



NOV 01 2022

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

### Tłı̨chǔ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group Terms of Reference Update

Dear Corridor Working Group Members:

The Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) would like to propose an update to the Tłı̨chǔ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (TASR CWG), Terms of Reference (ToR). Specifically, INF is suggesting that Social Issues be added as a key area of interest for discussion at the TASR CWG meetings. Additionally, the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services (GNWT-HSS) will be added to the CWG distribution list and will lead the discussions on the social issues.

This update is in response to a letter sent to Minister Archie by the Mackenzie Valley Review Board on August 19, 2022, outlining the importance of including social issues on the TASR CWG meeting agenda to reflect the intent and spirit of Measure 14-3. INF suggests revising the ToR under principles (d) (i) from "Environmental Assessment commitments and measures (other than socio-eco)" to "Environmental Assessment commitments and measures, including socio-economic and health and well-being commitments related to environmental considerations, as per Measure 5-1 and 5-2".

INF is also proposing an update to GNWT-INF's Role d) to remove the wording specific to the provision of a charter flight from Yellowknife on the day of the meetings in Whatì as the road is now operational and members are able to drive motor vehicles as a mode of transportation. GNWT-INF's Role d) states that:

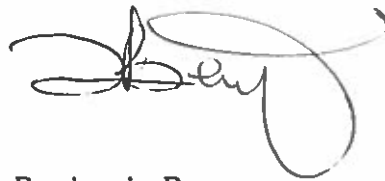
"GNWT - INF will fund the Tłı̨chǔ Government, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in twice annual working group meetings, one of which will annually take place in

.../2

Whatì, through the provision of a charter flight from Yellowknife the day of the meetings in Whatì, and the provision of hospitality/meals during these meetings. Alternate travel arrangements are outside the funding umbrella.”

Attached is an updated draft-for-discussion ToR for your review and comments. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (867) 767-9086 ext. 31058 or by email at Benjamin\_Bey@gov.nt.ca at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Bey', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Benjamin Bey  
Environmental Analyst  
Department of Infrastructure

c. Cameron Wilson  
Regional Superintendent  
Department of Infrastructure

Ziaur Rahman  
Manager, Surface Design and Construction  
Department of Infrastructure

# TŁJCHQ ALL SEASON ROAD CORRIDOR WORKING GROUP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Effective Date: November 2022

### PURPOSE

Provide a forum for information exchange that meets the overall commitment made by the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) during the Mackenzie Valley Review Board environmental assessment (EA1617-01) and to meets the details outlined in Measure 14-3.

#### GNWT-INF Commitment:

- Forum will provide advice on monitoring and mitigation results that will inform adaptive management;
- May also serve as a forum to exchange information with academic parties and researchers;
- Will include the GNWT, regulatory boards and government departments, Indigenous governments and organizations, interested parties, and contractor representatives; and,
- Will be modeled off the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Corridor Working Group.

#### Measure 14-3:

- The Developer (GNWT-INF) will establish the Tłjchq All-Season Road Corridor Working Group by:
  - Funding the Tłjchq Government, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in twice annual working group meetings, one of which will annually take place in Whatì;
  - Requiring the participation of the P3 operator; and,
  - Inviting Tłjchq Elders to participate.
- The Developer will make meeting minutes publicly available.
- The Developer will maintain the working group through the Project construction phase and for five years of Project operations, unless an extended term is agreed to by parties.

### Principles

In keeping with the commitment GNWT-INF made during the Mackenzie Valley Review Board environmental assessment (EA1617-01), and Measure 14-3, the Tłjchq All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (TASRCWG) will function in accordance with the following principles:

- a) The TASRCWG is an information sharing mechanism for GNWT-INF to report on the Tłjchq All-Season Road (ASR) Project and to review outcomes of the multiple environmental management and monitoring plans with invited interested parties.
- b) The GNWT-INF will use this forum as a means to communicate and report broadly to the interested parties on the Project on a biannual basis (at least once per year in Whatì).
- c) Tłjchq Elders will be invited to participate.

