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Preliminary Screening Determination and Reasons for Decision

Land Use Permit Application	
File Number	G26J001
Company	First Bible Baptist Church
Project	Delta Bible Camp
Location	Elik Ahtsii Jeł, Kalinek Channel
Activity	Camp
Date of Decision	June 29, 2026

1.0 Decision

In accordance with subsection 124(1) of the [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act](#) (MVRMA), the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB or Board) met on June 29, 2026, to make a preliminary screening determination on the Application from the First Bible Baptist Church (FBBC or Applicant) for Land Use Permit G26J001 (Permit)¹ for the Delta Bible Camp (Project).²

The Board has decided not to refer the proposed Project to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) for Environmental Assessment because, based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment or be a cause of public concern.

The Board's determination, including reasons for its decision, are detailed in sections [3.0](#) and [4.0](#).

¹See GLWB Online Registry www.glwb.com for [Delta Bible Camp - Permit Application Form - Feb03_26](#)

² The Project is the Delta Bible Camp which is the proposed development, where "development" is defined in Part 5 of the [MVRMA](#) as:

"any undertaking, or any part or extension of an undertaking, that is carried out on land or water and includes an acquisition of lands pursuant to the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and measures carried out by a department or agency of government leading to the establishment of a park subject to the *Canada National Parks Act* or the establishment of a park under a territorial law."

2.0 Background and Scope of Screening

On February 3, 2026, FBBC submitted an application for a type A land Use Permit for the operation of the Delta Bible Camp. The facility is located at *Elik Ahtsii Jet*, on the Kalinek Channel (Mackenzie River) about 35 km south of Inuvik. It consists of five existing buildings (lodge, gym and cabins) (See Figure 1, below).

A land use permit is required because the camp will exceed the 200 person day threshold as per [Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations](#) (MVLUR) section 5(b)(ii) and may exceed the 400 person day threshold as per section (4)(b)(ii). Water withdrawal is not proposed, and the camp serves fewer than 50 people, so a water licence is not required, as per Schedule F(3)(b) of the [Waters Regulations](#).

The camp is located on Gwich'in Private Lands, and access to the land is authorized under Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Lease #GTC25L003, which expires January 11, 2051.³

Prior to submission, FBBC engaged with potentially affected parties to explain the Project, so to seek input and discuss concerns. According to the Applicant's Engagement Record FBBC engaged GTC and also contacted Nihtat Gwich'in Council (NGC).⁴ The Engagement record did not identify any concerns with the Project.

In accordance with paragraph 125(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#), the Board must conduct a preliminary screening of the proposed Project to determine and report to the Review Board whether, in its opinion, the proposed Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment or might be a cause of public concern.



³ See GLWB Online Registry for [Delta Bible Camp - GTC access authorization - Feb03_26](#)

⁴ See GLWB Online Registry for [Delta Bible Camp - Engagement Plan and Record - Feb03_26](#)



Figure 1: Delta Bible Camp

2.1 Sope of Screening:

The project scope includes operation and maintenance of a non-profit youth and leadership camp. The camp uses existing structures and does not involve new construction or ground disturbance. A maximum of 100 L of fuel will be stored on site. Lime treated outhouses will be used, and garbage will be stored in sealed containers and removed to Inuvik facilities

2.2 Public Record and Regulatory Proceeding

To assist the Board in its preliminary screening determination for the Project, the Board distributed the Application and a draft Permit for public review on February 11, 2026, inviting reviewers to provide comments and recommendations on the Application and the preliminary screening (e.g., on impacts and mitigation measures) using the Online Review System (ORS).⁵ Comments were originally due March 5, 2026, with responses from the Applicant due March 11, 2026. On February 20, 2026, Nihtat Gwich'in Council (NGC) requested a 60-day extension to the public review period.⁶ On February 27, 2026, FBBC Responded to NGC's extension request.⁷ On March 2, 2026, The Board approved a 30-day extension and new deadlines of April 6 (comments), and April 13 (responses) were set.⁸

⁵ See GLWB Online Review System for [Delta Bible Camp Type A Permit Application \(G26J001\)](#)

⁶ See GLWB Online Registry for [Delta Bible Camp - NCG Request to Extend Comment Period - Feb20 26](#)

⁷ See GLWB Online Registry for [Delta Bible Camp - FBBC Response to Comment Extension Request- Feb27 26](#)

⁸ See GLWB Online Registry for [Delta Bible Camp - GLWB Extension to Review Comment Period - Mar02 26](#)

The Board received submissions from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)(no comment), Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture and Employment – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center (PWNHC), Nihtat Gwich'in Council (NGC), and Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Lands and Resources (GTC-DLR).⁹

The Board received a request to extend the review comment deadline, and the Board provided an extension to allow parties additional time to review the application materials. The Board is satisfied that a reasonable period of notice was given to affected communities and First Nations, as required by subsection 63(2) of the [MVRMA](#).

