



COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM

2023-2024 Results Report

Government of
Northwest Territories



Community Access Program 2023-2024 Results Report

Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure's Community Access Program (CAP) provides contribution funding to communities across the Northwest Territories for the construction and rehabilitation of transportation and marine infrastructure.

The program is application-based with an annual budget of \$1.5 million. Applicants are encouraged to look for other funding sources and partnerships to support construction and training. Every effort is made for local and northern residents to benefit from the public dollars spent in their community.

In 2023-2024, a total of 22 construction projects were supported across all five regions in the territory. for a total of \$1,315,856.

2023-2024 Community Access Program Projects

Region	Community	Project	Amount Approved	Amount Spent
Sahú	Déljne	14-Mile Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point (<i>page 3</i>)	\$57,520	\$57,520
	Tulita	Four Mile Creek Quad/Walking Trail – Continuation Construction (<i>page 3</i>)	\$157,400	\$40,971
Beaufort Delta	Tsiigehtchic	32 km (20 Miles) Arctic Red River Ice Road (<i>page 4</i>)	\$40,000	\$10,350
	Aklavik	80 km Section - Peel River Ice Road from Aklavik to Esau Creek (<i>page 4</i>)	\$65,000	\$65,000
	Fort McPherson	80 km Section - Peel River Ice Road from Fort McPherson to Esau Creek (<i>page 5</i>)	\$60,000	\$60,000
	Tsiigehtchic	Boat Dock and Boardwalk (<i>page 6</i>)	\$82,700	\$68,909
	Paulatuk	ATV Trail - Continuation Construction (<i>page 6</i>)	\$100,000	\$97,905
South Slave	Town of Hay River	Porritt Landing Marine Facility – Continuation Construction (<i>page 7</i>)	\$60,000	\$60,000
	Town of Hay River	Bob McMeekin Park Boat Launch (<i>page 8</i>)	\$60,000	\$60,000
	Town of Hay River	Vale Island Recreational Area Access Road (<i>page 9</i>)	\$120,000	\$120,000
	Salt River First Nation	Thebacha Village Access Road (<i>page 10</i>)	\$3,000	\$3,000
	Fort Smith Métis Council	Grande de Tour Winter Road (<i>page 10</i>)	\$12,000	\$12,000
	Kakisa	Cultural/Community Camp Trail – Continuation Construction (<i>page 11</i>)	\$40,000	\$40,000
North Slave	Wekweèti	Wekweèti Access Road – Continuation Construction (<i>page 12</i>)	\$132,800	\$66,808
	Behchokò	Ice Road “Connector” (<i>page 13</i>)	\$41,228	\$41,228
	Behchokò	Behchokò Northwest Trail (<i>page 14</i>)	\$68,120	\$64,835
	łutsek'e	Austin Lake Access Road (<i>page 15</i>)	\$100,000	\$100,000
Dehcho	Nahanni Butte	Access Trails Continuation Construction - Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, Achinea Trails (<i>page 16</i>)	\$31,500	\$31,500
	Nahanni Butte	Boat Launch and Boat Launch Access Road – Continuation Construction (<i>page 17</i>)	\$85,250	\$85,250
	Fort Simpson	Boat Launch and Boat Launch Access Road Marine Facility Construction (<i>page 18</i>)	\$160,000	\$160,000
	Wrigley	Airport Lake Dock Replacement Continuation Construction (<i>page 19</i>)	\$36,794	\$36,780
	Wrigley	Fish Lake Trail Restoration (<i>page 20</i>)	\$33,800	\$33,800
TOTAL			\$1,547,112	\$1,315,856

Sahtú Region

1. Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point – Délıne

Funding Amount: \$57,520

The Délıne Got'ıne Government received \$57,520 to build and maintain the 22.5 km ice road to Whiskey Jack Point. Multiple social benefits are provided by the ice road through improved access to on-the-land harvesting activities, including a reduced cost of living and nutritional benefits. Activities facilitated via the ice road to Whiskey Jack Point include wood harvesting for home heating, big and small game hunting, ice fishing, transportation to area cabins and hunting camps, and trapping.

Skills were further developed in heavy equipment operation and ice road construction and maintenance by community residents working on the project. Two community residents were employed continuously for several months as follows:

- 1 Front End Loader Operator
- 1 Grader Operator



Looking towards Délıne from Great Bear Lake on the 22.5 km Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point in Délıne.

2. Four Mile Creek Quad and Walking Trail – Tulita

Funding Amount: \$40,971

The Hamlet of Tulita was approved for \$157,400 for continuation construction on the Four Mile Creek Trail to the community recreation area northeast of Tulita. A total, \$40,971 was provided to the community.

Transferable skills and training in heavy equipment operation and construction were further developed by community residents working on the project. Employment included:

- 1 Supervisor
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators



Summer 2023 continuation construction on the Four Mile Creek Quad and Walking Trail in Tulita.

Beaufort Delta Region

3. Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road – Tsiigehtchic

Funding Amount: \$10,350

The Gwichya Gwich'in Council in Tsiigehtchic was approved for \$40,000 to construct and maintain the 55 km Arctic Red River Ice Road, which runs from the Arctic Red River Ice Bridge into forested areas beyond the Environment and Climate Change camp at 20-Mile. The full road length could not be constructed due to water overflow and heavy snow, resulting in the project requiring less funding than anticipated. A total of \$10,350 was expended.

This recurring ice road construction project facilitates cost-saving family winter transportation access to heavily forested areas to access home heating firewood in particular, as well as hunting, ice fishing, and trapping.

Transferable skills and training in operating heavy equipment and constructing and maintaining ice roads were further developed by community residents working on the Arctic Red River Ice Road construction project.

Four community residents were employed as follows:

- 1 Plow Truck Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1 Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operator
- 2 Route Markers/Route Proofers (via snowmobile)



Home heating firewood harvesting for local families on the Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road in Tsiigehtchic.

4. Peel River Ice Road – Aklavik to Esau Creek

Funding Amount: \$65,000



A view along the 80 km Aklavik section of the Peel River Ice Road from Aklavik to Esau Creek.

A total of \$65,000 was provided to the Hamlet of Aklavik to construct and maintain the Aklavik section (80 km) of the 160 km Peel River Ice Road. The Hamlet of Aklavik was responsible for constructing and maintaining its section of the ice road from Aklavik to the mid-way point at the Esau River.

The Peel River Ice Road provides cost-saving winter transportation access between Aklavik and Fort McPherson, with the ice road also facilitating firewood harvesting, hunting, ice fishing, and trapping. The one-way road distance from Aklavik to Fort McPherson without the ice road is 300 km, versus 160 km with the ice road.

Four community residents were employed from January - April 2024, with transferable skills further refined in operating and maintaining heavy equipment and ice road construction. Employment included:

- 1 Plow Truck Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1 Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operator
- 2 Route Markers/Route Proofers (via snowmobile)

5. Peel River Ice Road - Fort McPherson to Esau Creek

Funding Amount: \$60,000

The Tetlit Gwich'in Council received \$60,000 to construct and maintain the 80 km Fort McPherson section of the 160 km Peel River Ice Road in Winter 2022-23. This ice road provides essential cost-saving winter transportation between Fort McPherson and Aklavik, avoiding a one-way land driving distance of 300 km. Fort McPherson supplied a plow truck and crew used to construct its 80 km section of the ice road.

The ice road provides winter ground transportation between the two communities, and also provides family access to firewood for home heating, hunting, ice fishing, and trapping.

Transferable skills were further developed by community residents employed on the project in operating and maintaining heavy equipment and ice road construction. Plow trucks and snowcats were utilized primarily, with four residents employed from December 2023 - March 2024 as follows:

- 4 Plow Truck and Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operators



A curving section of the 80 km Fort McPherson section of the Peel River Ice Road from Fort McPherson to Esau Creek, Winter 2023-24.

6. Boat Dock and Boardwalk Trail – Tsiigehtchic

Funding Amount: \$68,909

The Charter Community of Tsiigehtchic expended \$68,909 of \$82,700 funding approved to support construction work on the community boat dock and boardwalk trail in Tsiigehtchic.

