



Community Access Program
2018-2019 Results Report
Department of Infrastructure

Government of
Northwest Territories



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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. The Department of Infrastructure often partners with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, as well as municipal and Indigenous governments, to support construction. Every effort is made for local and northern residents to benefit from the public dollars spent in their community.

In 2018-2019, a total of 19 projects received funding across all five regions.

2018-2019 Community Access Program Projects

Region	Community	Project	Funding Amount
Sahtú	Déljne	Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point	\$57,520
	Tulita	Tate Lake Traditional Trail	\$25,410
	Tulita	Willowlake Traditional Trail	\$93,730
Beaufort Delta	Tsiigehtchic	Arctic Red River Ice Road	\$18,198
	Aklavik	Winter Gravel Haul	\$150,000
	Aklavik & Fort McPherson	Winter Ice Road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson	\$100,000
	Fort McPherson	Winter Trail Access Construction Project	\$41,562
South Slave	Town of Hay River	Fisherman’s Wharf Access Road	\$45,671
	Town of Hay River	Beach Access Road	\$103,688
	Kakisa	Marine Facility Upgrades & Construction	\$97,618
	Fort Smith Métis Council	Grande de Tour Winter Road	\$8,000
	Salt River First Nation	Thebacha Village Access Road	\$3,000
North Slave	Wekweèti	Bridge & Access Road	\$169,831
	Gamèti	Dock Replacement Project	\$188,908
	Behchokò	Community Access Trails	\$39,820
	Behchokò	Ice Road “Connector”	\$34,500
	Łutselk’e	Austin Lake Access Road	\$76,927
	Łutselk’e	Marine Facility Construction	\$66,465
Dehcho	Wrigley	Hodgson Creek Access Road & Airport Lake Access Road	\$31,625
TOTAL			\$1,352,473

Sahtú Region

1. Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point – Délıne

Funding Amount: \$57,520

The Délıne Got'ıne Government received CAP funding to build and maintain a 22.5 km ice road to Whiskey Jack Point. The ice road provides essential access to hunting, fishing, wood harvesting, and trapping activities. The project also promotes cultural and educational activities as Whiskey Jack Point is often the site of community gatherings and on-the-land programming with students, teachers, and Elders from the local Ehtseo Ayha School.

2. Tate Lake Traditional Trail - Tulita

Funding Amount: \$25,410

The Tulita Dene Band received funding to reconstruct an existing trail from Tulita to Tate Lake. This trail holds historical and cultural significance for the community as it was previously used by their ancestors in order to harvest.

This trail enables residents to engage in hunting, trapping, fishing, and other on-the-land activities. Five members of the community, including Elders, were employed to work on this project. The community plans to build a camping area adjacent to the trail which would allow the younger generation to learn about and experience their traditional way of life.

3. Willowlake Traditional Trail - Tulita

Funding Amount: \$93,730

Funding was provided to support the Hamlet of Tulita in construction on 5km of the Willowlake Traditional trail. In 1995, the trail was damaged considerably by a forest fire and repairs were necessary to remove hazards. The community plans to continue construction to further extend the trail into harvesting areas for firewood, hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor recreation. The trail is also used by residents to reach their cabins around Willowlake, Kelly Lake, and Mahony Lake. This project has helped to support the tourism industry and bring in revenue as many visitors use the trail for hunting and fishing. The work force consisted of one supervisor, one foreman, and three labourers working over seventeen days, who gained employment skills and experience.

Beaufort Delta Region

4. Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road – Tsiigehtchic

Funding Amount: \$18,198

The Gwichya Gwich'in Council was supported by the CAP to construct and maintain the 40 km Arctic Red River Ice Road. The Ice Road runs from the Arctic Red River Ice Bridge to the area of the Environment and Natural Resources camp at 20-Mile.

This project allows for cost-saving winter transportation and greater access to hunting, fishing, and trapping, as well as recreational and other on-the-land activities. The road is also essential for residents and visitors to harvest firewood in order to heat their homes.

5. Winter Gravel Haul – S467 to Aklavik

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Funding was provided to support the Ehdiiat Gwich'in Council in covering the cost of a 1364 cubic metre gravel haul and stockpile of materials for the Aklavik Bridge (Willow River Bridge). The gravel is used for the approaches to the Bridge and for surfacing the access road to Willow River. Workers on this project consisted of four labourers, seven heavy equipment operators, and one project manager. These employment opportunities allowed residents to gain work skills including the ability to operate heavy equipment such as dump trucks, bulldozers, and excavators.