3.0 Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations

Table 1 below summarizes:

- the potential impacts of the proposed Project;
- the concerns that were identified during the regulatory proceeding and how the Applicant addressed those concerns;
- the proposed and potential mitigations for the potential impacts; and
- the Board's analysis of the potential impacts and proposed mitigations.

⁹ See GLWB Online Registry for [Delta Bible Camp - Review Comment Summary Table - Apr28_26.pdf](#)

Table 1: Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigations for the Proposed Project

Potential Impact	Activity	Proposed Mitigations <i>Description of measures to reduce potential impacts, including consideration of cumulative impacts and climate change.</i>	Board Analysis and Determination
Soil Contamination and surface water contamination	Use of machinery has potential for hydrocarbon spills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A portable generator and lawn mower will be on site, and up to 100 L of fuel could be stored on site. The Applicant has committed to storing fuel a minimum of 30 meters from the Ordinary High-Water mark of the river and has submitted a spill contingency plan. Lime-treated pit toilets will be used. • The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impacts. These standard conditions include:¹⁰ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SECONDARY CONTAINMENT – REFUELING ○ FUEL CONTAINMENT ○ REPAIR LEAKS ○ FUEL STORAGE SETBACK ○ SPILL RESPONSE ○ CLEAN UP SPILLS ○ REPORT SPILLS 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.
Human-wildlife conflicts	Project related activities / human presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant noted that proper waste management practices will be employed to prevent wildlife attraction and potential human-wildlife conflict. A Waste Management Plan a Wildlife Monitoring Plan were both provided <p>The Board has standard permit conditions that are typically used to mitigate the identified potential impact. These standard conditions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GARBAGE CONTAINER ○ MIGRATORY NEST DISTURBANCE 	Based on the described mitigations, it is the Board’s opinion that the proposed activities are not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and/or will not be a cause of public concern.

¹⁰ See the MVLWB Policies and Resources webpage to access the MVLWB [Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template](#).

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4.0 Consideration of Potential Impacts

Based on the potential impacts and proposed mitigations identified above in Table 1, the Board considered whether the Project might have a significant adverse impact on the environment. In general, impacts of the Project on the environment can be mitigated through the use of standard permit conditions and/or project-specific conditions established by the Board as per the LWB [Standard Process for Creating New Conditions](#). These conditions may include requirements for management and monitoring plans that provide detailed information regarding the implementation of mitigation measures and the evaluation of their effectiveness.

A draft Permit was circulated for review during the regulatory proceeding, and all Parties were given the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations on the draft conditions. In finalizing the conditions, the Board considered all of the evidence provided through the regulatory proceeding.

Based on the evidence provided during the regulatory proceeding the Board did not identify any comments or issues that indicate that the Project before the Board might cause significant adverse impacts to the Environment.

4.2 Consideration of Public Concern

In addition to considering the potential impacts of the Project, the Board considered whether the Project might be a cause of public concern.

Based on the evidence provided during the regulatory proceeding the Board did not identify any comments or issues that indicate that the Project before the Board is a cause of public concern.

5.0 Conclusion

The Board has reviewed all the evidence received during the regulatory process with respect to the Preliminary Screening of the proposed Project. Based on the evidence, it is the Board's opinion that the proposed Project is not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and will not be a cause of public concern, as set out in paragraph 124(1)(a) of the [MVRMA](#). The Board has therefore decided not to refer the proposed Project to Environmental Assessment. If the Board does not receive a notice of referral to environmental assessment by July 9, 2026, the Board can issue the Permit on July 10, 2026.

SIGNATURE



Elizabeth Wright, Chair
Gwich'in, Land and Water Board

June 29, 2026

Date