

Mackenzie Highway Business Case

WHEREAS the Mackenzie River Basin has been experiencing drought and low water levels since 2022, which has disrupted the re-supply of communities by barge;

AND WHEREAS the disruption of barging routes has created extraordinary logistical challenges and costs to deliver goods and supplies to impacted communities;

AND WHEREAS communities in the Sahtu region estimate over a collective 14 million dollars in lost or delayed business opportunity, including logistical and shipping expenses as a result of the 2024 cancelled barge;

AND WHEREAS the Mackenzie Valley Highway has been a project under development for decades; it is a 321-kilometre highway, of which 14 kilometres have been built to date;

AND WHEREAS the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway will not only unlock economic potential of the Sahtu, but it will also lower the cost of living for residents, connecting the Mackenzie Valley region and improving transportation to the Arctic Ocean, increasing the Northwest Territories' and Canada's Arctic sovereignty and security;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories is mandated under the 20th Legislative Assembly to strengthen government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments and work in partnership to jointly engage the federal government to advance issues of shared interest;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Minister of Emergency Preparedness has identified the federal program, Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, of which the Government of the Northwest Territories can access ninety per cent of the cost of the installation of temporary housing within Enterprise;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories has the key to unlock funding offered by the Government of Canada;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, that the Government of the Northwest Territories update the business case to complete the Mackenzie Valley Highway immediately;

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Date of Notice: June 11, 2024
Date de l'avis : 11 juin 2024

Date of Introduction:
Date de présentation :

Disposition:
Disposition :

Carried:
Adoptée :

Moved by: Mr. McNeely
Proposée par : M. Yakeleya

Seconded by: Mr. Edjericon
Appuyée par : M. Edjericon

Ruled Out of Order:
Déclarée irrecevable :

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories use the updated business case to formalize Indigenous partners in the project and to lobby the federal government in partnership to secure the funding required in the upcoming federal budget to build this critical infrastructure for the territories and Canada;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this motion within 120 days.