



August 2, 2012

VIA EMAIL

Chuck Hubert  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Hubert,

**Re: GNWT Letter of Clarification on Tlicho Road Route and NICO Access Road**

Please find attached the Government of the Northwest Territories' response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board of July 31, 2012. The Department of Transportation submission includes a copy of the MOU to provide details on the Steering Committee's function.

I can confirm that representatives of the Department of Transportation will attend the Public Hearing session on access.

Please contact me at [gavin\\_more@gov.nt.ca](mailto:gavin_more@gov.nt.ca) or 867-873-7107 if you have any questions regarding the attached submission.

Sincerely



Gavin More  
Manager  
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring  
Environment and Natural Resources

**AUG 2 2012**

MR. GAVIN MOORE  
MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**EA 0809-004 NICO Project**  
**GNWT Letter of Clarification on Tlicho Route and NICO Access Road**

This letter is in response to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's request of July 31, 2012. The GNWT Department of Transportation is providing this letter of clarification to ensure the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) and parties to the environmental assessment clearly understand the status of planning for potential future improvements to the winter road serving Tlicho community near the Nico mine site.

The GNWT Department of Transportation and the Tlicho Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Tlicho Roads Steering Committee (MOU) in August of 2011 to move forward toward completing a Project Description Report for the realignment of the existing public winter road to an overland winter road. As outlined in the MOU, attached, work is being directed by a Steering Committee, comprised of the Tlicho Grand Chief, the Chief of Behchoko, the Chief of Whati, the Chief of Gameti, the Chief of Wekweeti, as well as the MLA for Monfwi and chaired by the Minister of Transportation. The Steering Committee has set the over-arching direction of the study activities to the Working Group, comprised of GNWT and Tlicho Government officials.

The Working Group is currently working cooperatively on terrain, flora and fauna, archaeological, socio-economic baseline and traditional knowledge collection. Even though the study work is proceeding, there is no current or future funding identified or planned to realign the existing public winter road.

The construction of an all-weather road between Behchoko, Whati and/or Gameti is not the subject of the current study work underway and is not in the GNWT Department of Transportation's capital plans at this time.



Russell Neudorf  
Deputy Minister

Attachment



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**REGARDING THE Tłıchǵ ROADS STEERING COMMITTEE AS**  
**REPRESENTED BY THE**  
**THE Tłıchǵ GOVERNMENT**  
**AND**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

## **Introduction**

In December 2010, the Tl̄ch̄ Roads Steering Committee met and directed the Working Group to proceed with the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to the Engineering and Environmental Studies being undertaken in support of the project.

## **Purpose & Objectives**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to formalize the decision to proceed with work to improve the Tl̄ch̄ public winter road.

## **Structure**

All work will be directed by the Tl̄ch̄ Roads Steering Committee, comprised of the Grand Chief, the Chief of Behchok̄, the Chief of What̄, the Chief of Gam̄, the Chief of Wekwē, as well as the MLA for Monfwi and chaired by the Minister of Transportation.

The Steering Committee sets the over-arching direction of the study activities to the Working Group. The Working Group shall manage the work as directed by the Steering Committee. The Working Group will consist of employees of the Department of Transportation and the Tl̄cho Government, and other parties as needed from time to time.

## **Contracting**

It is recognized that most activities associated with the work contemplated under this MOU will be contracted to third parties and/or the Tl̄ch̄ Government. The Parties agree that efforts will be made to maximize local contracting and employment opportunities. It is also agreed the existing contracts in place will be honoured; however, certain human component aspects, such as a fulsome Traditional Knowledge Study, Regulatory and Management Analysis, as well as Socio-cultural Considerations, that may entail additional study work and related contracts will be considered by the Working Group.

## **Funding**

Funding for the studies will be provided and managed by the Department of Transportation.

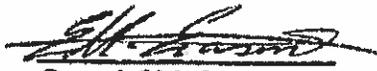
**Timing**

The Parties agree that the work will commence upon signing of this MOU. The Working Group will meet subsequent to this Agreement's signing to discuss the progress on the study work to date and additional work to be undertaken. The Working Group will agree to meet on a quarterly basis or as needed. The Steering Committee will meet at decision points or as needed.

**Terms and Miscellaneous Provisions**

This MOU shall be for the period from date of signatures to March 31, 2013. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by giving the other Party thirty days written notice of its intention to do so. This MOU may be amended with the written consent of the Parties.

**Signing Authorities**

  
Grand Chief  
Tlicho Government

Aug. 04/11  
Date

  
Minister  
Department of Transportation  
Government of the NWT

Date