

Tłıchǫ Government and Community Government of Whatı Commitments

The Tłıchǫ Government and Community Government of Whatı have reviewed the outcomes of two research studies, and met on an ongoing basis with the Department of Transportation to discuss how to monitor and mitigate effects from the proposed all weather road to Whatı. The following mitigations have been reviewed and accepted by the leadership of both the Tłıchǫ Government and Community Government of Whatı. This commitments list has been authorized by the Whatı Community Government and Tłıchǫ Government as commitments to manage impacts and maximize the benefits of the proposed all weather road.

MOTION #: 2015-018

Moved by Councilors Sonny Zoe, Seconded by Councilor Jimmy Rabesca, that Council note for the record that Administration reviewed the effects of an All-Season Road as outlined in the DRAFT *Tłıchǫ Government and Community Government of Whatı Commitments* report as submitted to Council on February 16, 2015, and have accepted the report and proposed mitigations.

CARRIED

The Tłıchǫ governments are in favour of the all season road as it will:

- create year-round employment for maintenance for 6 to 8 people
- enable more business in Whatı to be feasible, also assisting in employment
- enable the cost of living in Whatı to be reduced because currently people have to fly anything in or fly out for services.

Community Safety

Our goal is to strengthen community security and safety through resilient policing, policies and programs.

1. The Community Government of Whatı is investigating two options to strengthen community security: Community Bylaw Officer and the Aboriginal Policing Program. This is an issue that needs to be addressed jointly by the Tłıchǫ Government and the Community Government of Whatı, as well as other supportive agencies.
2. There is a need to provide on-the-land treatment for substance abusers, using the healing-power of the elders and the land. This is a social issue that needs to be addressed by TCSA, and one recommendation is to introduce the Nishi Program by accessing a variety of funding sources.
3. There is currently an alcohol prohibition in place in Whatı. Annually, TCSA, the RCMP and the GNWT allocates a large sum to prohibition enforcement and responding to the negative impacts which are most often ineffective. The Community Government of Whatı would like to review the possibility of revisiting the prohibition ban, in favour of more proactive resilience strategies for managing alcohol and drug consumption in the community.

Economic Development

Our goal is to strengthen community economic development through programs and resources.

4. The need has been shown for increased business acumen for local entrepreneurs, in order to maximize local procurement opportunities from the road and mine. The Tłı̄chǫ Government currently maintains Economic Development Officers (EDO) in the communities who assist Tłı̄chǫ residents in establishing their own businesses. It may create a larger benefit for the Tłı̄chǫ Government to redirect each local EDO to focus on local economic development issues.

Community Preparedness

Our goal is to prepare the community of Whatı̄ for road development through programs, intergovernmental coordination, and provision of resources.

5. The Community Government of Whatı̄ has an active Community Emergency Management Plan and completes regular training and exercises of staff, Council, and various community members. In 2014, the relevance of this training and preparedness was graphically demonstrated as wildland fires came within 5 km of the community.
6. The Community Government of Whatı̄ is an active supporter of a local Inter-Agency Committee which includes the RCMP, Health, various TCSA agencies, and the Tłı̄chǫ Government. Whatı̄ Inter-Agency responds to issues related to community preparedness. Issues such as emergency response, social programs, and the community & lands concerns are all brought to this monthly forum. Reasonable discussions about costs, liabilities and insurance will need to be addressed at this forum. Both parties commit to continuing this community forum in order to coordinate among agencies.
7. The Community Government of Whatı̄ commits to clear and ongoing communication with citizens in the region, using appropriate means. These may include posters, door-to-door mail-outs, newsletters, as well as public meetings.
8. Housing stock and condition is an ongoing barrier to community well-being and preparedness. There is insufficient information on housing and the barriers, but key issues to investigate include income support, home ownership, property management, and local organization, as well as financing. A Local Housing Organization (LHO) is being established in Whatı̄, but there needs to be further development and information gathered. Both parties recommend a fact finding investigation on this topic, within the next six months and, based on the findings, further commitments can be made. In order to propel action forward on this topic, this issue should also be on the Tłı̄chǫ Chief Executive Council (CEC) agenda.
9. There is a need for locally agreed-upon goals and plans for Community Well-Being. The Whatı̄ Inter-Agency Committee should develop a small set of community based goals of resilience. As an example: A number of local gardens, and the support of a community

garden, could be an example, with goals set for 2020 and 2025. The Community Government of Whatì commits to forming a small set of community goals during the 2015 Strategic Planning process (March 6 & 7), and then monitoring progress towards goals over-time.

Governance

Our goal is to prepare the citizens and governments for road development through development of predictable regulations, policies and support of services.

10. There is desire for development of regulations and policies to manage the construction of cabins and design of hunting, trapping, and fishing in the area, in order to minimize impacts on local animal populations. The GNWT and the Tłıchǫ Government commit to working together to develop clear guidance on this topic, and provide effective management.
11. The Tłıchǫ Government will develop mineral policy for Tłıchǫ Lands, so that there is clear and predictable regulation in the region.