

Hello, my name is Clarence Wood and I am here today representing the NWT Association of Communities. Our organization represents 25 elected community governments across the Northwest Territories.

Our interest in speaking to you today is to put a voice to public community governments in your hearing process. As noted by the attached resolutions from our annual general meetings, there has been an interest by our membership in the pipeline development and we felt it appropriate to bring those issues to your attention.

First of all, ***it is important to identify and address issues where community infrastructure will be impacted by pipeline development.*** All types of communities – large or small, tax based or non tax based are impacted when their infrastructure is used more heavily than originally intended. In most cases, infrastructure is built with a particular life span/use in mind. Should industry and the community agree to additional use of a facility by industry, the communities may be impacted by having their facilities reach the end of their use in advance of planned replacement. For example, if the life span of a solid waste facility is reduced due to heavy use by industry, there must be a recognition of that issue and it must be addressed by all parties concerned before development occurs. With current shortages in funding infrastructure in the NWT, this issue is critical to our members. When talking about facilities such as solid waste, and water/sewer facilities, it should be noted that there will be impacts beyond costs if the facilities need to be updated more often including things like the environmental implications of closing off one solid waste site and creating another.

Many of our members have identified ***opportunities for partnerships*** that exist with pipeline development. As noted in one resolution attached at the end of this presentation, members of our organization identified the potential to put fibre optic cables along the pipeline route as part of the construction process to

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improve access to high speed internet. As has often been noted, the potential for completion of the Mackenzie Valley highway has also been made viable if it is done along with the pipeline. Although it is understood that the primary purpose of the pipeline will be to move industry's product to market, our members strongly encourage partnerships to benefit all NWT residents through the process. They see these opportunities not only as an opportunity to see projects proceed in a more cost effective manner, but they perceive the environmental impacts to be significantly decreased when these construction projects happen together.

There are expected to be ***increased demands on other community resources*** as a result of pipeline development. The nature of these demands will vary tremendously along the pipeline route. There may be additional support required from emergency services, additional resources in the "community wellness" fields to cope with the social impacts of development, increased demand for land/housing, etc. It will be important for all parties - industry, Territorial Government and communities to work closely together to identify needs, and address training and resource needs.

In closing, the NWT Association of Communities encourages the MVERIB to note that industry must work closely with all parties, including community governments, to maximize benefits to all parties and minimize the potential negative impacts on community infrastructure and resources.

For the Board's information we have attached copies of some of the recent resolutions made at the NWTAC's Annual General Meeting which refer to the pipeline development.

2003-02 *Fibre Optic Line Communications*

Now therefore be it resolved that the Association of Communities solicit the support of the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure that the

appropriate agencies provide for the installation of a fibre optic line along with the natural gas pipeline which will be accessible to the public for high speed internet.

2003-03 *Completion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway*

Now therefore be it resolved that the members of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities request the Federal and Territorial Government accept their joint responsibility to the residents of the Mackenzie Valley and construct the Mackenzie Highway as planned in 1972.

2003-15 *Community Impact Benefit Agreements*

Be it resolved that the NWT Association of Communities request that the Government of the NWT work with the Association to investigate Community Impact Benefit Agreements to reduce the negative impact faced by communities from the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project.

2001-18 *Community Preparedness for a Mackenzie Valley Oil & Gas Project*

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Premier of the Government of the Northwest Territories provide multi-year funding commencing immediately for the 2001-02 fiscal year and on an annual basis for the next five year period, to enable NWT community governments to properly prepare for and be effectively represented in the regulatory and approval process for a Mackenzie Valley Oil & Gas project; and

Further be it resolved that the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Premier of the Government of the Northwest Territories, in consultation with the NWT Association of Municipalities, develop a program of extraordinary financial assistance for community governments to construct and operate the incremental community infrastructure required to accommodate the local growth and service impacts of a Mackenzie Valley Oil & Gas Project.

2000-20 Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

Therefore be it resolved the Council of the Village of Fort Simpson requests the NWT Association of Municipalities, to urge the Government of the Northwest Territories to do everything in its power to encourage the construction of the Natural Gas Pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley.