



Community Government of Whati

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June 5, 2016

Meeting Summary Special Inter-Agency Meeting

In Preparation for the Tłı̄ch̄o All Season Road into Whati

On May 4, 2016, approximately 80 people gathered in Whati to discuss the social and economic impacts of the Tłı̄ch̄o All Season Road being constructed and providing year-round road access from Highway 3 to Whati. Mr Jim Stauffer, Adult Education Instructor at the Whati Campus of Aurora College, was selected as the Moderator.

Invited representatives at the meeting included:

- Community Government of Whati Chief, Council, & Administration;
- Tłı̄ch̄o Government Grand Chief, Executive Officers & Community Directors;
- Tłı̄ch̄o Government Departments, including Planning, Economic Development, Training & Development Facilitation, Mines Liaison, Lands & Resources
- TCSA, including Education, Health, Social Services, Income Security, Career Development, Early Childhood Programming;
- GNWT Departments, including Government Services, Transportation, Airports, MACA, Housing;
- Tłı̄ch̄o Investment Corporation;
- RCMP;
- Aurora College;
- Air Tindi;

Due to meeting size, general members of the public moved in and out of the Whati Culture Centre during the session. At the end of the meeting, four elders spoke ... all in support of the road.

Three charter flights were booked for the meeting, along with the morning & afternoon Air Tindi flights scheduled for the day. Due to fires in Fort McMurray, Summit Air had to redirect some of their aircraft for emergency evacuation. They spread the passengers over two smaller charters, causing one of the flights to land in Whati well after the meeting had started.

During his welcome, Chief Alfonz Nitsiza noted it was a perfect example of some of the challenges of living in an isolated community.

A short summary of the 2013 & 2015 Special Inter-Agency Meetings was provided by the Community Government.

Department of Transportation provided a short presentation on the current status of the Tłıchǫ All Season Road, including a historical component.

The Tłıchǫ & Community Governments jointly made a presentation on social and resource issues that have been determined as being a concern, and then discussed mitigation actions either planned or already underway.

Mr Stauffer opened a round-table discussion and invited the representatives to speak about their areas of responsibility.

Areas of concern:

- Need for more Heavy Equipment Operator training for the Tłıchǫ Region. TG is arranging an initial session starting in July 2017 in Whatì.
- According to a Territorial formula, Mezi Community School has a capacity of 220 students, therefore they are only at 65% capacity.
 - Although some questioned that estimation, it was noted that a contingency plan could involve portable classrooms should it be required.
 - There was also question about increased students creating the need for more teachers, and whether there was adequate housing for the teachers.
- The Whatì RCMP Detachment is already at capacity, and there is no opportunity for growth in the current structure. Locating a site for another detachment has not been included in the Whatì Land Use Plan.
 - There are currently two RCMP residences and one temp RCMP residence in Whatì.
 - There is currently no plans for detachment expansion or additional residence construction.
 - In the interim, assistance with community-sponsored security patrols is very important.
- Lac La Martre Development Corporation reminded everyone that while an All Season Road will assist on the availability of product delivery, the reality is that new housing and building construction takes 2 years or more. *Note: Whatì currently has less than 20 subdivided but undeveloped residential building lots, and less than 10 lots that can be re-developed for new residences.*
- NWT Housing Corporation advised everyone that their normal cycle is 3 years from the time that the decision is made to proceed to the time they can move someone into the completed residence.
- Tłıchǫ Investment Corporation expressed their concerns that they would like to see more collaboration in training opportunities.

- TCA was asked about providing increased health care services in Whatì, including ambulance services. TCSA noted that Whatì is one of the few communities in the north that has a retired ambulance, currently used for medevac transport, and it could be pressed into service and they would be prepared to train local residents as EMTs.
- It was noted that two important partners were apparently over-looked and should have been extended invitations to be at the table: NorthwesTel and NTPC.
 - Internet services are currently questionable at certain times in the morning as demand increases.
 - Similarly, although the Community Government is investing in several energy and environmental alternatives, there is the potential for a significant increase on demands in the existing diesel-generation system.

Chief Alfonz Nitsiza thanked everyone for attending, and that it was a learning experience for many as Whatì proactively prepares for growth and change, and he looked forward to another similar meeting next year.

