## EA SCOPING CONSIDERATIONS for the

## Wrigley to dempster highway section of mVH

* **GNWT has consistently advocated to the federal government that an all-weather highway up the Mackenzie Valley to Tuktoyaktuk supports Canada’s sovereignty goals, resource development, and other economic opportunities.**
* **Planning the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) from Wrigley to Inuvik remains a priority for the Department of Transportation.**
* **Recent oil and gas activity in the Sahtu and problems related to the current winter road system has pushed the issue of completing the highway through to the Dempster Highway higher on the GNWT’s agenda.**
* **Stage 1 - Completion of the 4 PDRs represents a significant step forward in planning and helps the GNWT to engage the federal government in discussions on funding for additional planning activities and eventual construction.**
* **Stage 2 - Planning Activity has been initiated by way of referral to environmental assessment. To provide certainty on the assessment process, DOT on February 08, 2013 requested the application be referred to environmental assessment under Section 126 (2) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.**
* **To assist with an efficient scoping process the DOT prepared the Environmental Scoping Document which summarizes the contents of the 4 regional PDRs, providing:**
  + **The scope of the proposed development**
  + **Summary of public input received during preparation of the PDRs**
  + **Potential focus of the environmental assessment**
* **Considering the amount of work completed on the PDRs, including 3 engagement sessions in each affected community, as well as information available from the environmental review of the Mackenzie Gas Project, DOT is encouraging the MVEIRB to consider:**
  + **Referring to the Scoping document and PDRs for much of the background information**
  + **Limiting public scoping meetings, and possibly canvassing the public and community organizations whether public sessions are warranted or whether a written scoping process might be more efficient**
  + **Requesting the DOT to provide a preliminary draft Terms of Reference to use to focus the scoping process**
* **The DOTs involvement in the environmental assessment process will require additional studies and consultations to be undertaken. DOT will commence these studies once a Terms of Reference is issued and there is certainty in MVEIRB’s process for the environmental assessment.**