The dock and boardwalk will be used by community and regional residents for improved marine and ground transportation access to an important tourism and traditional on-the-land harvesting area. It is also anticipated that the new boardwalk trail and community boat dock will enhance and support tourism growth for the community.

The construction project involved extensive use of wood as a construction material for the boardwalk trail. Three community residents were employed on the construction project as follows:

- 1 Foreperson/Carpenter
- 2 Laborers/Carpenters



A view of the new boardwalk trail in Tsiigehtchic, which runs from the community boat dock area past the community's sign, Winter 2023-24.

7. ATV Trail Continuation Construction – Paulatuk

Funding Amount: \$97,905

The Hamlet of Paulatuk was provided \$97,905 to support continuation construction work involving application of 1500 cubic metres of gravel on the ATV trail. The trail feeds off of the end of the Rat Lake Access Road, which was constructed via CAP funding over a number of years previously.

The ATV trail will be used by community residents for improved ATV and snowmobile transportation access from the community to a traditional on-the-land harvesting area with geese, ducks, freshwater and saltwater fish, berries, and other game animals. It is also anticipated the new ATV trail will be an important point of interest for tourists and visitors.

Three community residents were employed on the construction project as follows:

- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators



A view of the area terrain, ponds and lakes along the new ATV trail route in Paulatuk, which runs from the end of the Rat Lake Access Road into a traditional harvesting area.

South Slave Region

8. Porritt Landing Marine Facility Continuation Construction – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: \$60,000



A view of the Porritt Landing Marina after construction upgrades in the Town of Hay River.

The Town of Hay River was approved for \$60,000 to cover the cost of continuation construction on the Porritt Landing Marine Facility in Hay River.

The Porritt Landing continuation construction work included dock resurfacing for the additional docks, dock installation, construction materials and labor, modular docking, dock pontoons, manufacture of floating dock materials, and local excavation work. Heavy equipment utilized included front end loaders, dump truck, grader, and bulldozer.

A total of eight community residents were employed during the construction as follows:

- 1 Supervisor
- 6 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 1 Journeyman/Carpenter



Construction schematic showing upgrades at the Porritt Landing Marina in the Town of Hay River.

9. Bob McMeekin Park Boat Launch – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: \$60,000



A view of the Bob McMeekin Park Boat Launch after construction upgrades were completed in the Town of Hay River.

The Town of Hay River was also approved for \$60,000 to cover the cost of construction upgrades to the Bob McMeekin Park Boat Launch in Hay River.

The construction work at the Bob McMeekin Park Boat Launch included grading, resurfacing and expansion of the boat launch approach and lower parking area, earthworks to construct a new boat launch parking area, tree clearing along the south portion of the area, and electrical and lighting services to improve safety, accessibility, and functionality at the boat launch. Heavy equipment utilized included skid steers, dump trucks, backhoe, cement mixer, and a line truck. Community residents developed additional expertise and skills in heavy equipment operation, civil construction techniques, and marine facility construction.

Sixteen community residents were employed during the construction as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 1 Site Superintendent
- 7 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 5 Laborers
- 2 Flaggers (Traffic Control)



A view of the new Bob McMeekin Park Boat Launch parking area after construction completion.

10. Vale Island Recreational Area Access Road – Town of Hay River Funding Amount: \$120,000



Vale Island Recreational Area Access Road in the Town of Hay River.

The Town of Hay River was approved for \$120,000 for upgrades and construction work on the Vale Island Recreational Area Access Road.

Included in the construction was drainage improvements and culvert installation, earthworks to develop a parking area with 10 stalls and a new entrance/exit, precast concrete curbs, procurement of four 25-foot light poles with screw pile anchor bases, nine LED flood lights, service panel, meter socket, underground cabling, grounding, and service pole, and problem tree removal and tree line remediation.

This construction project facilitates enhanced access to Hay River's Vale Island Recreational Area, benefitting community and local recreation, tourism and economic development.



Entrance/Exit to Recreational Area prior to construction upgrades on the Vale Island Recreational Area Access Road in Hay River.

