



COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM

2022-2023 Results Report

Government of
Northwest Territories



Community Access Program 2022-2023 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. The Department of Infrastructure often partners with other departments, as well as municipal and Indigenous governments, 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 2022-2023, a total of 25 construction projects were supported across all five regions. Six projects did not proceed, leaving 19 construction projects undertaken and completed across the NWT.

2022-2023 Community Access Program Projects

Region	Community	Project	Amount Approved	Amount Spent
Sahtú	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 (Winter) (<i>page 3</i>)	\$75,000	\$75,000
	Tulita	Four Mile Creek Quad/Walking Trail – Continuation Construction (Summer) (<i>page 4</i>)	\$140,160	\$140,160
	Tulita	Our Ancestor's Traditional Trail	\$106,955	\$0
Beaufort Delta	Tsiigehtchic	32KM (20 Miles) Arctic Red River Ice Road (<i>page 4</i>)	\$35,000	\$35,000
	Aklavik	80KM Section - Peel River Ice Road from Aklavik to Esau Creek (<i>page 5</i>)	\$65,000	\$65,000
	Fort McPherson	80KM Section - Peel River Ice Road from Fort McPherson to Esau Creek (<i>page 5</i>)	\$60,000	\$60,000
	Tuktoyaktuk	Husky Lakes Trail – Continuation Construction (<i>page 6</i>)	\$100,000	\$100,000
	Paulatuk	ATV Trail - Continuation Construction	\$100,000	\$0
South Slave	Town of Hay River	Access Road Upgrade – Continuation Construction (<i>page 6</i>)	\$139,159	\$139,159
	Town of Hay River	Ski Trails Safety and Accessibility Improvements (<i>page 7</i>)	\$49,750	\$49,750
	Salt River First Nation	Thebacha Village Access Road (<i>page 7</i>)	\$3,000	\$3,000
	Fort Smith Métis Council	Grande de Tour Winter Road (<i>page 8</i>)	\$12,000	\$12,000
	Fort Resolution	Nagel Channel Access Road/Slave River Road Upgrade	\$40,000	\$0
	Kakisa	Cultural/Community Camp Trail – Continuation Construction (<i>page 9</i>)	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Kakisa	Marine Docking Facility – Continuation Construction	\$75,000	\$0
North Slave	Wekweèti	Wekweèti Access Road – Continuation Construction (<i>page 10</i>)	\$136,640	\$60,976
	Gamèti	Duck Pond Access Road - Continuation Construction	\$103,500	\$0
	Behchokò	Ice Road "Connector" (<i>page 11</i>)	\$41,004	\$41,004
	łutsek'e	łutsek'e Bay Access Trail (<i>page 12</i>)	\$84,445	\$84,187
	łutsek'e	Austin Lake Access Road (<i>page 13</i>)	\$100,000	\$100,000
	Yellowknife/YKDFN	Access Trails Brushing and Clearing	\$50,000	\$0
Dehcho	Nahanni Butte	Access Trails Continuation Construction - Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, Achinea Trails (<i>page 14</i>)	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Nahanni Butte	Boat Launch and Boat Launch Access Road – Continuation Construction (<i>page 15</i>)	\$91,400	\$91,400
	Wrigley	Airport Lake Dock Replacement Construction (<i>page 16</i>)	\$38,663	\$37,971
TOTAL			\$1,744,196	\$1,192,127

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 22.5km ice road to Whiskey Jack Point. Multiple social benefits, including reduced cost of living and nutritional benefits, are provided by the ice road through improved access to on-the-land harvesting activities. 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 ice road construction and maintenance and heavy equipment operation by community residents working on the project. A total of 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 22.5km Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point in Délıne.

2. Four Mile Creek Quad and Walking Trail – Tulita

Funding Amount: \$140,160 (Summer Construction)

The Hamlet of Tulita received \$140,160 funding to cover the cost of additional summer construction on the Four Mile Creek Trail to the Community Recreation Area northeast of Tulita.

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

- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO)
- 2 Survey Helpers
- 4 Laborers



Summer 2022 trail construction on the Four Mile Creek Quad and Walking Trail in Tulita.

3. Four Mile Creek Quad and Walking Trail – Tulita Funding Amount: \$75,000 (Winter Construction)

The Hamlet of Tulita received \$75,000 in winter construction funding to cover the cost of the winter gravel haul for the Four Mile Creek Trail. Approximately 700 tonnes of ¾ inch crush granular were purchased, transported, and stockpiled at the construction site. Heavy equipment used in the construction included dump trucks, front end loaders, bulldozers and excavators.

