ, and the Community Government of Whatì.	TG would like to be informed by GNWT about the updates and implementation for accident response planning and how they have been responding to accidents. At this time, no new information since 2023 has been shared.
7-1 Incorporate Traditional Knowledge into Monitoring of Barren-ground Caribou (ʔekwǝ)	Annually during construction & for at least 5 years of operations	December 2025: The eighth Tłìlì Deè Committee meeting took place in Behchokǝ. The committee expressed concerns that the monitors could be missing wildlife due to wildlife avoiding the road, smoke from wildfires, or dead animals being removed before the monitors see them. 2025-2026 With consultant support, TG piloted scat survey methods to help confirm what animals are using the areas surrounding the highway, including species that may be	2025-2026 focused on wildlife data, including continued highway monitoring. Scat sampling was introduced to support the wildlife monitoring efforts. Results from the harvester interviews and the voluntary harvesting report, and feedback from the Tłìlì Deè Committee suggest that little ungulate harvesting occurs along the highway by Tłıchǫ harvesters.



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		elusive or primarily nocturnal. The scat survey includes recording observations of scat and collecting scat samples for laboratory analysis. With consultant support, TG continued the voluntary harvesting program for tǫdzı, hozıı ekwǫ, and dedıı harvested near the Tłıchǫ Highway. The program was advertised through road signs on both sides of the Tłıchǫ Highway, social media, and pamphlets. There are online and hard-copy versions of the survey. As of March 30, 2026, three harvests were reported through this program. The Tıłıı Deè Committee noted that there are many non-Tłıchǫ hunters along the highway; highway monitors should take photos so that TG can report to the GNWT. TG completed 12 months of dust sampling using two passive dustfall	



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		collection methods (canisters and foam discs). With consultant support, TG produced a memorandum detailing the results of the dust sampling program. TG has determined that dust concentrations are not a concern and will not continue dust sampling.	
8-1 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan	Submit to WRRB under s.12.5.1 of Tłıchǫ Agreement at least 90 days before road open to public	Update: large hard laminate info-poster signage has been produced and has been installed at recently renovated Whatì Falls. The signage reminds the public that Inconnu are using the La Martre River below the falls as an annual spawning area. In addition, angler diary (self-reporting) pamphlets have been printed and distributed along with information pamphlets concerning fish, fishing along the highway corridor.	No new information to report.



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Measure	Required Completion Date	Measure 14-2(a) Impacts, TG's Recent Progress and Upcoming Dates	Measure 14-2(b) Reducing or Avoiding
9-1 Monitoring Harvest and Managing Wildlife to Maintain Successful Harvest, Part 1- Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program	Annually during construction & for at least 5 years of operations	2025-2026 With consultant support TG continued the voluntary harvesting program for tǫdzı, hozı ekwǫ, and dedıı harvested near the Tłıchǫ Highway. The program was advertised through road signs in both directions of the Tłıchǫ Highway, social media and pamphlets. There is an online and hard copy version of the survey. As of March 30, 2026, three harvests were reported through this program. The Tıłı Deë Committee noted that there are many non-Tłıchǫ hunters along the highway - monitors should take photos so that TG can report to the GNWT. Tłıchǫ Highway monitors have been collecting wildlife data since December 2021 by travelling along the highway and recording wildlife observations. Monitoring was paused from February to October 2025, but restarted in November	The wildlife monitoring program was paused from February to November 2025. The program resumed in November 2025 and continues in 2026. To date, 2022 and 2024 have consistent wildlife data. However, more years of consistent data collection are necessary for the Tłıchǫ Government to determine whether the road has affected different wildlife species. Tłıchǫ Government requires GNWT to continue funding the wildlife monitoring program as stated in measure 7-1 to confidently determine potential road impacts on wildlife.



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		2025. With consultant support, TG submitted a report providing an update on wildlife and bison observations from 2021-2025.	
9-1 Monitoring Harvest and Managing Wildlife to Maintain Sustainable Harvest, Part 2- Use monitoring to inform management	Annually during construction & for at least 5 years of operation	With consultant support, TG continued the voluntary harvesting program for ȩdzı, hozı ekwǫ, and dedıı harvested near the Tłıchǫ Highway. The program was advertised through road signs on both sides of the Tłıchǫ Highway, social media, and pamphlets. There are online and hard-copy versions of the survey. As of March 30, 2026, three harvests were reported through this program. The Tılı Deè Committee noted that there are many non-Tłıchǫ hunters along the highway - monitors should take photos so that TG can report to the GNWT. Tłıchǫ Highway monitors have been	The wildlife monitoring program was paused from February to November 2025. The program resumed in November 2025 and continues in 2026. To date, 2022 and 2024 have consistent wildlife data. However, more years of consistent data are necessary for the Tłıchǫ Government to determine whether the road has affected different wildlife species and, therefore, to inform management. Tłıchǫ Government requires GNWT to continue funding the wildlife monitoring to confidently determine potential road impacts on wildlife.



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		collecting wildlife data since December 2021 by travelling daily along the highway and recording wildlife observations. Monitoring was paused from February to October 2025, but restarted in November 2025. With consultant support, TG submitted a report to update on wildlife observations and bison observations from 2021-2025.	
10-1 Bird Species at Risk and Migratory Bird Data, Mitigation, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management, Part 2-Mitigation <i>[Part 1 was pre-construction surveys]</i>		The TG Highway Wildlife Monitors record and analyze wildlife observations along the highway, including Chįą (birds). The observations are reported in the quarterly and annual wildlife monitoring reports.	
10-2		With consultant support TG	The wildlife monitoring program was



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Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Approval, Annual Review, and Reporting, Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during construction and operations <i>[Part 1 & 2 were prior and during permitting]</i>		continued the voluntary harvesting program for ȳdzı, hozı ekwǫ, and dedı harvested near the Tłıchǫ Highway. The program was advertised through road signs in both directions of the Tłıchǫ Highway, social media and pamphlets. There is an online and hard copy version of the survey. As of March 30, 2026, three harvests were reported through this program. The Tıłı Deę Committee noted that there are many non-Tłıchǫ hunters along the highway - monitors should take photos so that TG can report to the GNWT. Tłıchǫ Highway monitors have been collecting wildlife data since December 2021 by travelling daily along the highway and recording wildlife observations. Monitoring was paused from February to October 2025 but restarted in November 2025. With consultant support, TG submitted a report to	paused from February to November 2025. The program resumed in November 2025 and continues in 2026. To date, 2022 and 2024 have consistent wildlife data. However, more years of consistent data are needed for the Tłıchǫ Government to determine whether the road has affected different wildlife species. Tłıchǫ Government requires GNWT to continue funding the wildlife monitoring program as stated in measure 7-1 to confidently determine potential road impacts on wildlife



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		update on wildlife observations and bison observations from 2021-2025.	