

CALL FOR INTEREST – EXPERT ADVISORS

Social, cultural and economic advisory services required for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project Environmental Assessment EA1213-02

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) conducts environmental assessments in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories (NWT). Expert advisors are sometimes required during the environmental assessment process to help the Review Board assess potential impacts of projects on the environment and people.

For the remainder of its current environmental assessment for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project (the Project), the Review Board is looking to retain social, cultural, and economic experts to help it consider the impacts of the Project on the social, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities in the Mackenzie Valley.

In this environmental assessment, this particularly relates to the following topics from the *Terms of Reference*:¹

- Key line of inquiry: Local social and economic considerations
- Subject of note: Culture and traditional land use

About the Project and Environmental Assessment

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is proposing to construct a 321 km two-lane all-season gravel highway from Wrigley to Normal Wells, Northwest Territories. The Project is the first all-season road link for several Indigenous communities and will lengthen the winter road season for other communities. This new access has potential to cause social, cultural, and economic impacts – both positive and negative. The environmental assessment process will soon be entering the analysis phase with the submission of the Developer's Assessment Report by the GNWT.

Below is a short summary of the remaining phases of the environmental assessment and a brief description of the type of support and work required by the expert advisors.

Analysis phase:

- Review and critically analyse the Developer's Assessment Report
- Work with staff and Board to develop information requests (possibly two rounds)
- Participate in technical and community sessions

¹ [Terms of Reference for EA1213-02](#)

Hearing Phase

- Review and analyse party and developer interventions
- Work with staff and Board to prepare lines of questioning for the public hearing
- Participate in questioning at the public hearings
- Review final written submissions from parties and developers

Decision Phase

- Review all evidence on relevant topics and advise the Review Board of potential impacts
- If significant adverse impacts are identified, suggest what mitigation may be required to reduce or avoid those impacts
- Provide advice to Review Board members and staff as they prepare the Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision. Possibly help in drafting relevant sections.

Submission of Proposals

Should you or your company wish to be considered for any or all parts of this Call for Interest, please submit an expression of interest that includes:

1. your CV
2. a description of your business
3. a description of your expertise and the services you can provide
4. a rate sheet for those services

Your submission should not exceed a total of 40 pages (excluding CVs). The Review Board may request further details if needed.

Preference will be given to applicants who have experience:

- working with Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories
- have proven experience in at least one of the following:
 - social impacts on northern communities
 - impacts on Indigenous cultures of the Mackenzie Valley
- economic analysis (related to environmental assessments)
- understanding impacts of road access on communities and community members
- working with clients similar to the Review Board
- speaking and writing clearly and in plain language to people who are not experts

Submit via email by end of day on ~~May 5~~ May 19, 2023 to:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938, #200 Scotia Centre

5102-50th Ave.

Yellowknife NT, X1A 3X7

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