



Tłıchǫ Government

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December 13, 2021

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Philips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Re: Report on Tłıchǫ Government Measures of Environmental Assessment for 2020

Dzẹ nezı Mark,

The Tłıchǫ Government is providing this cover letter as part of our report on activities to implement the Report of Environmental Assessment (EA) Measures for the Tłıchǫ All-Season Road (EA-1617-01) as required by Measure 14-2.

Please see the attached table (Table 1) with updates on EA measures for which the TG holds or shares responsibility. Please also refer to the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Annual EA Measures [Report](#) for additional information on the measures that have shared responsibility for implementation.

In Tłıchǫ Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault'.

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault
Tłıchǫ Government
Department of Culture, Language & Lands Protection

Measure 14-2 requires the TG to:

a) describe the actions being undertaken to implement the measures or the part(s) of the measures for which the regulatory authority or government is responsible; and,

b) explain how these actions, including those implemented through adaptive management, fulfill the intent of the EA measures, including consideration of the following questions:

- i. How are implementation actions addressing a likely significant adverse impact on the environment?
- ii. How effective are implementation actions at reducing or avoiding the impact or its likelihood?

Table 1: Reporting on Measures for Which the TG holds Authority and/or is a Collaborative Partner

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Required completion date</u>	<u>Measure 14-2(a) TG's Recent Progress and upcoming dates</u>	<u>Measure 14-2(b)</u>
5-2 Tł̄chq̄ Monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and well-being impacts	Annually during construction & for at least 10 years of operations	<p>April 2021: Socioeconomic report card and action plan presented for CEC review</p> <p>Quarterly: updates to CEC</p> <p>Community meetings: before November</p> <p>Annual Reports: Once each year in September</p> <p>The GNWT and Tł̄chq̄ Government have been working slowly to prepare social, economic reporting. The effort has been hampered by lack of commitment of funding from ITI, as per the measure, as well as lack of capacity. The raw data is collected now, and will be rolled up for an Interagency meeting to be held in the New Year.</p> <p>Risks: Compared to other measures, The GNWT does not fund the work the way they do for other measures. Progress is slow.</p>	At this point, it is too soon to tell how effective these actions are or will be in fulfilling the intent of the EA Measures.
5-6 Include Behchokq̄ in Accident Response Planning	Before Road open to public	<p>Ambulance and Highway Rescue Action Plan</p> <p>Ongoing discussion with GNWT-MACA, TG, and community governments.</p> <p>MACA provided the following update: <i>MACA provided an operational risk assessment presentation to the Tł̄chq̄ Highway Working Group, which included a summary of the current operating environment and other important service expansion considerations. The Tł̄chq̄ Highway Action Plan Project (Measure 5-6) is now largely complete, with the exception being the implementation of community specific action plans based on each community's decision on whether to expand local services to include</i></p>	

		<p><i>highway rescue and/or ground ambulance services.</i></p> <p><i>MACA has recommended a phased approach to developing community emergency service capacity, with a focus on ensuring critical fire service components are in place prior to making any decisions around service expansion (i.e. highway rescue and ambulance services). MACA's North Slave regional office continues to work closely with the community governments of Behchokq and Whatì to help address identified fire service gaps while providing ongoing capacity building support. Although forward progress has been achieved, the community governments have been faced with competing priorities such as pandemic impacts, elections, and changes in staffing.</i></p> <p>The Fire chief and MACA continue to work with Whatì and Behchokq Community Governments on Emergency Response. This past week the SAO of Fort Providence met with the SAOs to describe their approach to local community-based response to support peer to peer learning. The SAOs in both communities are now preparing job descriptions and the equipment needs for Fire Chiefs, which they are taking to their Councils for approvals. MACA continues to support the effort through engagement and support. The next meeting is in the third week of January. The SAOs in both communities are focused on in community response, and not on the TASR road response. The team did receive costs and a proposal for response to services from Mr. Peter Siemens; however, both SAOs have the capacity only to focus on in community boundary capacity at the moment.</p>	
<p>6-1 Implementation of the Recovery Strategy for the Boreal Caribou in the NWT, and required range plans, for boreal caribou affected by the Project</p>	<p>Submit to WRRB under s.12.5.1 of Tłıchq Agreement at least 90 days before road open to public.</p>	<p>Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy & Range Plan</p> <p>April 20, 2021: CEC-Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>April-May, 2021: Working Group meetings</p> <p>May 24, 2021: GNWT final draft plan sent to TG</p> <p>June 7, 2021: TG comments due</p> <p>August 13, 2021: Submit to WRRB</p> <p>ENR will be resubmitting the interim Wek'èezhii range plan to the WRRB by November 05. They did receive comments from 7 parties during the public review phase, but no comments resulted in significant changes to the range plan, only some minor edits.</p>	<p>.</p>