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

- 1 Supervisor
- 7 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO)



Winter 2022-23 gravel haul activity to support the Four Mile Creek Trail in Tulita.

Beaufort Delta Region

4. Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road – Tsiigehtchic Funding Amount: \$35,000

The Gwichya Gwich'in Council in Tsiigehtchic received \$35,000 in funding to construct and maintain the 55km Arctic Red River Ice Road, which runs from the Arctic Red River Ice Bridge into forested areas beyond the Environment and Natural Resources camp at 20-Mile.

This ice road construction project facilitates cost-saving family winter transportation 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)



Family wood harvesting for home heating firewood on the Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road in Tsiigehtchic, Winter 2022-23.

5. Peel River Ice Road – Aklavik to Esau Creek

Funding Amount: \$65,000



A view along the 80KM Aklavik section of the Peel River Ice Road from Aklavik.

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

Cost-saving winter transportation access is provided via the Peel River Ice Road 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 kilometres.

Four community residents were employed from December 2022-March 2023, 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)

6. 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 Fort McPherson section (80km) of the 160km Peel River Ice Road in Winter 2022-23. This road provides cost-saving winter transportation between Fort McPherson and Aklavik, avoiding a one-way land driving distance of 300 kilometres. Fort McPherson supplied a plow truck and crew used to construct its 80km section of the ice road.

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

Community residents employed on the project further developed transferable skills in operating and maintaining heavy equipment and ice road construction. Plow trucks and snowcats were utilized primarily, with four residents employed from December 2022-March 2023 as follows:



Initial construction proceeding on the 80km Fort McPherson section of the Peel River Ice Road from Fort McPherson to Esau Creek, Winter 2022-23.

- 4 Plow Truck and Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operators

7. Husky Lakes Trail Continuation Construction – Tuktoyaktuk Funding Amount: \$100,000

Tuktoyaktuk received \$100,000 in funding to support continuation construction work on the Husky Lakes Trail in Tuktoyaktuk.

The Husky Lakes Trail will be used by community and regional residents for improved access to the Husky Lakes, an important traditional on-the-land harvesting area for Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Cod and Northern Pike. There is also goose, duck, bear, and ptarmigan hunting in the area and extensive gathering of wild berries.

The construction project involved extensive use of heavy equipment including end dump trucks, front end loaders, and bulldozers. Seven community residents were employed on the construction project as follows:

- 1 Surveyor
- 4 Dump Truck Operators (HEO's)
- 1 Front End Loader Operator (HEO)
- 1 Bulldozer Operator (HEO)



Community and area residents using the pull-off area already completed on the Husky Lakes Trail for harvesting, Spring 2022.

South Slave Region

8. Access Road Upgrade Continuation Construction – Town of Hay River Funding Amount: \$139,159



The Town of Hay River was approved for \$139,159 for Phase II continuation construction on the Hoffman Way Access Road.

Included in the construction was chip sealing, culvert installations and ditching, road surfacing, aggregate placement, and blading and grading.

This construction project facilitates enhanced access to local recreational facilities including a community campground, ski club and golf club, benefitting community and local recreation, tourism and economic development.



Curved section under construction on the Hoffman Way Access Road in Hay River.

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

This project supports improved community and regional transportation access via the Hoffman Way Access Road, an important community access road that is heavily utilized by local residents, tourists and visitors. A total of 22 community residents were employed for several months working on the project as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 7 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)
- 12 Chipseal/Road Surfacing Labourers
- 2 General Labourers

9. Ski Trails Safety and Accessibility Improvements – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: \$49,750



Line crew replacing sodium lighting with new LED lighting.

The Town of Hay River was approved for \$49,750 to cover the cost of safety and accessibility improvements for a number of ski trails in Hay River.

The ski trails construction work included trail brushing and clearing and lines crews replacing lighting. Thirty-three 250W and 16 100W high-pressure sodium light fixtures were replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, reducing wattage from 11815W to 5910W. Training and skills development occurred via trail civil construction techniques, heavy equipment operation, and construction safety and supervision. Heavy equipment utilized included an E50 compact excavator, Bobcat with mulcher, and a line crew truck. A total of five community residents were employed during the construction as follows:

- 1 Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO)
- 2 Linesmen
- 2 Labourers



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

Funding Amount: \$3,000

The Salt River First Nation was approved for \$3,000 for Winter 2022-23 for plowing and maintaining 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 (HEO's)
- 2 HEO Assistants



A view along a section of the Thebacha Village Winter Access Road – Salt River First Nation.