Please Note Also Attached:

- a. *Chief Alfonz Nitsiza's opening & closing comments are attached separately.*
- b. *Letter from Whatì to WLWB in support of the All Season Road*
- c. *Attendance sheet with contact information.*



Community Government of Whatì

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Violet Camsell-Blondin, Chair
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB)
#1, 4905 48th Street
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 3S3

May 30, 2016

Dear Ms. Camsell-Blondin:

RE: Tìjchq All-Season Road Project, W2016E0004/W2016L8-0001 - GNWT-DOT

The Community Government of Whatì has been an active agent in the move to consider the Tìjchq All-Season Road (TASR) to our community. We are very proud of a range of programs and strategies we have developed over the years to make Whatì a strong and resilient community.

When it became apparent that there may be the possibility of the all-season road into the community, we used the existing Inter-Agency Committee as a special forum to advance our preparation. In 2013, 2015 and again in 2016, we brought not only the local agency representatives together, but their supervisors and regional managers.

These meetings bring together all agencies that have a role in delivering and strengthening programs in our community. Attached is a summary of the most recent meeting here, and recommend the breadth of organizations attending be noted.

As a result of these meetings, policies, programs and strategies have been identified and completed, such as:

- In 2013 (with the assistance of the Conference Board of Canada, the Justice Institute of BC, and Royal Roads University), the Community Government of Whatì completed the first Resiliency Study in Northern Canada. That Study indicated both strengths and weaknesses in the resiliency of our community, and that information was rolled into our long-term community strategic planning;
- In 2014, we completed our first five year Strategic Plan (2014-2019).
- In 2014, we also completed the first Land Use Plan for Whatì;
- In 2013/2014, we updated of our Community Emergency Management Plan and completed table-top exercises ... which proved to be useful during the adjacent wildland fires of 2014;

- In 2015, we partnered with the other Tłı̨chǫ communities & the Tłı̨chǫ Government to form the Tłı̨chǫ Regional Economic Development Working Group, and developed a local/regional economic development strategy including the revival of the dormant local community futures, which will develop and grow economic and tourism opportunities in the region;
- In March 2016, Council completed the Whati Strategic Plan (2016-2021), which is annually reported on and updated.

Notably, the Strategic Plan addresses the TASR, and every other goal in our plan promotes strong and resilient community development. For 2016, the Ten Top Goals are:

1. Professional Development
2. Prepare for All-Season Road
3. Hotel and Café
4. Arena - Gymnasium addition
5. Arena - Research artificial ice option
6. Strategically placed landfill berms and natural screening
7. Revive Community Futures
8. Daycare
9. Tłı̨chǫ Regional Economic Development Working Group
10. Form separate Economic Development Entity

Whati is an active and vibrant Community Government recognized across Canada as a leader in promoting sustainable community development and growth. We are proud of our achievements, and look forward to many interesting and challenging years in which we put our plans into action.

The TASR has been on our Community Government agenda as a standing item since in the early 1990s, and we are not unaware of the risks and benefits it holds. The approach our government has taken is one which does not shy away from the risks. Instead, we actively plan for them to change them into opportunities.

We look forward to the outcomes of your Board's deliberations.

In Tłı̨chǫ Unity,



Chief Alfonz Nitsiza

cc: Jackson Lafferty, MLA - Monfwi

Laura Duncan, Executive Officer, Tłı̨chǫ Government
 Chief and Council, Community Government of Behchokō
 Chief and Council, Community Government of Gameti
 Chief and Council, Community Government of Wekweéti

**May 4, 2016 - Special Inter-Agency Meeting
Chief Alfonz Nitsiza's Opening comments**

As at June 5, 2016

Good morning. Thank you, Elder, for the opening prayer.

I would like to welcome all of you here, as you know we still have another plane delay, so they will be here momentarily but that goes to show that we rely heavily on the plane here in Whati, not only here but other communities in the north where we don't have the connections to the highway systems. It is normal for us to delay or juggle things around so that everything works out okay. The people that are coming will do their presentations later on today. So, we will start.

*Today we are here to talk about the intergovernmental **Tłjchq All Season Road**. We have been talking about, thinking about and researching this road for many years. We have been working together in partnership with all the agencies that serve the people of Whati to prepare for this All Season Road. It is in our partnerships that build the trust we need to keep working together.*

Let me give you an example: It was in 2013 when we heard through the Intergovernmental Agency that it was noted that Whati needed a full-time local social worker, a full-time local mental health worker, a local housing organization, a hotel & restaurant, and more attention for seniors accommodation. Our work together has helped us to make great steps forward on all these goals.