<p>6-2, 7-1, 9-1 Temporary no-hunting corridor for boreal caribou (tòdzì)</p> <p>Incorporate Traditional Knowledge into Monitoring of Barren-ground Caribou (ʔekwò)</p> <p>Monitoring Harvest and Managing Wildlife to Maintain Successful Harvest</p>	<p>GNWT to set Sustainable harvest level: before road open to public</p> <p>TG to report on monitoring: Annually</p>	<p>Caribou habitat & harvest monitoring</p> <p>January 2021: Hired the WMP coordinator, and established elder/harvester committee to provide advice & oversight of monitoring</p> <p>February 2021: Animal track survey & interviews for habitat report completed. Added 2 youth to the committee.</p> <p>March 2021: Baseline habitat report</p> <p>April 2021: 2nd committee meeting with Elders, harvesters, youth. Baseline habitat report finalization.</p> <p>June 2021: Tour Tłıchq Highway with Kiewit to view habitat</p> <p>August 2021: vegetation survey done and trip to Inuvik to job shadow the highway monitors</p> <p>October 2021: vegetation survey report done</p> <p>November 2021: continued monitor training and committee meeting</p> <p>Ongoing: Develop voluntary harvest report program and communications (radio, poster, signs, pamphlet).</p> <p>Need to do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish checkpoint for harvest monitoring at the entrance of TH/highway 3. • monitoring to start in December 	
<p>6-3 Habitat Offset and Restoration Plan</p>	<p>Submit to WRRB under s.12.5.1 of Tłıchq Agreement at least 90 days before road open to public.</p>	<p>Woodland Caribou Habitat Offset Plan The Final Caribou Habitat Offset Plan was completed, submitted, and approved by the WRRB. Approval was given on September 2, 2021.</p>	
<p>8-1 Integrated Fisheries Management Plan</p>	<p>Submit to WRRB under s.12.5.1 of Tłıchq Agreement at least 90 days before road open to public.</p>	<p>January 2021: Draft plan finished. Ongoing: Meetings with DFO, TG, WRRB</p> <p>February-April 2021: Meetings and surveys of community members, Tłıchq Citizens, and the general public</p> <p>August 1, 2021: submitted draft plan to WRRB for review and comments</p>	

		October 22, 2021: Submitted to all the working group partners for final review prior to board submission	
10-1 Bird Species at Risk and Migratory Bird Data, Mitigation, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management		<p>No new updates</p> <p>Part 1 Pre-construction bird surveys: Completed</p> <p>Part 2 Mitigation: No additional mitigation measures required</p> <p>Part 3 Monitoring and reporting: Ongoing and reporting captured in weekly environmental report and EA annual report, respectively</p> <p>Part 4 Adaptive management: Has not been triggered so far as proposed mitigation measures have been working</p>	
10-2 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan Approval, Annual Review, and Reporting		<p>Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan approval, annual review and reporting</p> <p>Currently, the 2020 Annual Review is in progress. The WMMP Version 5.0 was submitted to the WLWB, posted on their ORS for public comments, which ended on October 20, 2021, and responses from INF to the public comments were submitted on November 3, 2021. Version 5.1 will be submitted the WRRB on November 12, 2021.</p>	