

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien, interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits et
ministre de l'Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development, Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians and
Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

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Ms. Elizabeth Snider
Chair
Environmental Impact Review Board
The Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Settlement Region
PO Box 2120
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

Dear Ms. Snider:

Thank you for your letters of August 4 and August 24, 2010, regarding the environmental assessment process for the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

As you may know, the Minister of the Environment announced on September 27, 2010, that this project has been referred to an environmental assessment by a review panel, which will be substituted by the Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Review Board's process in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, and a 1999 Memorandum of Understanding between the Review Board and Environment Canada. Our understanding is that a project-specific agreement is currently under development that will ensure that both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and Environmental Impact Review Board's environmental assessment requirements are met through the Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Review Board's process.

As indicated in Minister Prentice's announcement, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is making funding available to assist groups and individuals to participate in the environmental assessment of this project as part of its Participant Funding Program.

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With regard to the Environmental Impact Review Board budget submission for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for funding necessary to conduct the review of this project, departmental officials are reviewing your request. I encourage you to work with them as they consider the implications of the substitution process for this project.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Duncan', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'D'.

John Duncan, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP
Ms. Nellie Cournoyea