*The **Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board** is reviewing the application for the proposed road and will decide what to do next. We have brought you all here together today to talk about how to be prepared for this road. This is the single most incredible crowd of people. You all work so hard on all of your programs, policies and you serve our people well.*

Once the road is built, Whati will have access year round. There will be benefits, but we must also be prepared for the changes it will bring. We have been preparing. We have studied how the road could impact our community. We have asked our people what their concerns are and where the road should go. We have a socio-economic study already completed on how the road could affect our community. The study shows that the road will bring jobs and economic opportunities for our community. Yes, there are concerns. That is why we have been getting our community prepared. The Whati government has been working with the interagency working group since 2012. We are working with the RCMP, MACA, and the Tłjchq Government to make sure our community is ready. The Whati government is committed to implement programs and measures to promote community health and resilience.

If we want this road now, it is our job now to say we want it. There is a lot that goes into this effort, a lot of planning, a lot of review, and we are going to need the funding to pay for this road. We are not asking for something we do not understand. We have studied this, our people have talked about this, we have listened to our Elders. As a community we have to show them what we want. If you want the road we must advocate for it. I am proud of our agencies, and welcome you all to our community today.

And there lots of people in departments, in our Tłjchq Government departments, the Community Governments, as well as the Territorial Government, who done extra to make that this road happens. It's not there yet, but we know that the application is in front of the review board, and so we must continue to be prepared.

And I'd like to take this time to personally thank the local Department of Transportation Superintendent, Michael Conway for his support. He has been one person that has really pushed for this road for Whatì. I want to acknowledge him, and give him a round of applause for his contribution to this very important project.

There are many others as well, and that goes to show what can be accomplished through partnerships and working together. I've sat in a lot of meetings where we say 'Let's work together' and soon as the meeting is over, you walk out, and working together never happens. But it is true that in building relationships, relationships turns into trust, that's when things start happening. And that's what I saw with this Inter-Agency work, getting the people together, and good things will happen.

With that, I'd like to turn this over to my Grand Chief of the Tłìchò Government. Again, we are very grateful to have so many people here from different departments of governments and companies, people that want to know and see for themselves what this is all about. It is a great time. With that, I'll turn this over the Grand Chief. Mahsi.

**May 4, 2016 - Special Inter-Agency Meeting
Chief Alfonz Nitsiza's Closing comments**

As at June 5, 2016

Mahsi. Thank you.

It was a great gathering here. This was our third time and the last count I received was that there were over 80 people here. When we first did this in 2013, there was about 40. And 2015 there was a little over 40 as well, so this time we doubled that. It shows that there is a lot of interest.

And, as Chief, I am very proud of this community and all of you, the agencies and how you serve our people here. We don't know how long the review of this road will take. It is at the review board right now, and they are looking at it. The public still has time to comment on that review until the end of this month. And today as I listened to everybody as they made their presentations and comments and here is what I've heard today:

- *The road has the ability to build capacity in the community.*
- *We need to have a real focus on economic development.*
- *There are strong foundations and plans in place now.
For example, there is training, with partnerships with hope and new training strategies. We all have a part in training.*
- *In Housing, we are happy that we now have a local presence (Local Housing Organization).*
- *For families, there are parenting programs and many new services, such as community garden.*
- *In economic development our Tłı̨ch̨ Investment Corporation and our local businesses are working. They will be required and relied upon heavily when we build the road.*
- *While Air Tindi services may be reduced, maybe we will become a Tłı̨ch̨ force in north aviation.*
- *For education and services as good, our schools and daycares are not at capacity.*
- *And we know our ambulance service is growing and we will need to respond on the highway.*
- *It is good to hear that the RCMP is committed to working in our communities.*

We still have needs and we have learned about them today. For example, we have heard:

- *that justice needs a probation officer,*
- *housing needs three year lead time for (new) housing to plan ahead and needs lands and family-size structures.*
- *Internet services (need to be enhanced).*
- *There needs to be stronger collaboration between agencies, and we want you to come and support us building it together.*

Thank you for coming today. And we will see you next year to continue this conversation.

I mentioned how important economic development is, because over many years, all the small communities were disadvantaged because we rely heavily on outside for everything. Programming dollars, either in municipal or education elsewhere. Never, never do we have enough money.

We as a Tłı̨ch̨ Government also talk and advocate for our language and cultural way of life. Ten years into the Tłı̨ch̨ Government and I see that there is limited improvement in those areas. We have limited resources, and that probably will not go away for some time yet. The only way I know

that we talk, the elder talk(ed) about the alcohol and drugs coming into every community, it's all over, we cannot lock everybody up. That's almost impossible. The social envelope in the Territorial Government is about \$300 Million a year. The money that goes to people at a lock-up in jail: One inmate costs over a \$100,000 per year. If a person gets sick because of drinking to excess or drugs and ends up in the hospital, it is a \$150 to \$170 a night for one bed. Those things are going up. And we talk about alcohol, drugs: I've heard it all. The stories behind it, for the last forty years that I've been in meetings. So what do you do? You know, we hear on the radio about homelessness. I think it's time for front-line agencies to think about how do we deal with these issues?

