



Tłıchǫ Government

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July 21, 2025

Mark Cliff-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 2024-25 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 the process of monitoring and reporting.

In this year's reflection we have focused on some lessons learned on the co-management of the monitoring programs and the associated accountabilities. The following joint accountabilities were shared in this year's Corridor Working Group Meeting on June 17, 2025, in Whatì.

1. **Wildlife monitoring program** has built excellent understanding so far, and the program must continue. Five years is not sufficient to understand impacts and patterns. *TG requires funding to continue from GNWT.*
2. The **social monitoring program** is continuing for at least 10 years (2021-2031). Mental health, cultural, education, early-childhood, addictions, and other social *programs to address impacts are required.*
3. Emergencies will occur, yet we continue to have weak planning in place. *TG would like to see a long-term plan to address capacity and accidents.*
4. **Dust suppression** - TG requests discussion for additional suppression.
5. The **CWG Meeting has been fundamental to government relationships** and should continue, with the requirement to align with the SE monitoring, continuing until 2031.

The goal of providing this feedback is to continue in the development of co-governance that supports the safety and prosperity for Tłıchǫ communities and builds a strong relationship between the TG and the GNWT. With potential new development in the area, we want to ensure there are considerations of co-governance that support the capacity and commitment of all parties.

We look forward to our continued collaboration on these particular measures and future projects.

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 topics: ● Population health ● Mental health and addictions ● Child & family services ● Economic well-being ● Cultural well-being ● Early childhood & education ● Community safety & policing	2024/25 focused on quantitative data collection to understand patterns and trends of change (or not) in Whatì and Behchokǫ since the road opened. Efforts on qualitative data, particularly community voices and perspectives, will be emphasized in 2025-26. Research was also applied to understand the relationship between the road, impacts on citizens, and food security. Led by a Doctoral research student, this data will be published in 2025. In 2023, Client Services launched their Community Action Plans and developed new programs, however it is not yet possible to determine their impact. More data needs to be collected over future years with a specific focus on community voices and perspectives.
5-1 Developer's support of monitoring and adaptive management of adverse health and well-being impacts (Part 2: Reporting)	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	Annual reporting to CEC via a Briefing note. Data posters were prepared instead of an annual report in December 2024.	Exploring virtual web-design publication in coming year, partnering with other research work.
5-1 Developer's support of	Annually during construction & for	No update.	Evaluation not completed. Suggestion for the Developer to work with TG on

monitoring and adaptive management of adverse health and well-being impacts (Part 3: Adaptive management and re-evaluation)	at least 10 years of operations		leading a mid-term evaluation and develop an adaptive management plan.
5-2 Tłıchq Monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and well-being impacts (Part 1: Tłıchq monitoring of adverse health and well-being impacts)	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	Ongoing monitoring program where territorial data is tracked and analyzed in accordance with the six core themes and subsequent indicators pertaining to community health and well-being. Research undertaken by a Doctoral student to understand community-level impacts of the road on Whatı residents. This is being incorporated into the monitoring program. The year ahead focus will elaborate on qualitative elements to better capture community perspectives. This will also look at ways of engaging all four Tłıchq communities.	Improved collaborations with other government and community organizations are desired to ensure impacts are properly captured, understood, and responded to.
5-2 Tłıchq 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	2024 Public engagement held at the Research Expo in December. Posters published on the Tłıchq Government website and advertised through social media.	2025-26 plans for holding community meetings in Whatı and direct engagement with more Tłıchq citizens. Continued engagement with Tłıchq managers and staff.
5-2 Tłıchq Monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and well-being impacts - Part 3	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	Six comprehensive data posters were completed and presented in December 2024. These were completed by TG, with support of consultants. Data was compiled from various GNWT	Information pertaining to the six themes of monitoring was published on the TG website, social media, and at the 2024 Research Expo. Information was shared with members of the public in

(Reporting)		departments and TG. This included a showcase of the posters at the Research Expo hosted by TG. A more robust data sharing calendar and plan was implemented between TG and GNWT.	Behchokò, with school students, and members from other communities. Further work is needed to understand broader impacts on community members in Whatì, including the development and implementation of mitigation and adaptive management plans.
5-6 Include Behchokò in accident response planning	Before Road open 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 Behchokò and the Community Government of Whatì.	TG would like to be informed by GNWT about the updates and implementation plan for accident response planning and how they have been responding to accidents. At this time, no new information since 2023 has been shared with TG.
7-1 Incorporate Traditional Knowledge into Monitoring of Barren-ground Caribou (ʔekwò)	Annually during construction & for at least 5 years of operations	December 2024: The seventh Tìlì Deè Committee meeting took place in Behchokò. The committee suggested increasing dust sampling transects along the highway to account for changing wind directions. The committee expressed concerns on bison moving north towards Whatì along the highway. While the committee suggested some mitigation measures including cattle guards or fences, and harvesting, keeping bison out of the community may not be accomplished.	2024-2025 focused on wildlife data and enhancing the dustfall pilot program. With NRCan's support, Tìchqò will decide on the best long term dustfall sampling protocol to continue monitoring dustfall along the Tìchqò Highway. The Harvester interviews and the voluntary harvesting report, will provide Tìchqò with crucial information on the impact of the Tìchqò Highway on tòdzì, hozìì ekwò, and dedìì near the highway. While preliminary results suggest little ungulate harvesting occurs along the

