



MR. DANIEL MCNEELY
MLA, SAHTU

JUL 10 2019

Oral Question 710-18(3)

Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Assessment Working Group

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised on May 23, 2019 regarding youth involvement in the Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Assessment process. I committed to provide you with further information on this matter.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed between the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) was intended to formalize the working relationship between the parties on the advancement of the Mackenzie Valley Highway through the environmental and regulatory review processes. The MOU provides for the creation of a joint Working Group with members to be appointed by the SSI and the GNWT's Department of Infrastructure.

Each party to the MOU is responsible for appointing its own members to the Working Group. In addition, SSI may designate other Sahtu organizations to be responsible for undertaking work on topics such as traditional knowledge, wildlife or socioeconomic matters.

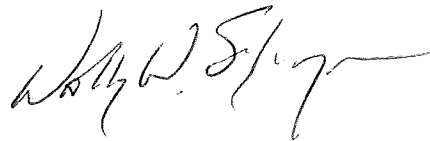
SSI is responsible for appointing its own members to the Working Group, which could include appointing a youth member if they wish. However, it should be noted that the primary role of this Working Group is administrative in nature, including responsibilities for scheduling meetings and sharing information.

With respect to my commitment to working with the Minister Responsible for Youth, I can confirm that I will be working with all of my Cabinet colleagues in our efforts to advance this project. The Department of Infrastructure will create and lead internal working groups comprised of staff from various GNWT departments and agencies to ensure that we can address all of the various issues, including youth issues, that are expected to arise during the review process.

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The GNWT expects that this project will provide youth with many new opportunities for years to come and SSI is encouraged to consider youth issues and involvement as this process unfolds. Among the many benefits this project will bring, the Mackenzie Valley Highway will support the development of a strong northern workforce, create tourism and other business opportunities in the region, and increase access for resource industries.

The GNWT is committed to ensuring that all residents of the Sahtu, including youth, are able to take advantage of these new opportunities, and looks forward to collaborating with SSI, its Designated Sahtu Organizations, and the residents of the Sahtu Region as we work together to advance this important project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Schumann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wally Schumann
Minister
Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs