



MR. FREDERICK BLAKE
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

FEB 26 2019

Oral Question 541-18(3) Tsiigehtchic Ice Bridge

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 11, 2019 regarding the construction of the Tsiigehtchic Ice Bridge. I committed to providing you with details on the equipment brought in to construct the Ice Bridge, the reasons for bringing in this equipment, and the cost savings realized.

In 2017 the Department of Infrastructure (INF), Beaufort Delta Region, purchased a Bombardier Bombi, a Snow Cat, and a "Big Ice" sprayer, which cost a total of approximately \$175,000. These pieces of equipment, along with a re-purposed Infrastructure truck with a snowplow, were brought in to construct the Tsiigehtchic Ice Bridge in 2017 and 2018.

This new equipment was brought in to address the high cost of repairs and maintenance on existing INF equipment in Tsiigehtchic at the time. It is also lighter than the equipment previously used, allowing it to be utilized on the ice earlier which enables increased efficiency and effectiveness in the construction of ice crossings on the Mackenzie.

Since the new equipment has been brought in, and with improved oversight, the costs associated with the annual construction of ice crossings on the Mackenzie has decreased from \$650,000 in 2016, to \$200,000 in 2018, which is now back in line with funding levels. At the same time, winter access service levels have increased for residents.

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The Department remains committed to working with you and the community leadership of Tsiigehtchic in order to ensure ice bridge construction occurs as efficiently and quickly as possible, and in a way that maximizes potential employment benefits for its residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Schumann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wally Schumann
Minister
Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs