

Village of Fort Simpson



May 21, 2019

Shane Thompson
Nahendeh MLA
9807 100 Street
PO Box 466
Fort Simpson, NT
X0E 0N0

Dear Mr. Thompson:


Further to our recent discussion on May 6, Village Council wishes to reiterate the points discussed at that meeting.

We have noticed this year unprecedented low water levels in the Liard River, which have resulted in a later than normal ferry opening. We feel that these conditions will now become the norm, rather than the exception in the coming years. This will have both short and long term impacts.

In the short term these longer periods of isolation will result in Fort Simpson falling under the Nutrition North Program. And with the effectiveness of the program now forming part of the public debate, it is concerning to us here in Fort Simpson how effective it would be here, should it happen.

If these water levels are becoming the norm, as climate change would suggest, it is now time to start the serious discussion of a bridge over the Liard. Part of the solution to opening up the north is through a connected highway system. If water levels continue to drop it becomes more challenging to move goods and equipment north. The bridge solution not only has a positive impact on our community, it also can be the spur to drive economic growth in the region and in the north.

Respectfully,


Sean Whelly,
Mayor, Fort Simpson