	2024-2025 With consultant support TG interviewed harvesters to explore potential impacts the highway has had on t̥d̥z̥i, ho̥z̥i ekw̥, and ded̥i near the T̥h̥ch̥ Highway. With consultant support TG developed a voluntary harvesting program to voluntarily report harvesting of t̥d̥z̥i, ho̥z̥i ekw̥, and ded̥i near the T̥h̥ch̥ Highway. TG installed road signs in both directions of the T̥h̥ch̥ Highway, advertised the program through social media and pamphlets, and created an online and hard copy survey. Surveys are expected to be completed as the hunting season ramps up. TG completed 10 months of canister dust sampling and, with consultant support, created a memorandum describing the results of the pilot project. TG continues to work with NRCan under the current MOU on the passive device dust analysis. NRCan will provide a comprehensive report when data collection and analysis is completed. TG will decide the best sampling method for a long-term dust sampling program to monitor dustfall along the T̥h̥ch̥ Highway.	highway, the vegetation and ecosystems adjacent to the highway suggest that these are important habitats for many species. The wildlife monitoring program was paused for 2025. To date, two consistent years of wildlife monitoring exist – 2022 and 2024. However, two years of data are insufficient for T̥h̥ch̥ Government to determine whether the road has had an impact on different wildlife species. T̥h̥ch̥ 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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8-1 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan	Submit to WRRB under s.12.5.1 of Tłıchq Agreement at least 90 days before road open to public.	Update: large hard laminate info-poster signage has been produced and ready for installation at recently renovated Whatı 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.	
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	2024-2025 With consultant support TG interviewed harvesters to explore potential impacts the highway has had on tɔdzı, hozı ekwɔ, and dedı near the Tłıchq Highway. With consultant support TG developed a voluntary harvesting program to voluntarily report harvesting of tɔdzı, hozı ekwɔ, and dedı near the Tłıchq Highway. TG installed road signs in both directions of the Tłıchq Highway, advertised the program through social media and pamphlets, and created an online and hard copy survey. Surveys are expected to be completed as the hunting season ramps up. Tłıchq Highway monitors collected wildlife data from December 2021 to February 2025 by travelling daily along the highway and recording wildlife	The wildlife monitoring program was paused for 2025. To date, two consistent years of wildlife monitoring exist – 2022 and 2024. However, two years of data are insufficient for Tłıchq Government to determine whether the road has had an impact on different wildlife species. Tłıchq Government requires GNWT to continue funding the wildlife monitoring program as stated in measure 7-1 to confidently determine potential road impacts on wildlife.

		observations. With consultant support, TG submitted quarterly reports with wildlife observation trends. In 2025, with consultant support TG submitted a comprehensive report comparing wildlife observations and bison observations for 2022 and 2024 - the two years where wildlife recording was carried throughout the 12 months. 2021, 2023, and 2025 monitors were unable to collect data for the entire 12 months due to wildfire evacuation or staff capacity limitations.	
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 operations	2024-2025 With consultant support TG interviewed harvesters to explore potential impacts the highway has had on t̥d̥z̥i, ho̥z̥i e̥kw̥o̥, and ded̥i near the T̥h̥ch̥o̥ Highway. With consultant support, TG developed a voluntary harvesting program to voluntarily report harvesting of t̥d̥z̥i, ho̥z̥i e̥kw̥o̥, and ded̥i near the T̥h̥ch̥o̥ Highway. TG installed road signs in both directions of the T̥h̥ch̥o̥ Highway, advertised the program through social media and pamphlets, and created an online and hard copy survey. Surveys are expected to be completed as the hunting season ramps up. T̥h̥ch̥o̥ Highway monitors were deployed	The wildlife monitoring program was paused for 2025. To date, two consistent years of wildlife monitoring exist – 2022 and 2024. However, two years of data are insufficient for T̥h̥ch̥o̥ Government to determine whether the road has had an impact on different wildlife species. T̥h̥ch̥o̥ Government requires GNWT to continue funding the wildlife monitoring program as stated in measure 7-1 to confidently determine potential road impacts on wildlife.

		from December 2021 to February 2025 (with limitations in data quality as noted above) by travelling daily along the highway and recording wildlife observations. With consultant support, TG submitted quarterly reports with wildlife observation trends. In 2025, with consultant support TG submitted a comprehensive report comparing wildlife observations and bison observations for 2022 and 2024 - the two years where wildlife recording was carried throughout the 12 months. 2021, 2023, and 2025 monitors were unable to collect data for the entire 12 months due to wildfire evacuation or staff capacity limitations.	
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 Chłą (birds). The observations are reported in the quarterly wildlife monitoring reports	

10-2 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 was prior and during permitting]</i>		With consultant support, TG developed a voluntary harvesting program to voluntarily report harvesting of t̥d̥z̥i, hoz̥i ekw̥q, and ded̥i near the T̥h̥ch̥q Highway. TG installed road signs in both directions of the T̥h̥ch̥q Highway, advertised the program through social media and pamphlets, and created an online and hard copy survey. Surveys are expected to be completed as the hunting season ramps up. T̥h̥ch̥q Highway monitors were deployed from December 2021 to February 2025 (with limitations noted above) by travelling daily along the highway and recording wildlife observations. With consultant support, TG submitted quarterly reports with wildlife observation trends. In 2025, with consultant support TG submitted a comprehensive report comparing wildlife observations and bison observations for 2022 and 2024 - the two years where wildlife recording was carried throughout the 12 months. 2021, 2023, and 2025 monitors were unable to collect data for the entire 12 months due to wildfire evacuation or staff capacity limitations.	
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