
The Review Board releases its Report of Environmental Assessment for Tłıchq All-Season Road Project (EA1617-01)

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT – The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) has completed an environmental assessment of the Tłıchq All-Season Road Project, proposed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Review Board recommends to the Tłıchq Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories - Minister of Lands that the project be approved only with several measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment.

The Review Board used 11 months of the available 16-month timeline under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* to conduct the environmental assessment. Additional time was used by the Government of the Northwest Territories to respond to the Review Board's and parties' information requests.

Today, the *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (the Report of EA) for the Tłıchq All-Season Road Project was released by the Review Board. This Report of EA describes the Board's findings on the Project.

The Project consists of the construction and the ongoing operation of a 97 km all-season highway from approximately 30 km southwest of Behchokò on Highway 3 to the Community of Whatì boundary. The highway will be permanent and construction is proposed to take 4 years.

After careful consideration, the Review Board concludes that the proposed highway should be approved subject to the implementation of 23 measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment. These measures include requirements for the GNWT and others to:

- Track and manage project-related changes to well-being of Whatì residents, including harmful behaviours associated with increased access to drugs and alcohol, traffic accidents, safety of young women and changes in harvest success.
- Require policies that increase the safety of young women in work camps and communities.
- For boreal caribou (tòdzı) in the Project area, make a range plan with actions to reduce or avoid impacts and protect boreal caribou, offset habitat, and create a temporary no-hunting corridor where non-Aboriginal hunting of boreal caribou (tòdzı) will be prohibited.
- Use Traditional Knowledge in barren-ground caribou (zekwò) habitat monitoring.
- Complete the *Bathurst Caribou Range Plan* as soon as possible.

- Create an Integrated Fisheries Management Plan that prevents significant impacts from additional fishing pressure resulting from increased access.
- Monitor harvest and manage wildlife to help maintain successful Aboriginal harvesting.
- Conduct, and take actions based on, a bird survey before construction.
- Include important details in the *Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan*.
- Establish and fund the Tłıchǵ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group.

With these measures and other measures to mitigate identified significant impacts, and considering the developer's commitments as described in the Report of Environmental Assessment, the Review Board has recommended that the Project proceed to the regulatory phase for approvals. By addressing the significant adverse impacts in these and other ways, the Project will be improved, and meaningful actions will mitigate the significant impacts that would otherwise occur.

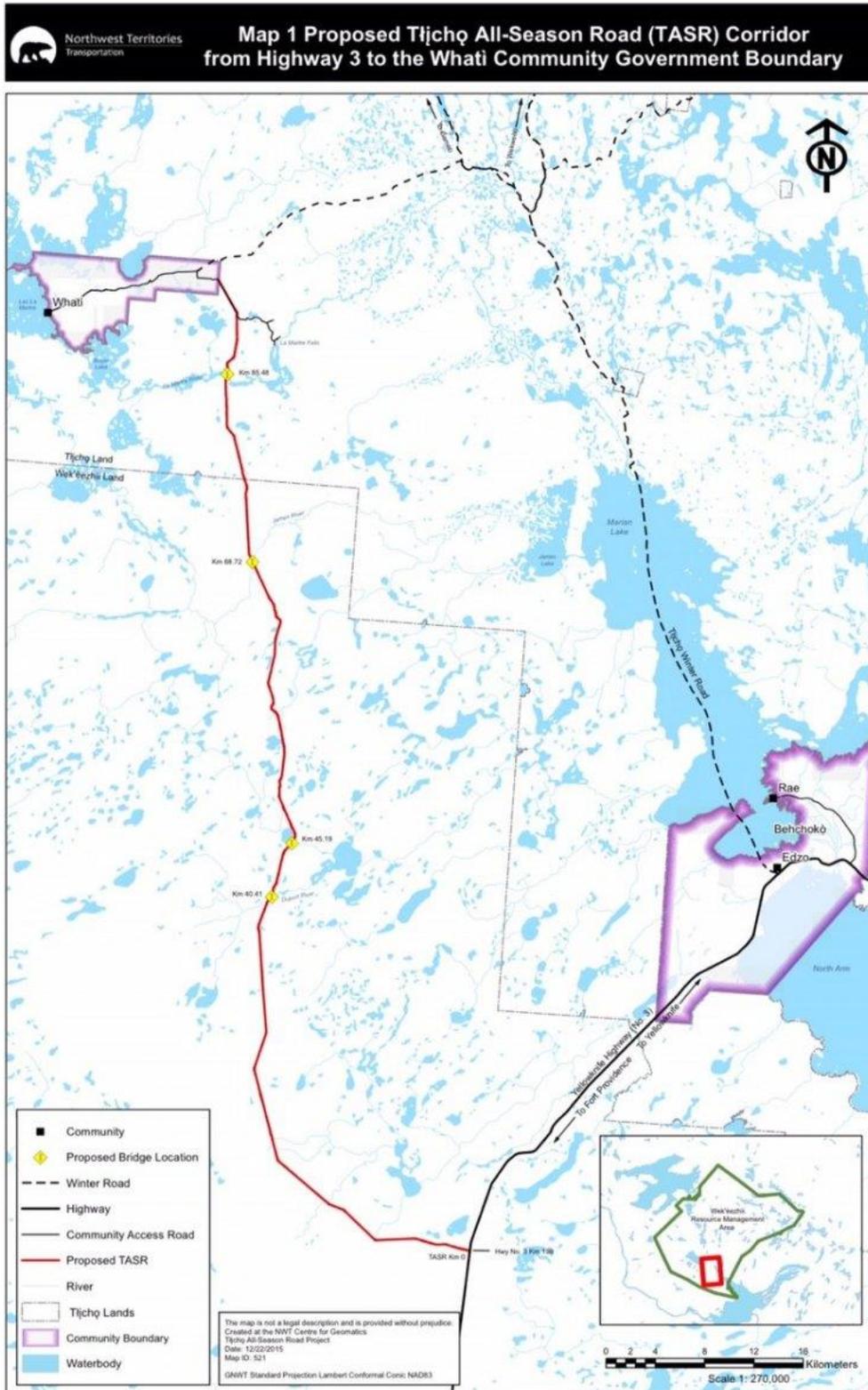
This Project is partially located on Tłıchǵ Lands. Because of this, the Report of EA has been sent to George Mackenzie, the Tłıchǵ Grand Chief, and to Louis Sebert, the Minister of Lands, GNWT, for their consideration. Once the Report of EA is approved by the Tłıchǵ Government and the Minister of Lands, the Project can move to the permitting and licensing phase.

The Review Board thanks the GNWT, the Tłıchǵ Government and all other parties for their participation in this environmental assessment.

The Review Board's *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* for the Project is available through the online public registry [here](#).

For further information, please contact:

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca
(867) 766-7055



Location of the proposed highway

About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* in 1998 as an independent administrative tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, Aboriginal land claim organizations nominate half of the board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the board members. The Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada appoints all members to the Review Board including the Chairperson.