



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

Ms. Elizabeth Snider
Panel Chair
Environmental Impact Review Board
107 Mackenzie Road, Suite 204
P.O. Box 2120
Inuvik, Northwest Territories X0E 0T0

FEB 22 2013

Dear Ms. Snider:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 25, 2013, submitting the Final Report of the Panel for the Substituted Environmental Impact Review of the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik, and the Government of the Northwest Territories' Proposal to Construct the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

The Government of Canada is reviewing the Panel Report and is developing a response to fulfill its decision-making responsibilities under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, S.C.1992, c.37 (CEAA). The CEAA requires that the Government of Canada response process go through approvals culminating in a decision by Governor-in-Council. The Government is committed to responding to the Panel Report's recommendations as soon as possible, however, we do not anticipate that this response can be provided by February 24, 2013.

Infrastructure Canada, within my Transport, Infrastructure and Communities portfolio, is the lead Responsible Authority, and is in the process of coordinating the Government's response to the Panel Report. We are working, together with the other Responsible Authorities, to complete the required process in as timely a manner as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Lebel, P.C., M.P.

c.c. The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

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