And as our leaders in the Tłjchq Government we truly believe that our language is slowly dying, right in front of us. And, the way out of this is through economic development. We have to educate our people so they can have jobs and try to fit into mainstream society. If the parents are working, the kids will grow up to see their parents working instead of on welfare. Now, some may not agree, but if we depend on somebody for everything, someday that service will be cut and what do you do?

So, I think just for a thought before you travel home, we need to do more in the communities, not only here (in Whatì) but in all our regions. We've got lots of 'smarts' around the table, and we can share and I think that we can have a healthy community and a healthy people. And we will save the government money, and everybody benefits.

Mahsi Cho.

Recorded Attendance at the 2016-May-04 Special Inter-Agency Meeting

as at June 5, 2016

| Name | Representing | Position | Email |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Acosta, Dan | Community Government of Whati | (Recreation Programmer) | recprogram@whati.ca |
| 2. Alexis, April | Tijchq Government - Whati | (A/Community Director) | aprilalexis@tlicho.com |
| 3. Angel, Grace | NWT Housing Corp - Whati | (LHO Manager) | grace_angel@govt.nt.ca |
| 4. Arrowmaker, Carol | Tijchq Government - Wekweèti | (Ec Dev Officer) | carolarrowmaker@tlicho.com |
| 5. Baran, Larry | Community Government of Whati | (Deputy SAO) | deputysao@whati.ca |
| 6. Barnett-Aikman, Shannon | Tijchq Community Service Agency | (Education) | shannon_aikmann@tlicho.net |
| 7. Batchelor, Rhonda | Department of Transportation | (Director, Environment Affairs) | Rhonda_Batchelor@gov.nt.ca |
| 8. Beaverho, Pierre | (Community Elder) | () | (None) |
| 9. Black (Daniels), Anita | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Dir Community Programs) | anitadaniels@tlicho.com |
| 10. Blackduck, Belinda | Tijchq Government - Gamèti | (Ec Dev Officer) | belindablackduck@tlicho.com |
| 11. Blackduck, Jasmine | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Comm Svc Mgr, Trainee) | jasmineblackduck@tlicho.com |
| 12. Brenton, Kelly | Tijchq Investment Corporation | (CEO) | Kbrenton@tlichoic.com |
| 13. Conway, Michael | Department of Transportation | (Regional Superintendent) | Michael_Conway@gov.nt.ca |
| 14. Champlain, Joseph | (Community Elder) | () | (None) |
| 15. Daniels, Darin | Tijchq Community Service Agency | (Ambulance Team Lead) | darin_daniels@tlicho.net |
| 16. Doolittle, Yvonne | Municipal & Community Affairs | (Regional Superintendent) | yvonne_doolittle@gov.nt.ca |
| 17. Dryneck, Antonia | Tijchq Government - Yellowknife | (Note Taker) | (??) |
| 18. Duncan, Laura | Tijchq Government - Yellowknife | (Executive Officer - TG) | lauraduncan@tlicho.com |
| 19. Erasmus, Eddie | Tijchq Government - Yellowknife | (Grand Chief) | grandchiefediwa@tlicho.com |
| 20. Football, Adeline | Tijchq Government - Wekweèti | (Community Director) | adelinefootball@tlicho.com |
| 21. Francisco, Vickie | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Training & Dev Facilitator) | vickiefrancisco@tlicho.com |
| 22. Flunkie, Alfred | Community Government of Whati | (Councillor) | (None) |
| 23. Gibson, Ginger | Tijchq Government - Yellowknife | () | ginger.gibson@thefirelightgroup.com |
| 24. Greyeyes, Matthew | Education, Culture & Employment | (Reg Mgr, Income Security) | Matthew_Greyeyes@gov.nt.ca |
| 25. Harris, Elaine | Aurora College | () | eharris@auroracollege.nt.ca |
| 26. Hope, Linsey | Tijchq Community Service Agency | (Education) | linsey_hope@tlicho.net |
| 27. Hum, Jessica | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Land Use Planner) | JessicaHum@tlicho.com |
| 28. Hunt, Sarah | Tijchq Investment Corporation | (Human Resources Manager) | shunt@tlichoic.com |
| 29. Jeremick'ca, Mary Ann | GNWT | (Govt Services Officer) | Mary-Ann_Jeremick'ca@gov.nt.ca |
| 30. Kakfwi, Jatonia | | () | (None) |