Training and transferable skills development were an integral component of the construction project and included operational experience in access road civil construction techniques, electrical and concrete work, and heavy equipment operation.

This project supports improved community and regional transportation access via the Vale Island Recreational Area Access Road that is heavily utilized by local residents, tourists and visitors. A total of eight community residents were employed for several months working on the project as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 1 Site Supervisor
- 4 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 Labourers

11. Thebacha Village Winter Access Road – Salt River First Nation

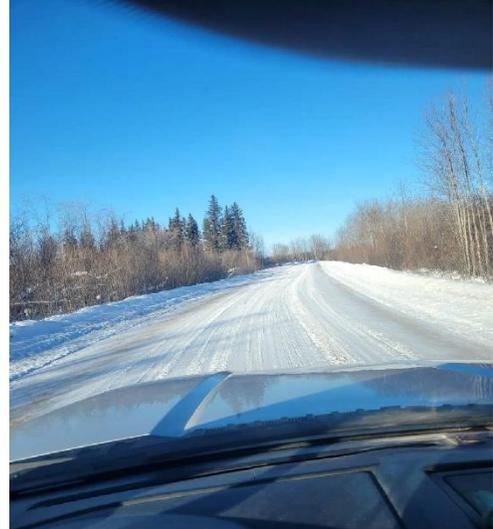
Funding Amount: \$3,000

Salt River First Nation was approved for \$3,000 for plowing and maintenance to ensure critical winter access on the Thebacha Village Winter Access Road.

Throughout the winter months, the Thebacha Village Winter Access Road is heavily utilized by Salt River First Nations members, residents of Thebacha Village and visitors. The access road also facilitates harvesting of home heating firewood, as well as hunting, ice fishing, trapping, and other on-the-land activities. Snow plowing and road clearing work on the access road helped community residents further develop transferable skills and training in using heavy equipment.

A total of four community residents were employed for several months as follows:

- 2 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 HEO Assistants



A curving section of the Thebacha Village Winter Access Road – Salt River First Nation.

12. Grande de Tour Winter Access Road - Fort Smith Métis Council

Funding Amount: \$12,000

The Fort Smith Métis Council received \$12,000 in funding for construction and maintenance of the 70 km Grande de Tour Winter Access Road.

This road provides important access for Fort Smith and area residents to firewood harvesting, as well as hunting, trapping, ice fishing, and other on-the-land harvesting activities. Harvesting of home heating firewood comprises approximately 90% of total road utilization. In Summer 2023, the road was also heavily utilized by firefighters.

This construction project helped community residents to further develop transferable skills and training in winter road operations and maintenance. A total of four community residents were employed for several winter months working on the road as follows:

- 2 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 HEO Assistants



Grader operations on the Grande de Tour Winter Road in Fort Smith.

13. Phase III Tathlina Access Road Continuation Construction – Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation

Funding Amount: \$40,000

The Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation received \$40,000 in funding to support Phase III continuation construction on the 40 km Tathlina Access Road to the Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation’s Cultural and Community Camp outside of Kakisa.

The camp is located on the shore of Tathlina Lake and hosts community residents engaging in on-the-land activities, meetings, educating students and youth in traditional knowledge, outdoor tours, and family gatherings. After completion, this project will provide all-season access and eliminate the need for expensive floatplane charter flights from Kakisa to the camp.

Heavy equipment utilized during the construction included a front-end loader, 450 JD bulldozer, skid steer, and snowcats. Community residents working on the construction obtained additional training and skills development in winter access road civil construction techniques and heavy equipment operation.

Six community residents were employed in the construction work as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 Ice Profilers



Brandt 450P bulldozer engaged in construction work on the Tathlina Access Road to the Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation’s Cultural and Community Camp on the shore of Tathlina Lake.

North Slave Region

14. Wekweètì Access Road Continuation Construction - Wekweètì

Funding Amount: \$132,800

The Community Government of Wekweètì was approved for \$132,800 for continuation construction on the Wekweètì Access Road. This was complemented by \$146,500 from the Community Government of Wekweètì, including five units of heavy equipment, 500 cubic metres pit run and 5500 cubic metres granular, for a total project value of \$279,300.

