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October 5, 2012

VIA EMAIL

**RE: Information Request regarding Tlicho Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project**

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak:

Please find attached an Information Request regarding future archaeology site assessments for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project.

Please contact me if you have questions on this submission at [gavin.more@gov.nt.ca](mailto:gavin.more@gov.nt.ca) or (867) 873-7107.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gavin More". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gavin More  
Manager  
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring  
Environment and Natural Resources

Attachment

## **Information Request**

**Source:** Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Department of Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT

**To:** Department of Transportation, GNWT

**Issue:** Archaeological Impact Assessment of Proposed Granular Resource Sources

### **Preamble:**

An archaeological impact assessment (AIA) of the right-of-way for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway was completed in 2011 but only 2 of the 7 proposed granular resource sources for the project were investigated at this time. DOT planned to conduct geotechnical assessment of all 7 proposed sources in the winter of 2012. As this assessment would require ground disturbance in areas not previously subject to an AIA, DOT and the PWNHC worked together to develop a mitigation plan that would allow the geotechnical investigations to proceed as planned:

- For borrow sources 307, 2.45, 173/305, 170 and 172, which were not subject to an AIA in 2011, 18" auger holes will be limited to the minimum number required to fully assess and prove the volume and quality of the material. The consultant's archaeologists will use all available information, including LIDAR maps of the source areas, to attempt to locate these holes in areas of lower potential for unrecorded archaeological sites. The consultant's archaeologists will advise the drilling supervisor how to monitor drill holes and associated soils for evidence of potential archaeological resources. The drilling supervisor will advise the archaeologists of the schedule for drilling of 18 inch holes at these sources and ensure the archaeologists are available to consult if archaeological resources are suspected or encountered. A post-impact archaeological assessment will be conducted on all of these sources in 2012.
- For borrow sources 314/325 and 312 the geotechnical program may proceed as planned. A post-impact archaeological assessment will be conducted at these sources in 2012.
- A pre-development AIA must be conducted at all sources that will be used for construction.

The post-impact archaeological assessment and pre-development AIAs required by this plan were completed in the summer of 2012. The final report has been reviewed in detail by the PWNHC.

In DOT's presentation on granular resources at the EIRB technical sessions, they identify 6 main granular resource sources for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway: PW2, 325/314, 309, 174, 170, and 177. Of these 6 sources, only 325/314 and 170 were subject to an AIA in 2012.

**Information Request:**

The PWNHC requires clarification on DOT's plans to complete AIAs for the remaining granular resource sources in advance of geotechnical investigations and/or development.