March 24, 2016

Mr. Ryan Fequet
Executive Director
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
1 4905 48th STREET
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 3S3

Dear Mr. Fequet:

Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Project (TASR) – Access to Tłįchǫ Lands

We are writing to advise you that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), in conjunction with the Tłįchǫ Government, may be submitting applications to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB) for a Land Use Permit and Water Licence in order to construct an all-season road from Highway 3 (KM 196) to Whatì. Approximately 17 km of the road will be located on land that is currently Tłįchǫ lands. The remaining 77km is on Territorial lands.

The WLWB requires a form of approval by landowner(s) prior to the review of any application for land use permits and water licences that will be submitted.

This letter serves to acknowledge that the Tłįchǫ Government intends to grant GNWT access by way of an interim access agreement to the Tłįchǫ lands described above for the purposes of constructing the proposed Tłįchǫ All-Season Road to Whatì. This authorization includes temporary access to potential borrow sources and their respective access roads, on conditions that will be agreed to by Tłįchǫ Government and GNWT.
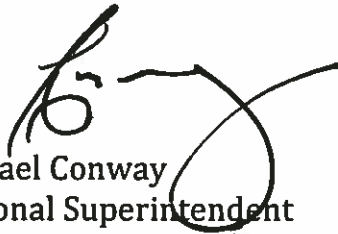
As part of this process, the GNWT and Tłįchǫ Government are prepared to negotiate an agreement whereby Territorial lands will be exchanged for the Tłįchǫ lands required for the all-season road.

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Once this exchange is completed, any further requirement for an access agreement will likely be rendered moot as the whole of the lands underlying the all-season road will be under the administration and control of the Commissioner. This type of "land swap" is contemplated in Chapter 18 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement.

The GNWT confirms that it will grant access to those Territorial lands as necessary for the purpose of constructing the proposed Tłı̨chǫ All-Season Road to Whatì.

Sincerely,

Michael Conway
Regional Superintendent
Department of Transportation

Laura Duncan
Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer
Tłı̨chǫ Government