Improved transportation access is facilitated by the Wekweètì Access Road connecting to the Wekweètì Winter Road and to important harvesting areas for home heating firewood, and hunting and fishing.

Heavy equipment utilized on the Summer 2023 construction included dump trucks and a bulldozer, front end loaders, grader, excavator, fuel truck and crusher. The construction project enhances local access to important community harvesting and recreational areas and connects with the Wekweètì Winter Road saving both time and fuel. Community residents obtained additional transferable training and skills development in access road civil construction techniques and heavy equipment operation.

Total project employment of ten included:

- 1 Crew Boss
- 7 HEOs
- 2 Flag Persons/Laborers



Bulldozer at work spreading granular material during the Summer 2023 continuation construction on the Wekweètì Access Road.

15. Behchokò Ice Road “Connector” - Behchokò

Funding Amount: \$41,228

The Community Government of Behchokò was approved for \$41,228 to support construction of the Behchokò Ice Road “Connector” linking Edzo and Rae over Marion Lake and reducing travel distance by 12 km. Behchokò residents and Tli Cho citizens benefit from the Behchokò Ice Road “Connector”. Travel times between communities and to Yellowknife are reduced, while winter access is improved to home heating firewood, ice fishing and hunting. The decreased travel time allows residents to save on fuel and vehicle operating costs.

Funding from CAP covered the cost of ice profiling, ice road construction and maintenance. The Community Government of Behchokò contributed \$15,100 for in-kind maintenance services and support to the project, for a total construction project value of \$56,328.

Eight local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Foreperson
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operator’s – Plow Truck
- 3 Pilot Vehicle Operators (Piloting, Patrolling, Fueling)
- 1 Ice Profiler (Ice Profiling, Scouting and Route Setting)



Using water pumps to build up ice on the Behchokò Ice Road “Connector” during ice road construction, Winter 2023-24.

16. Behchokò Northwest Trail - Behchokò

Funding Amount: \$68,120

The Community Government of Behchokò was approved for \$68,120 to support construction of the Behchokò Northwest Trail. This two-year construction project will result in a 900-metre trail that improves community access for on-the-land activities, including firewood harvesting, hunting, trapping, open-water fishing and ice fishing, and general community recreation. The trail also is an important asset for visitors and tourists to the community.

The Community Government of Behchokò contributed \$40,000 for in-kind heavy equipment services and support, for a total project value of \$108,120. Heavy equipment utilized included a front end loader, dump truck, excavator, bulldozer, and mulcher.

Seventeen local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Crew Boss
- 9 Brush & Wood Cutters
- 5 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 Bear Monitors



Aerial view of the Behchokò Northwest Trail after the completion of Summer/Fall construction work.

17. Austin Lake Access Road Continuation Construction – Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation was approved for \$100,000 for continuation construction on the Austin Lake Access Road in Łutselk'e over a distance of 2 km. The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation contributed \$70,000 in gravel, road surfacing materials, and labor and heavy equipment, for a total project budget of \$170,000.

The Austin Lake Access Road facilitates the use of pick-up trucks for firewood harvesting. Other on-the-land activities supported by the road include hunting, fishing, ice fishing, and trapping. The construction project provided employment over a period of two to three months, and also enhanced transferable skills in heavy equipment operation, civil road construction techniques, and staff supervision.

Heavy equipment utilized in the construction included a front end loader, excavator, grader, backhoe, water truck and two dump trucks, as well as lighter vehicles. On average per day, ten truckloads of granular material were trucked 15 km from the quarry to the construction site.

Eight local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Foreperson
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 4 Laborers/Slashers



Summer 2023 continuation construction on the Austin Lake Access Road in Łutselk'e.

Dehcho Region

18. Access Trail Continuation Construction – Arrowhead, Yohan Lake, Bluebell, Swan Point, and Achinea Trails – Nahanni Butte

Funding Amount: \$31,500

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band received \$31,500 in winter CAP funding for continuation construction on the Arrowhead, Yohan Lake, Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, and Achinea Trails. The Nahanni Butte Dene Band contributed \$2,000 to the construction project.