- d) Key areas of interest for the TASRCWG are as follows:
- i. Environmental Assessment commitments and measures, including socio-economic, health, and well-being commitments relating to the environment considerations, per Measure 5-1 and 5-2.
  - ii. Construction Authority Land Use Permit
  - iii. Construction Authority Water License
  - iv. Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan
  - v. Fisheries Protection Program advice
  - vi. Annual reports, management plans review and adaptive management
  - vii. North Star Infrastructure (NSI) annual reports and commitments
  - viii. NSI's current and subsequent activities, and
  - ix. Any additional subjects at the discretion of the Chair.
- e) TASRCWG representatives should be selected for their expertise and strategic insight in the relevant traditional knowledge, scientific area or user needs and expectations.
- f) NSI will attend the TASRCWG in order to communicate Project Co related issues and compliance associated with this group's purpose.
- g) The TASRCWG does not replace the legal authorities of the Tłıchǝ, federal or territorial regulators or co-management bodies.
- h) Meetings of the TASRCWG will not replace any Project-specific sub-working group meeting requirements.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the TASRCWG are to:

- a) review and provide comments to the GNWT-INF on the design of Project-specific monitoring programs;
- b) review Project-specific annual and other monitoring reports and provide comments to the GNWT-INF for the following year's Project-specific monitoring and mitigation program; and
- c) provide advice to the GNWT-INF on Tłıchǝ ASR monitoring and mitigation results that may contribute to adaptive management and/or regional cumulative effects monitoring programs.

## COMPOSITION

In addition to the GNWT – INF Chair and Administrative Coordinator, the TASRCWG will be comprised of at least one representative from:

- Community Government of Whatì
- Community Government of Behchoko
- Tłıchǝ Government
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation

- Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
- Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board
- GNWT – Department of Infrastructure (Project specialists)
- GNWT – Department of Lands (Inspector)
- GNWT – Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- NSI

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **GNWT-INF's Role**

- a) The GNWT-INF will chair the meetings.
- b) The Administrative Coordinator will prepare agendas and issue notices for meetings and ensure all documentation for discussion or comment is attached to the agenda.
- c) The Administrative Coordinator will distribute the agenda one (1) month prior to each meeting, which will be held in the spring and fall of each year.
- d) GNWT – INF will fund the Tł̨chq̨ Government, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in twice annual working group meetings, one of which will annually take place in Whatì. The GNWT-INF will accept ground transportation claims using the prevailing GNWT Duty Travel Rate on the day of meetings and the provision of meals during these meetings. Alternate travel arrangements are outside the funding umbrella.
- e) The Administrative Coordinator will take notes of proceedings and prepare draft meeting minutes/Action items for circulation to members for review.
- f) The Administrative Coordinator will post meeting minutes/action items on GNWT-INF's Tł̨chq̨ ASR webpage within two (2) months of each meeting.  
(<https://www.inf.gov.nt.ca/en/t%C5%82%C4%B1%CC%A8ch%C7%AB-all-season-road-project>)
- g) The Administrative Coordinator will also perform all necessary preparatory administrative duties such as booking the venue and catering, arranging transportation, teleconference setup (if required).

### **Invited Representatives' Role**

- a) Review documents and data circulated prior to each meeting.
- b) Contribute experience and ideas.
- c) Have experts within respective organizations verify and analyze the data collected and provide recommendations or modifications.
- d) Cooperate in issue resolution.

## **DURATION OF MEETINGS**

Length of meetings will vary based on the agenda. At each meeting there will be a standard agenda as per Appendix A, recognizing different needs between the construction, operation and transition phases. Travel to and from the meeting is additional time. Longer meetings are expected earlier in the project construction phase.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting minutes will include action items if required and will be formatted in a similar fashion to the template found in Appendix B.

## **DURATION OF WORKING GROUP**

The TASRCWG will be established by May 2019 and will operate for the construction period and for five (5) years of highway operations which commenced in November 2021, unless an extended term is agreed to by its parties.

## **REVIEW PERIOD**

This Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated as required.

## **Appendix A**

### **Agenda**