

# Mackenzie Valley Highway

## Northwest Territories



The Mackenzie Valley Highway project is a transformative strategic initiative that will establish a critical transportation corridor into Canada's arctic. This will mitigate the existing impacts of climate change on increasingly isolated communities in the Mackenzie Valley, open the region to mineral exploration and tourism and support Canada's arctic security.

The current focus of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) proposes to replace approximately 320 km of the seasonal Mackenzie Valley Winter Road by extending allseason road access from the end of Highway 1 at Wrigley, to Tulita and Norman Wells.

## ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- Improved inter-community mobility, accessibility, and stabilization of the cost of living.
- Enhanced Arctic sovereignty and security through improved safety, reliability, and resilience of the NWT transportation system in the face of climate change.
- Stimulation of direct economic development through project construction, operation, and maintenance.
- Support for economic growth and diversification in resource development, remediation, and tourism sectors.
- Establishment of a reliable transportation corridor in the face of a changing climate.

## CURRENT STATUS

- The MVH Project is currently before the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board undergoing environmental assessment (EA).
- Funding required to advance planning studies and complete the EA for the MVH was secured in 2018, under Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund.
- Extensive effort has gone into advancing environmental and engineering studies, traditional knowledge studies, socio-economic impact assessment studies and community engagement. In addition 20.7 km of road has been constructed since 2018 through community capacity building projects.
- The GNWT has signed an MOU with Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated and continues to work with Indigenous governments and organizations to advance the project.



## NEXT STEPS

- **2024:** EA, Indigenous engagement, and environmental and engineering work (updating the MVH Business Case)
- **2025/early 2026:** Report of EA and Responsible Ministers' Decision.
- **2027:** Regulatory permitting and authorizations to support construction.
- **Ongoing:** Work to finalize project design, update project specific business case and develop detailed costing estimated, and identify and evaluate construction funding opportunities.
- A final construction decision, anticipated in late 2027/early 2028 is contingent upon the EA, regulatory permitting and funding.

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