



May 8, 2024

Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
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Delivered Via e-mail to:  
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### **Letter of Support – Mackenzie Valley Highway**

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Dear Mark,

I am writing to confirm the Gwich'in Tribal Council's (GTC) preliminary support for the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (from Wrigley to Norman Wells) by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

For some background and context, the GTC is an Indigenous organization that represents Gwich'in Participants originating from the Mackenzie-Delta region of the Northwest Territories (NWT) in the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic (collectively 'the Gwich'in communities'). The Gwich'in are a culturally independent Nation that is focused on protecting and advancing our interests. Through quality work, collaborative approaches, and good governance, we strive to increase economic opportunities, develop infrastructure, promote health and wellness, and preserve the culture and language of the Gwich'in.

One of the objectives of the GTC is to develop and promote economic, social, educational and cultural programs that will enable the Gwich'in to become self-sufficient and full participating members in a global society. We represent over 3,500 Participants to the GCLCA – over half of which reside in the NWT. The GTC also seeks to retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and language of the Gwich'in.

As stewards of the land and advocates for environmental sustainability, the GTC also prioritizes the protection of our natural resources, ecosystems, and cultural heritage. As such, our traditional knowledge, expertise, and perspectives are invaluable assets in ensuring that the Mackenzie Valley Highway is developed in a manner that respects environmental conservation, mitigates potential risks, and upholds our cultural values and way of life.

Therefore, we urge the responsible authorities and stakeholders involved in the decision-making process to commit to transparency, accountability, and adherence to the highest

environmental standards. By prioritizing environmental stewardship and Indigenous rights, we can achieve long-term sustainable development outcomes that benefit both present and future generations.

The Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) holds significant potential to enhance year-round connectivity, economic development, and access to essential services for not only the Sahtu communities but also the neighbouring regions such as the Mackenzie Delta. We recognize the importance of infrastructure projects in promoting socio-economic growth, facilitating transportation of vital goods and services, fostering regional integration and supporting Canada's national defense and sovereignty.

In conclusion, the GTC extends its support for the Mackenzie Valley Highway project, contingent upon the completion of a conclusive Environmental Assessment process that safeguards the well-being of our lands and people.

Hai' (thank you) for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you wish to further discuss this opportunity.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Tripathy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Tripathy  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Ken Kyikavichik, GTC Grand Chief  
Willard Hagen, GTC Director, Lands and Resources  
Maggie Crump, GTC Manager, Government Affairs  
Charles McNeely, Chair, Sahtu Secretariat Inc.