



MR. FREDERICK BLAKE
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

MAR 10 2017

Oral Question 612-18(2) and 635-18(2)

This letter is to provide additional information to the Oral Questions raised on Monday, February 20, 2017 and Wednesday, February 22, 2017 regarding winter overflow issues near km 141 on the Dempster Highway.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is attending to an overflow problem within the highway's right-of-way stemming from a creek near that location. The Department excavated a channel along the right-of-way to direct water into the ditch and preventing it from reaching the driving surface. Highway maintenance crews will monitor the site on a regular basis to continue protecting the highway. The Department has no plans to intervene in other problem areas located outside the highway's right-of-way.

The Department has ascertained its methods are similar to those adopted by Yukon Highways to address comparable situations in that territory. The practise of using heat traces or steam lines to thaw culverts is typically used to initiate water movement and accommodate the annual spring freshet. These methods work in the spring since the water running through the culvert is warmer and will keep the culvert open. This is not an effective solution to use in the winter since culvert's freeze again once the heat source is removed.

Thank you.

Wally Schumann
Minister of Transportation

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator