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JUL 12 2016

**OQ 131-18(2): Building Canada Plan Bundle #2**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 31, 2016 regarding whether the decision to rehabilitate the Pine Point to Hay River Bridge was because it was too cost prohibitive to replace the bridge and the Government of the Northwest Territories did not have enough money to replace it.

The Department of Transportation hired engineering consultants to carry out detailed life cycle evaluations on all three truss bridges in the Northwest Territories (NWT) – the Buffalo River (Highway 5), the Hay River to Pine Point Bridge (Highway 5), and the Frank Channel Bridge (Highway 3).

The consultants provided various courses of action with corresponding Life Cycle Cost Analysis. The conclusion of the review and the recommendation from the experts was to undertake rehabilitation works on all three bridges. This option provided the best value for money and extended the service life of the structures an additional 35 years.

The options considered in the analysis included:

1. Do nothing and fully replace the bridge as soon as possible (likely in 2020).
2. Carry out two occurrences of minor repairs and replace in 2026
3. Undertake major rehabilitation now, then replace in 2053.

The option recommended by the consultant was #3.

The Hay River to Pine Point Bridge rehabilitation works will consist of repair to concrete piers / abutments, steel strengthening, concrete bridge deck rehabilitation, replacement of bearings and deck joints, and full repainting of the steel truss. This work is scheduled to take place over the summers of 2018 and 2019. The cost estimate to rehabilitate the Hay River to Pine Point Bridge, extending the service life of the structure an additional 35 years of service life, is about \$9.2 million.

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The cost estimate to remove and replace the 166m long Hay River to Pine Point Bridge with a new bridge is about \$30 to \$40 million. Given one costs associates with the options available and anticipated results, we consider the option to rehabilitate the bridges to be the best value for public funds.

Thank you.



Wally Schumann  
Minister of Transportation

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive