



MR. FREDERICK BLAKE
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

MAR 01 2018

Oral Question 68-18(3) Infrastructure Projects in the Mackenzie Delta

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 8, 2018 regarding infrastructure projects in the Mackenzie Delta and plans for a winter road from Inuvik by Campbell Lake to Fort Good Hope.

The ultimate long-term solution for improving transportation access to communities along the Mackenzie Valley continues to be an all-weather road. Construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway has been identified as a priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in the Mandate of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The long-term vision for this project is to connect communities by all-weather road from Wrigley to the Arctic coast.

The GNWT recently completed the northernmost section of this highway with the opening of the Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway on November 15, 2017. The project generated \$90 million in local sub-contracts and employed up to 600 people over the four construction seasons it took to complete. The GNWT is now focused on securing funding for the southern section of the proposed highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells. The Department of Infrastructure does not have a plan to construct a winter road from Inuvik to Fort Good Hope at this time.

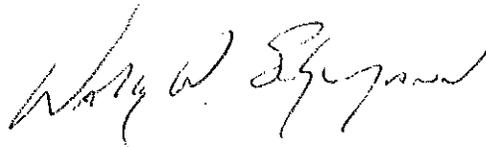
There are a number of other major projects that the Mackenzie Delta region has and will continue to benefit from. The Department of Infrastructure is continuing to make upgrades to the Dempster Highway with funding from the GNWT's third bundle of highway capacity improvement projects approved under the New Building Canada Plan. Plans for a new highway maintenance camp at James Creek are in progress. There is also funding allocated in the 2018-2019 capital budget to replace the Air Terminal Building in Inuvik.

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Work is ongoing to push forward alternative energy and energy efficiency projects in the Mackenzie Delta region, including the recently installed Variable Speed Generator Project, intended to improve diesel plant efficiency and better integrate power from a new 55kW solar array in Aklavik. LED lighting retrofits at the Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson and the Nursing stations in Tsiigehtchic and Aklavik have been completed over the last couple of years, which will reduce energy costs. Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic are also candidates for solar projects as part of the Energy Action Plan that is in development. The Inuvik Wind Project could get underway in late 2018- 2019. There is also work being done to progress marine infrastructure improvements along the Mackenzie River and Arctic coast.

These improvements will increase the resiliency of critical infrastructure in the Beaufort Delta while improving services for residents.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.



Wally Schumann
Minister
Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator,
Executive and Indigenous Affairs