The work included trail widening and removing obstructions, including trees, brush, and other vegetation. Equipment used in the construction work included chain saws, hand tools, quads and snowmobiles.

Tree cutting, brushing and clearing work over a period of three months was required to undertake the work to completion. The trails are located on traditional lands and are utilized extensively by community residents for firewood harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, and other on-the-land activities.

Five local residents worked on the trail construction as follows, with the Band Manager providing overall construction project management:

- 1 Supervisor
- 4 Tree and Brush Cutters/Laborers



Winter 2023-2024 chainsaw tree cutting work during the access trails continuation construction in Nahanni Butte.

19. Boat Launch and Boat Launch Access Road Continuation Construction – Nahanni Butte

Funding Amount: \$85,250

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band received \$85,250 in CAP funding for Phase III construction on the Nahanni Butte community boat launch and the connecting 1.3 km boat launch access road. The Band contributed \$8,295 for a total project value of \$93,545.

The new Nahanni Butte boat launch and connecting boat launch access road will improve community marine transportation access via boat for residents, visitors and tourists. The community does not have either all-season road access or marine access via ferry, and so local boats play an important role in community transportation. Project planning was conducted for a number of years prior to the construction work commencing.

Construction work involved boat launch and access road earthworks, including bulldozing, plowing, blading, grading, widening, and gravelling work at the boat launch site and on the boat launch access road. Heavy equipment utilized in the construction included a dump truck, front end loader and excavator, with additional light equipment.

Four local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Project Lead
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators

Bulldozer engaged in Phase III construction work on the Nahanni Butte Boat Launch Access Road, which connects with the new 1.3 km boat launch access road.



Phase III construction work with excavator on the Nahanni Butte boat launch after completion of Phase II construction work.

20. Boat Launch and Access Road Marine Facility Construction - Fort Simpson

Funding Amount: \$160,000

The Village of Fort Simpson received \$160,000 for boat launch and access road marine facility construction. The Village of Fort Simpson contributed \$54,000 to the construction project, for a total project value of \$214,000.

The project included installation of seven 45-foot poles with 48 Watt streetlights on the boat launch access road, two 45-foot poles with two high-output streetlights on the boat launch, cement work involving the construction and installation of rebar-reinforced concrete pads at the boat launch, application of 100 cubic metres of gravel, carpentry and associated construction. A wide range of heavy equipment and light vehicles were used in the construction work.

Three local residents and multiple contractors worked on the construction:

- 1 Operations Manager
- 1 Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1 Equipment Maintainer



A view of the new 45-foot cement boat launch in Fort Simpson.



A view of the new 45-foot poles with 48W streetlights along the boat launch access road in Fort Simpson.

21. Airport Lake Dock Continuation Construction – Wrigley

Funding Amount: \$36,794

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation received \$36,794 for continuation construction upgrades and improvements to the Airport Lake Dock in Wrigley. The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation contributed \$4,500 in dump truck and front end loader operating hours to the construction project, for a total project value of \$41,294.43

Included in the four-week project were earthworks and tree and brush removal at the Airport Lake Dock marine facility.

Equipment used in the construction work included a dump truck, front end loader, chain saws, hand tools, and a work vehicle with a trailer.

The Airport Lake Dock is utilized extensively by local community and visiting boats, as well as floatplanes. Five local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Supervisor
- 2 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 Carpenters/Laborers



The Airport Lake Dock Marine Facility in Wrigley.



View from the dock looking out over Airport Lake.

22. Fish Lake Trail Restoration – Wrigley

Funding Amount: \$33,800

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation received \$33,800 for the restoration of the Fish Lake Trail in Wrigley. In addition to CAP funding, the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation contributed \$6,000 in truck rental costs to the construction project, for a total project value of \$39,800.

Included in the project were tree and brush cutting and tree and brush removal along the Fish Lake Trail. Equipment used in the construction work included chain saws, hand tools, and light trucks for work vehicles.

A total of 20 days was required for construction. Five local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 2 Supervisors
- 3 Laborers



The Fish Lake Trail in Wrigley.