

**Subject: Support for the Mackenzie Valley Highway**

May. 6/ 2024

The Norman Wells & District Chamber of Commerce would like to express our strong support for the construction and development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. With our region experiencing ever-shortening winter road seasons and limited access via barges, we firmly believe that the establishment of an all-year-round road infrastructure is imperative for the economic prosperity and sustainable growth of the Sahtu communities.

The Mackenzie Valley Highway project holds significant promise for our region offering numerous benefits that directly address the challenges currently faced by businesses in accessing essential goods and services. By providing a reliable transportation route throughout the year the highway will facilitate the efficient movement of goods, thereby reducing logistical constraints and operational costs for businesses operating in our area.

The establishment of a year-round road will also enhance connectivity between our communities creating increased business opportunities and collaboration. This improved access will not only benefit local businesses but also contribute to the overall development of our region.

The construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway also represents a critical investment in the long-term resilience and sustainability of our infrastructure. As climate change continues to impact traditional transportation routes the need for alternative and reliable modes of transportation is becoming increasingly apparent. The establishment of an all-season highway will mitigate the risks associated with climate change ensuring access to vital resources and services for our communities.

Overall we hope you support us for the creation of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. We believe that this initiative aligns with our shared goals of promoting economic growth, enhancing regional connectivity, and supporting the well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,



Joshua Earls

President of Norman Wells & District Chamber of Commerce