



Engagement Plan for the Liard River Ferry Landing Maintenance

Government of the Northwest Territories – Department of Infrastructure



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Introduction

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Infrastructure (INF) is applying for a Type B Water Licence to allow for the removal of in-stream boulders, cobbles, and other sediment from the navigational path of the Liard River Ferry, located at km 457 on Highway 1 near the Village of Fort Simpson, NWT. As Public Servants, the staff of the GNWT are accountable and open to the public for discussion of all matters. As such, the Department and staff are well acquainted with the communities and community members along the highway, and engagement practices and community relationships are well established.

Affected Parties

Affected parties include:

- Dehcho First Nations
- Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation
- Fort Providence Métis Council
- Fort Simpson Métis Local #52
- Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation
- Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Jean Marie River First Nation
- Sambaa K'e First Nation
- Pehdzéh Kí First Nation
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene First Nation
- Village of Fort Simpson

The Department of Infrastructure may engage with other parties on a case-by-case basis as appropriate.

Engagement Approach

The Department of Infrastructure believes that meaningful community engagement is crucial in building and maintaining good relationships with communities and community members. The Department of Infrastructure Regional Offices' are open for residents to provide comments and concerns, or to ask questions regarding the Departments activities. As a result of the Departments open lines of communication, well-established relationships have been built with the people and communities of the Northwest Territories. The purpose of engagement is to ensure that affected parties, communities,

and the public are aware of the project and share project information so affected parties can participate meaningfully. The Department has undertaken pre-submission engagement with affected parties to ensure they have the opportunity to review project details and provide feedback prior to the submission of the water licence application.

Engagement Activities for the Project

During the operations and maintenance activities INF will build on the engagement approach and there will be opportunities for affected parties to learn and provide input on the water licence application. This engagement plan will ensure that the stakeholders and the public are aware of the intended project activities.

Engagement for this project includes key activities such as:

- Advising the nearby communities when construction is expected to start and when it is expected to end.
- Advising the affected parties of the intended operations and mitigation measures used to prevent impacts to the environment.
- Advising the affected parties and public if there are delays or changes to the condition of the Liard Ferry operations.
- Advising affected parties if there are any changes to the construction plans and approach, as outlined in the water licence application.

Consultation

The Department of Infrastructure is undertaking a consultation process for this project to fulfill the Government of the Northwest Territories legal duty to consult with Indigenous Organizations and Indigenous Governments on any government actions that may adversely affect asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights. High level details are included in the engagement record.

Summary

A summary of engagement triggers and methods is provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Engagement Triggers and Methods

Engagement Trigger	Primary Purpose	Primary Methods	Primary Participants
Start of construction	To notify affected parties of the start of construction	Verbal and/or written notification.	Affected parties

Updates on ferry operations	To advise affected parties of the ferry conditions (such as traffic delays due to the work)	Verbal and/or written notification, as well as Social Media.	Affected parties as well as the public
In the event of a spill	To advise affected parties of the spill	Written communication and Phone conversation (upon request)	Affected parties
Wildlife incidents	To advise affected parties	Written and/or verbal	Affected parties
Changing conditions	To notify affected parties of emergent situations, changes to construction plans, and actions required to keep the highway open	Written and/or verbal	Affected parties
End of construction	To notify affected parties of the end of construction	Verbal and/or written notification.	Affected parties