



Pehdzeh Ki First Nation  
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March 7, 2023

*Via email:* [smontgomery@mvlwb.com](mailto:smontgomery@mvlwb.com)

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
7th Floor, 4922 48th St.  
PO Box 2130  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Mount Gaudet Access Road – Land Use Permit and Water Licence Applications – Extension**

I write to provide Pehdzéh Kí First Nation's (PKFN) perspective regarding the 120-day extension for the above applications.

In October 2023, the Department of Infrastructure (Infrastructure) proposed to PKFN that we meet to prepare a workplan and timeline to review the applications. Infrastructure advised us of the February 2, 2023 deadline to provide an update to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board about this work. We take these applications very seriously; we wish to build a collaborative relationship with Infrastructure; and we want to engage in consultation in good faith, so we agreed to Infrastructure's request.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet the February 2nd deadline due to the status of our concurrent engagement with Infrastructure on the related Mackenzie Valley Highway expansion project, in which discussions regarding the nature and scope of engagement are ongoing.

As you know, the Mount Gaudet Access Road (MGAR) is currently scoped as a separate project but is a portion of the much larger proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway expansion. Their routes and impacts are inseparable. PKFN is currently tasked with reviewing both proposed projects simultaneously, which creates practical, financial, and capacity challenges for our small community.

We have outstanding and serious concerns regarding both projects' impacts on our Aboriginal and Treaty rights and title. We also have concerns regarding the limited consultation processes afforded to PKFN to date. Since 2021, PKFN has been requesting an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Infrastructure so that PKFN and Departmental leadership can build a relationship, discuss these core issues, and collaborate on a way forward.

Minister Archie was unable to attend our scheduled November 2021 meeting. The next meeting that we were able to receive with the Minister was more than one year later, on December 15, 2022. Our delegation of Councillors, Lands Department staff, Elders, and youth travelled to Yellowknife to meet with Minister Archie that day. We are grateful for her time and attention.

Our Highway Projects Working Group chair, Elder Tim Lennie, and I presented PKFN's high-level concerns to Minister Archie regarding the proposed projects' impacts on our Aboriginal and Treaty rights and title, and regarding inadequate consultation to date. Minister Archie advised that she needed time to respond to our concerns and requests. At the time of writing, we continue to wait for her response.

Given that the leaders' discussion about fundamental aspects of the consultation process for both projects is still in progress, it has not yet been reasonable or practical to attempt to draft a workplan or timeline for engagement regarding the MGAR with Infrastructure staff.

However, we continue to take the proposed MGAR very seriously. We continue to seek a collaborative relationship with the Department of Infrastructure, and hope to have these matters resolved in the near term, in order to provide the Board with a timely update on the above-referenced MGAR applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Mahsi,

*FOR*  
*Shirley Hardisty* Councillor  
Chief Lloyd Moses

cc: Mr. Robert Jenkins, Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy and Strategic Initiatives, Infrastructure ([Robert.Jenkins@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Robert.Jenkins@gov.nt.ca))  
Mr. Seth Bohnet, Director, Strategic Infrastructure, Infrastructure ([Seth.Bohnet@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Seth.Bohnet@gov.nt.ca))  
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