



EA 1617-01

# Summary of Community Scoping Session in Whati

Tlicho All-season Road

Government of Northwest Territories

Department of Transportation

August 18, 2016

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0 Summary of Results .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Well-being.....	5
2.2 Culture and Traditional Land Use.....	5
2.3 Wildlife.....	7
2.4 Project Alternatives .....	7
2.5 Spills and Contamination.....	8
2.6 Other Topics Discussed .....	8
<b>Appendix A – Community Scoping Session Sign-in Sheets .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## 1.0 Introduction

This report provides a summary of the issues and priorities identified during the community scoping session for the Tlicho All-season Road project. The community scoping session was held in the community of Whati on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016, from 2pm to 8pm.

The session was attended by over 40 residents from the community of Whati, and included Elders, leaders, youth, and other individuals. Representatives and staff from the Tlicho Government, Community Government of Whati, Community Government of Behchoko, Review Board, Land and Water Board, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, and Government of Northwest Territories (various departments) also attended. The Review Board contracted two translators who were present for the session. The community sign-in sheet is attached as Appendix A.

Two presentations, the first from the Review Board and the second from the Government of Northwest Territories, preceded a community discussion. The Review Board's presentation emphasized that the purpose of the day's events was to hear from the Community of Whati, and to identify and prioritize issues that matter to the community. The Government of Northwest Territories presentation focused on project details and some of the mitigation measures that have been proposed.

Following the presentations, community members worked in small groups with Review Board staff to identify valued components in their environment and how these valued components may be affected by the project. To close, the group then came together to prioritize the issues that were raised.



Photo 1. Review Board presentation.

## 2.0 Summary of Results

The Review Board staff categorized the issues discussed by the community of Whati into the following five topics:

- Well-being;
- Culture and Traditional Land Use;
- Wildlife;
- Project Alternatives; and
- Spills and Contamination.

During the prioritization process, community members identified eight priority issues, listed below in order of concern from highest concern to lowest:

1. Access to the lake and fishing.
2. Jobs and economic opportunities.
3. Uncertainty over the road and access, as well as effects on culture and the character of the community.
4. Wildlife, primarily caribou.
5. Safety along the road.
6. Spills and contamination.
7. Controlling access to the road.
8. Route selection/alternatives.

The remainder of this report will provide a further detailed account of the community discussions.



Photo 2. Small group discussion.

## ***2.1 Well-being***

The community discussed possible benefits of the project, such as job opportunities, and cheaper, more reliable access to Yellowknife and health services. People also had concerns about adverse effects such as increased drug and alcohol use, family members leaving, and less use of local businesses. Along the road, community members expressed concern that people would not follow the speed limit because it was so low (70 km/h).

The specific issues and concerns were:

- Community Well-being (adverse impacts)
  - Drugs and alcohol
  - Safety and security – risk and outsiders
  - People travelling or moving to Yellowknife
    - Separating families
    - Risks of hitchhiking
  - Squatters and cabins along the road
  - Lower use of local businesses, particularly the grocery store
  - Risks to vulnerable groups (e.g., youth, middle-aged/low education or training)
- Economic Well-being (positive impacts)
  - Increased tourism
  - Increase local business and job opportunities
  - Increased development in area
  - Reduced costs
- Benefits to the Community (positive impacts)
  - Opportunity to collect firewood along the road
  - Faster, more consistent access to Yellowknife and health facilities
  - Safer than people travelling by boat or on winter road
  - Easier travel in future (climate change)
- Road Safety (adverse impacts)
  - Risk of car accidents
  - Risk of fires

## ***2.2 Culture and Traditional Land Use***

Community members had concerns about the possible effects that opening up access to the area might have on traditional land use and culture. People expressed concerns about increased harvesting pressure on wildlife and fish by outsiders. People worried about whether community members would choose to move to Yellowknife, and whether fewer traditional activities would take place. Many concerns and worries were related to the uncertainty of what the changes might be.

The specific issues and concerns were:

- Increased harvesting pressure
  - From increased access along the road
  - By outsiders hunting along the road
  - Community hunting at Favor Lake
- Fish
  - Concerns at river crossings
    - James River – damage to fish spawning
    - La Martre River, Whati
  - whitefish and pickerel
  - Harvesting pressure from increased access
  - Boat access
- Changes to culture
  - Choosing city over land
  - Participation in cultural activities
    - Getting on land
    - Use of old trails and road
    - Use of traditional canoe route
  - Uncertainty and fear of unknown changes
  - Perception of environmental health
    - Pollution on animals
    - Pollution on forests
  - Access to medicinal areas and berries



Photo 3. Small group discussion and mapping.

### 2.3 Wildlife

Community members discussed the animals that are present in the area, and the possible effects of collisions with vehicles or spills.

The specific issues and concerns were:

- Moose, caribou, wolves
- Impacts to caribou
  - Lichen areas
  - Increased predation
- Effect of spills and pollution on animals
- Wildlife collisions with vehicles

### 2.4 Project Alternatives

Elders wondered why the Elder's route (along the west side of Marion Lake) was not chosen. The Government of Northwest Territories explained that routing the road closer to Marion Lake along the Elder's route would be more expensive, more time-consuming, and would have long-term problems with permafrost. Some community members wondered if a railway has been considered.

The specific issues and concerns were:

- Route selection is not ideal
  - Selection is not the Elders route (closer to Marion Lake)
  - It will still be a long distance from Yellowknife
  - The route is outside Tlicho land boundaries
- Option of railways for shipping goods



Photo 4. Gathering and prioritizing community issues.



### ***2.5 Spills and Contamination***

Community members had concerns about potential spills and how quickly they could be cleaned up. Some individuals worried about the legacy of contaminated sites in the area and the possibility of adding to contamination in Marion Lake or Great Slave Lake. This was tied to worries about health risks from contaminated water.

The specific issues and concerns were:

- Spills
- Effect of spills on wildlife
- Response time and clean-up
- Past contaminated sites
- Cumulative impacts to Marion Lake and Great Slave Lake
- Environmental health risks - sickness from drinking contaminated water



Photo 5. Summarizing community issues.

### ***2.6 Other Topics Discussed***

A variety of other topics were raised and briefly discussed at the community scoping session. A summary of these issues, questions, concerns, and suggested mitigation are provided below.

- Community involvement
  - Elders should be given a chance to speak
  - Whati people should be more involved and decide about this road
  - Department of Transportation should work with Elders and youth from Whati
- Questions
  - Will the all-season road continue past Whati? Is this road being built for the mine?
  - Is the Department of Transportation working with Elders and youth?
  - Who will pay for the road?



- Tlicho land boundary used to be bigger. Why did they move the boundary?
- Will there be parks along the road?
- How long will the mine be open?
- Mitigation
  - Old mine should be cleaned up first before opening new mine
  - An Elders Council/Advisory group should be formed for prior/during construction
  - Low speed limit
  - Working group to monitor the road (2 people from Whati, 2 from Behchoko, 1 chair)
  - Create jobs to reduce impacts (e.g., alcohol enforcement)
  - Controlling access - have check stops or limit access using a gate that could be closed
  - Route should avoid sensitive areas, wildlife areas, avoid traplines
  - Adapt caribou management policies, feeding caribou along the road
  - Develop support for vulnerable populations (e.g., middle-aged people with low education – there are currently no support programs for them)

## **Appendix A – Community Scoping Session Sign-in Sheets**

Mackenzie Valley  
Review Board



Tlicho All Season Road Project Community Scoping		Sign-in sheet	
Location:	Whati, NT	Meeting Date:	August 18, 2016
Facilitator:	MVEIRB (Board and Staff)		
Name		Organization	
1.	Rhonda Batchelor	Transportation/GNWT	
2.	Athene Braun Rodriguez	GNWT - ITI	
3.	Andrea Patenaude	GNWT - ENR	
4.	James Hodson	GNWT - ENR	
5.	Laurie McGrigor	GNWT - ENR	
6.	David Currie	GNWT - DOT	
7.	Stu Niven	GNWT - DOT	
8.	Larry Baran	CG of Behchoko	
9.	Katie Rozestraten	GNWT - DOT	
10.	Sarah Robertson	CanNor NPMO	
11.	Umar Hasany	CanNor NPMO	
12.	Melissa Pink	GNWT - Lands	
13.	Lu Stroman	Department of Transportation	
14.	Loraine Seale	GNWT Lands.	
15.	Chief ACFOWZ NITSI29	Tlicho Gov't	
16.	KARAN BERNICE NIBI21	KEN	

# Mackenzie Valley Review Board



**Tlicho All Season Road Project  
Community Scoping**

## Sign-in sheet

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Whati, NT</b>	<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>August 18, 2016</b>
<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>MVEIRB (Board and Staff)</b>		
	<b>Name</b>		<b>Organization</b>
17.	<i>ZABEN NEWIT</i>		<i>Tlicho Government</i>
18.	<i>Laura Duncan</i>		<i>Tlicho Government</i>
19.	<i>Sonny Zoe</i>		
20.	<i>Lisa Nitsiza</i>		<i>Community Gov of Whati</i>
21.	<i>Marie Jr</i>		<i>Community Gov of Whati</i>
22.	<i>Joey</i>		
23.	<i>LLOYD</i>		<i>Leeward Bishop</i>
24.	<i>Billy Atling</i>		
25.	<i>Gordon J Zoe</i>		<i>Gordon J. Zoe</i>
26.	<i>George Mantla</i>		<i>George Mantla</i>
27.	<i>Jerry Simpson</i>		<i>Jerry Simpson</i>
28.	<i>Ricky Robeson</i>		<i>Ricky Robeson</i>
29.	<i>Dean Cluff</i>		<i>GNWT-ENR</i>
30.	<i>Lena Moosenoie</i>		
31.	<i>Marice Zoe</i>		
32.	<i>Berni Ka</i>		
33.	<i>John Tingu</i>		

Mackenzie Valley  
Review Board



Tlcho All Season Road Project  
Community Scoping

Sign-in sheet

Location: Whati, NT Meeting Date: August 18, 2016

Facilitator: MVEIRB (Board and Staff)

Name

Organization

34. Mike Romie

35. Maxim Bishop

36. Shirley Ann Dokum

37. Alfred Alexis

38. Daniel Nitsiza

39. Joseph Moosehouse

40. Michael Moss

41. Janet Moosehouse

42. Daniel Drybones

43. Megan Fraser

44. Mark Fraser.

45. MILLIE NITSIZA

46. Carolyn Loe

47. Alex Beauregard

48. ISIAH ZOE ★

49. LEON NITSIZA

50. Chrissy

# Mackenzie Valley Review Board



Tlicho All Season Road Project  
Community Scoping

## Sign-in sheet

Location: Whati, NT

Meeting Date: August 18, 2016

Facilitator: MVEIRB (Board and Staff)

Name

Organization

51. Leon
52. Frankie
53. Leroy NITSIA
54. Russell Simpson
55. Darcy Romie
56. Lisa Marie Zoe
57. Raymond Kabesca
58. Matthew Jeremiak'ca
- 59.
- 60.
- 61.
- 62.
- 63.
- 64.
- 65.
- 66.
- 67.