Recorded Attendance at the 2016-May-04 Special Inter-Agency Meeting

as at June 5, 2016

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| 31. Kralt, Margaret | Dillon Consulting | (TREDWG Consultant) | mkralt@dillon.ca |
| 32. Lamouelle, Pamela | Tijchq Government - Wekweèti | (Career Dev Officer) | pamela_lamouelle@ticho.com |
| 33. Mackenzie, Grace | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Mines Liaison Coordinator) | Gracemackenzie@ticho.com |
| 34. Mackenzie, Violet | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Translator) | (None) |
| 35. MacKay, Jeff | RCMP - Whati Detachment | (Constable) | jeffery.mackay@rcmp-grc.gc.ca |
| 36. Mantla-Arrowmaker, Jenny | Tijchq Government - Gamèti | (Career Dev Officer) | jennymantla@ticho.com |
| 37. Matheson-Maund, Marjorie | Tijchq Government - Yellowknife | (Implementation Facil.) | marjoriemathesonmaund@ticho.com |
| 38. McAndie, Darla | Air Tindi | (Manager Customer Services) | darla.mcandie@airtindi.com |
| 39. Moosenose, Michel | Community Government of Whati | (Councillor) | (None) |
| 40. Nayally, Joseph | Education, Culture & Employment | (Reg Mgr, Career Develop) | joseph_nayally@gov.nt.ca |
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| 43. Nitsiza, Alfonz | Community Government of Whati | (Chief) | alfonznitsiza@ticho.com |
| 44. Nitsiza, Charlie | Fortune Minerals | (Whati Representative) | cjitsiza@outlook.com |
| 45. Nitsiza, Doreen | Community Government of Whati | (Recreation Coordinator) | recreationcoord@whati.ca |
| 46. Nitsiza, George | Community Government of Whati | (Councillor) | georgenitsiza@ticho.com |
| 47. Nitsiza, Leon | Community Government of Whati | (Councillor) | (None) |
| 48. Nitsiza, Lisa | Community Government of Whati | (SAO) | sao@whati.ca |
| 49. Nitsiza, Susan | Tijchq Government - Whati | (EDO) | susannitsiza@ticho.com |
| 50. Nitsiza, Ted | Tijchq Government - Whati | (Lands & Resources Officer) | tednitsiza@ticho.com |
| 51. Rabesca, Claudia | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Career Development Officer) | claudiarabesca@ticho.com |
| 52. Rabesca, James | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Translator) | (None) |
| 53. Rabesca, Jimmy | Community Government of Whati | (Councillor & Elder) | (None) |
| 54. Rabesca, Patricia | NWT Housing | () | prabesca@hotmail.com |
| 55. Richardson, Louise | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Early Childhood Prog Mgr) | louiserichardson@ticho.com |
| 56. Rozestraten, Katie | Department of Transportation | (Environmental Analyst) | katie_rozestraten@gov.nt.ca |
| 57. Sanders, Janet | RCMP - Whati Detachment | (Constable) | janet.sanders@rcmp-grc.gc.ca |
| 58. Saturnino, Michael | Education, Culture & Employment | (Regional Superintendent) | Michael_Saturnino@gov.nt.ca |
| 59. Sarapnickas, John | Mezi Community School - Whati | (Principal) | John_Sarapnickas@ticho.net |
| 60. Schnurr, Bob | Air Tindi | (Mgr Operations) | bobsc@airtindi.com |
| 61. Simpson, Francis | (Community Elder) | () | (None) |
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as at June 5, 2016

| Name | Representing | Position | Email |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
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| 65. Stroman, Lee | Department of Transportation | (Regional Airport Manager) | lee_stroman@gov.nt.ca |
| 66. Tereposky, Andy | NWT Housing Corp | (Regional Superintendent) | Andy_Tereposky@gov.nt.ca |
| 67. van der Wielen, Sjoerd | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Lands Protect Mgr) | sjoerdvanderwielen@tlicho.com |
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| 69. Wedawin, Marlene | Tijchq Government - Whati | (Career Development Officer) | marlenewedawin@tlicho.com |
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| 72. Wetrade, Phoebe Ann | Tijchq Government - Behchokq | (Career Development Officer) | phoebewetrade@tlicho.com |
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| 75. Zoe, Francis | Community Government of Whati | (Translator) | (None) |
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Note: Attendance counts were completed throughout the meeting, to gauge public attendance along with people that signed the attendance form. At 1:34pm, there was 79 people. 2:59pm there was a count of 82 people.