6. Winter Ice Road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson – Aklavik & Fort McPherson

Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Hamlet of Aklavik (Ehdiiat Gwich'in Council) and the Hamlet of Fort McPherson (Tetlit Gwich'in Council) were supported through CAP funding to construct and maintain the 160 km Peel River Ice Road. This road provides cost-saving winter transportation between Aklavik and Fort McPherson. Aklavik and Fort McPherson each received \$50,000 and were responsible for constructing 80km each to the mid-way point at the Esau River. Both communities supplied a plow truck used to construct their portion of the ice road.

This ice road is important to community and regional residents, as well as visitors as it is utilized for vehicle transportation between the two communities and within the region. This project also improves access to harvesting activities such as hunting, ice fishing, trapping, and firewood cutting.



Driving on the Ice Road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson

7. Winter Trail Access Construction Project – Fort McPherson Funding Amount: \$41,562

The Tetlit Gwich'in Council was supported in funding the brushing and clearing of their traditional trails. The project involved hiring 28 local residents to work on 7 different trails in the area.

This project provided employment opportunities for community members including Elders, youth, and women. The trails provide access for both residents and visitors to engage in harvesting, recreational, and on-the-land cultural and educational programming activities. Harvesting activities are essential as they include harvesting firewood for home heating, hunting, ice fishing, and trapping. The trails also provide cost-saving and safe transportation to cabins located off the trails.



A view along the Traditional Trail

South Slave Region

8. Fisherman's Wharf Access Road – Town of Hay River Funding Amount: \$45,671

The Town of Hay River was supported for additional upgrades to the Fisherman's Wharf Access Road. Construction involved establishing two catch basins for drainage, re-aligning and grading the ditches from the Hay River Museum to the catch basin, and installing new culverts. Cross fall was also created along the beginning of the road to avoid water ponding. In addition, re-surfacing and gravel compacting was carried out along the road, excessive foliage was hand and machine brushed and mulched along the road way to improve driver visibility, and dust suppressants were applied. The Town of Hay River contributed \$1,500 to the road construction project for project management and survey services.

This project supports community access as well as Hay River's tourism industry by improving access to a weekly summer market held at the Fisherman's Wharf. The market features vendors selling goods such as fish, fresh vegetables, arts and crafts, local fruit preserves and honey. The upgrades have increased activities occurring at the site, improved public safety, and enhanced visitor experiences.

9. Hay River Beach Access Road – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: \$103,688

The Town of Hay River was supported in completing additional upgrades to the Hay River Beach Access Road. The construction involved spreading and compacting gravel along the entire road way, removing existing steel pipes and installing new ones, and applying dust control suppressant along the road way. The Town of Hay River also conducted hand and machine brushing and mulching along the road way to improve driver visibility and safety, applied gravel to the tourist lookout by the ice crossing and replaced signage, and installed additional road signage. The Town of Hay River contributed \$3,500 for project management and survey services.

This project helped to support the local economy by improving access to businesses located along the road. More generally, it provided safe and efficient access for both residents and visitors.



Hay River's Beach Access Road

10. Marine Facility Upgrades & Construction - Kakisa

Funding Amount: \$97,618

In 2018-2019, CAP provided funding to support marine facility upgrades in Kakisa. The demand for expanded and improved marine facilities comes from a growth in marine tourism and tourist visitation, with steadily increasing vessel traffic in the community including visiting recreational boaters from Alberta. This project further supports the local economy and ensures that Kakisa's marine assets are more widely accessible to all boaters.

The work involved site evaluation and pre-engineering and the procurement and transportation of dock components and cement pads. Funding also went towards the purchase of granular material and parking area upgrades.

11. Grande de Tour Winter Road - Fort Smith Métis Council

Funding Amount: \$8,000

The Fort Smith Métis Council received funding for the construction and maintenance of the Grande de Tour Winter Road. This road provides access for Fort Smith and area residents to harvesting, as well as recreational and on-the-land educational activities. The harvesting activities primarily involve the essential collection of firewood used in home heating, which Fort Smith residents rely on extensively.



Along the Grande de Tour Winter Road

12. Thebacha Village Access Road – Salt River First Nation

Funding Amount: \$3,000

The Salt River First Nation received funding to maintain the 2km Thebacha Village Access Road. The maintenance mainly involved plowing accumulated snow to facilitate travel. This project allowed residents to access Thebacha Village and also facilitated harvesting important resources such as firewood and wild game including moose.

North Slave Region

13. Bridge & Access Road - Wekweètì

Funding Amount: \$169,831

The Community Government of Wekweètì received funding to continue construction on the remaining 15km of the Wekweètì Access Road. The construction of the Wekweètì Bridge and Access Road allows for greater access to harvesting and recreational areas for residents. It also improves the regional transportation system and boosts Wekweètì's tourism industry. Furthermore, it provided employment opportunities and beneficial training and skills to five residents working on the project.

