



No. 9-91(1)

RESPONSE TO PETITION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 104 - 91 - (1) TABLED ON APR 18 1991

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



3 1936 00004 421 2

Petition tabled by Mr. Nerysoo on February 25, 1991

Response by the Honourable Gordon Wray
Minister of Transportation

APR 24 1991

Government of N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

ALL-WEATHER ROAD LINK FROM FORT McPHERSON TO AKLAVIK

The construction of an all-weather road from Fort McPherson to Aklavik, as requested in this petition, was one of many possible new highway projects considered in the Northwest Territories' Transportation Strategy, tabled in the Legislative Assembly in October 1990.

The Department of Transportation recognizes that a permanent road link would bring several economic and social benefits to both communities, particularly Aklavik. At present, Aklavik has road access to the Northwest Territories and Canada's all-weather highway network for three months of the year when a winter road connects it to the Dempster Highway at Inuvik.

Very preliminary estimates place the cost of this 145 km road in the range of \$45 million. Measured against the need to improve our existing transportation facilities and the need to extend the annual winter road network to many communities for the first time, the Transportation Strategy did not give the Fort McPherson-Aklavik all-weather road link a high priority.

We appreciate the representations that the people of Fort McPherson and Aklavik have made to the Department in support of this proposal and the Department has considered them in its assessment. Unfortunately, based upon current funding levels, the Department of Transportation is unable to build the proposed road in the foreseeable future.