

FORT NORMAN MÉTIS COMMUNITY

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, #200 Scotia Centre, 5102-50th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT XIA 2N7
Email: cbouche@reviewboard.ca

Re: Letter of Support for MVH

Dear Board of Directors,

The Fort Norman Métis Community supports the Mackenzie Valley Highway project and express the need to build the Mackenzie Valley Highway as soon as possible due to climate change impacts of low water levels which is jeopardizing the barging system. If there is no barging system, all supplies will have to be flown into the community which will increase the cost of living.

A lot of people in the Sahtu, live on a fixed income, how will they be able to survive with the increase in the cost of living. We need a permanent road such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway to connect the Sahtu and provide access to a permanent highway.

In 2023, Tulita was impacted by Fires which caused the community to be evacuated to Norman Wells, Deline and Wrigley for two weeks. It was a scary situation; no planes could land in the community. The only way community members were able to leave the community was by boat, this posed a problem as well because it was smokey but there was no other source of transportation, therefore members had to travel by boat. This caused a safety issue, we need a permanent road so that people can leave in a emergency situation, not everyone has a boat to leave when they want so we had to do boat charters to assist members who needed to leave the community.

The other reason that we find important to have the Mackenzie Valley Highway is to support Canada's national defense system to protect Canada's north and resources. Although the north has a lot of resources we are still isolated from the rest of Canada. We need a permanent highway to show

sovereignty all over Canada, connecting the north to the rest of Canada will show all Canadians that our government cares about our safety and wellbeing.

On behalf of the Fort Norman Métis Community, I express my support for the Mackenzie Valley Highway and I hope that our government of the NWT and Federal Government can find the resources to help build the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

Respectfully.

Arnold Gaudet
President
Fort Norman Métis Community