14. South Side Dock Replacement Project - Gamètì

Funding Amount: \$188,908

The Community Government of Gamètì was supported in the replacement of an existing south side community dock and improvements to the boat launch area. The previous dock had collapsed due to age and erosion and was no longer safe to access. Replacing the dock was necessary to improve safety and community access to marine transportation. The new south side concrete and steel dock is also designed to accommodate float plane wing clearances, thereby serving community float plane traffic as well.

The replacement of this dock resulted in increased access to traditional hunting, fishing, and harvesting areas. It also serves as a departure point for cultural camps and participation in traditional on-the-land activities.

15. Community Access Trails - Behchokò

Funding Amount: \$39,820

The Community Government of Behchokò was supported in funding the construction of both the Edzo Trail and Rae Trail. The seven-week Edzo Trail project involved restoring an overgrown 1.3 km length trail to a width that allows vehicle access. It is estimated to take several years of construction work, but this trail will eventually be used as an access road to the lake and the future lake front park. The work involved a crew of six working to clear the brush and vegetation and haul it to a yard in Edzo for later processing.

The three-week Rae Trail project involved creating a 1 km trail to open access to Marion Lake, with the goal of eventually linking into Rae and then travelling north into the Russell Lake area. This also involved a six-person work crew clearing the foliage and vegetation and hauling it to a yard in Rae for later processing.

The construction of the Rae and Edzo Access Trails created employment for those working on the project. It will also generate benefits for the residents of Rae, Frank Channel, and Edzo, as well as visitors to the community. The Community Government of Behchokò contributed \$8,050 to the project.

16. Ice Road “Connector” - Behchokò

Funding Amount: \$34,500

With the help of CAP, the Community Government of Behchokò constructed a Winter Ice Road “Connector” linking Behchokò to the Tłı̄chọ Ice Road System and Edzo. The Behchokò Winter Ice Road “Connector” benefits several communities in addition to Behchokò, including Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì. The “Connector” is beneficial to both residents and visitors by providing greater access to harvesting, recreational, and on-the-land educational programming. The decreased travel time also allows for residents to save on fuel and vehicle operating costs, consequently helping to reduce the cost of living.

The funding provided covered the cost of ice profiling, ice road construction and maintenance. The Community Government of Behchokò contributed \$15,000 to the project for in-kind maintenance services.

17. Austin Lake Access Road – Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: \$76,927

CAP provided funding to the Łutselk'e Dene First Nation to continue construction on the Austin Lake Access Road to the Snowdrift River. This access road allows for shorter travel times for hunters, trappers, fish and wood harvesters, and others travelling the route. This is important for the community residents to maintain a healthy lifestyle through traditional methods while helping to reduce the cost of living. The road also provides greater opportunities for youth and Elders to experience their culture and the natural environment. Six local residents were hired in order to continue construction on the project. In addition to employment, this provides residents with the opportunity to gain valuable transferable work skills in the operation of heavy equipment, working safely, modern road construction techniques, and staff supervision.



Workers amidst construction of the Access Road

18. Marine Facility - Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: \$66,465

The Community Access Program assisted the Łutselk'e Dene First Nation in the construction of a marine facility in Łutselk'e. This new facility facilitates increased access to hunting and fishing activities, and an overall improvement in tourism and the local economy.

In 2017-2018, Phase 1 project funding went towards site investigation, ground proofing, and the purchase of materials and supplies to construct the facility. In 2018-2019, CAP funding supported the transportation of over 100 tons of dock construction materials to Łutselk'e and the construction and installation of multiple dock sections. This construction project provides more convenient marine access to the community for both local vessel traffic, and for both boaters and floatplanes visiting the community on Great Slave Lake.



A look at the new Łutselk'e Marine Facility

Dehcho Region

19. Hodgson Creek Access Road & Airport Lake Access Road – Wrigley

Funding Amount: \$31,625

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation was provided funding to support road construction on both the Hodgson Creek Access Road and the Airport Lake Access Road. The road construction work provided employment for eight residents in the Dehcho Region and consisted of cutting, grading, gravel placement and spreading, and movement of the gravel via dump truck.

This project facilitates road access from Wrigley to other areas that support fire wood harvesting and other harvesting activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and on-the-land cultural and educational programming. These roads also support growth in tourism and recreation in Wrigley. As well, both access roads are being used to support mineral prospecting and oil and gas pipeline contract work.