



July 19, 2012

**BY EMAIL**

Mr. Robert Alexie Jr.  
President, Gwich'in Tribal Council  
PO Box 1509  
Inuvik, NT  
X0E 0T0

Dear Mr. Alexie,

**RE: Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project**

The purpose of this letter is to seek the Gwich'in Tribal Council's input regarding the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project (the "Project"). The Project is a proposed all-season highway linking the communities of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. If it proceeds, the Project is located close to the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) and the highway will link to the existing Dempster Highway which runs through the GSA. The Project is currently undergoing a public review by the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB). The Project is also subject to a federal review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* which has been substituted by EIRB's review process. If the Project is approved it will require various permits, licenses, or other authorizations from federal regulatory departments.

If you are concerned that the Project could adversely affect Gwich'in interests, the Government of Canada encourages you to make any concerns known through the EIRB's public review process as this body is responsible for recommending whether the Project should proceed and, if so, under what terms and conditions. The public review process provides the opportunity to understand the nature of the Project and its impact on the environment, and allows all parties to provide their own views and perspectives on the issues. Federal departments and agencies are participating in the public review process and will be aware of any concerns you make to the EIRB. The Government of Canada intends to rely on the EIRB review to fulfill its consultation obligations, if any.

There are public sessions for the Project, organized by EIRB, scheduled over the coming months. Technical sessions are currently scheduled for August 22-23 in Inuvik while the public hearings are currently scheduled to take place September 20-21 in Tuktoyaktuk and September 24-25 in Inuvik. These sessions provide an opportunity for parties to express their opinions on the Project and they are the primary mechanism through which the Government of Canada will gather information, concerns, and potential impacts related to the Project. We encourage your participation at those events. If you have any

questions about the EIRB process or public sessions, we recommend you contact the Board directly.

The Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO) is responsible for coordinating the Government of Canada's participation in the EIRB review. Kate Witherly is NPMO's project officer for the Project and she is available to address any inquiries about this letter (867-766-8436; [kate.witherly@cannor.gc.ca](mailto:kate.witherly@cannor.gc.ca)).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Spence  
Director General  
Northern Projects Management Office

cc: Zoe Raemer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Sue Milburn-Hopwood, Environment Canada  
Larry Dow, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Mark Pearson, Natural Resources Canada  
Michele Taylor, Transport Canada  
Bill Fisher, Parks Canada  
Deryck Trehearne, Infrastructure Canada  
Kathleen Hedley, Health Canada

Eli Nasogaluak, EIRB  
Jim Stevens, Department of Transportation  
Amy Thompson, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board