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

Funding Amount: \$12,000

The Fort Smith Métis Council received \$12,000 in funding for Winter 2022-23 for the construction and maintenance of the Grande de Tour Winter Access Road.

This winter access road is approximately 70 kilometres and 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. The harvesting of home heating firewood to heat family homes and help lower the cost of living is the predominant utilization for the road, comprising approximately 90% of total road utilization.

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 (HEO's)
- 2 HEO Assistants



Grande de Tour Winter Road in Fort Smith.

12. Phase II Access Road Continuation Constructio

Funding Amount: \$20,000

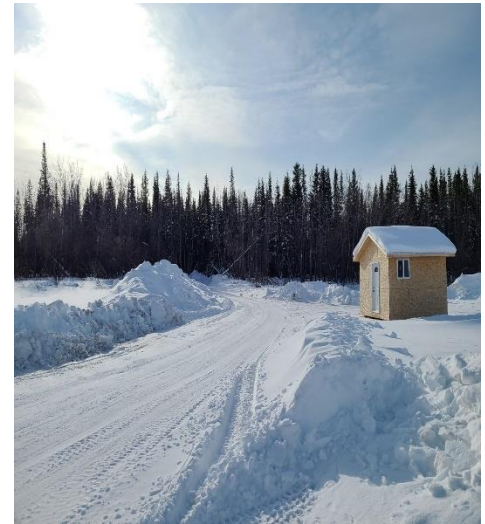
The Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation received \$20,000 in funding to support Phase II continuation construction on the 40km access road to the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation Cultural and Community Camp outside of Kakisa.

Located on the shore of Tathlina Lake, the Cultural and Community Camp hosts community residents engaging in camping and camping-related activities, meetings, educating students and youth in traditional knowledge, nature tours, and family gatherings. Once completed, this project will provide all-season access and eliminate the need for floatplane charter flights from Kakisa to the site of the Cultural and Community 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.

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

- 1 Project Manager/Foreman
- 1 Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO)
- 2 Ice Profilers
- 3 Wood and Brush Cutters/Labourers



A view along the 40km Access Route to the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation's Cultural and Community Camp on the shore of Tathlina Lake - at the KM 11.6 shelter.

North Slave Region

13. Wekweètì Access Road - Wekweètì

Funding Amount: \$136,640

The Community Government of Wekweètì received \$60,976 in funding in 2022-23 for continuation construction on the Wekweètì Access Road. This was complemented by \$216,500 from the Community Government of Wekweètì, including five units of heavy equipment, 1000 CU.M. pit run, and 7500 CU.M. granular crush, for a total project cost of \$353,140.

The Wekweètì Access Road facilitates improved transportation access for community residents to the Wekweètì Winter Road as the termination point and to important harvesting areas for home heating firewood, and hunting and fishing.

A variety of heavy equipment was utilized on the construction, including 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 with the link to the Wekweètì Winter Road saves 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 included:

- 1 Supervisor
- 5 HEO's
- 2 Flag persons



Bulldozer building up the road surface during Summer 2022 continuation construction on the Wekweètì Access Road.

14. Ice Road “Connector” - Behchokò

Funding Amount: \$41,004

The Community Government of Behchokò was approved for \$41,004 in 2022-23 to support construction of the Behchokò Ice Road “Connector” linking Behchokò to the Tłı̨chʔ Winter Ice Road System and Edzo. Several communities benefit from the Behchokò Ice Road “Connector”, including Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì. Travel times between communities and to Yellowknife are reduced, while winter transportation 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 \$16,000 for in-kind maintenance services and support to the project.

Seven local residents worked on the construction as follows:

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



Driving on the Behchokò Ice Road “Connector” during the winter of 2022-23.

15. Łutselk'e Bay Access Trail - Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: \$84,445

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation was approved for \$84,445 in 2022-23 for construction work on the Łutselk'e Bay Access Trail in Łutselk'e.

The Summer 2022 construction work over 2 kilometres of the Łutselk'e Bay Access Trail took place over a period of four months, with the Łutselk'e Dene First Nation contributing \$23,875 of in-kind support, for a total project value of \$108,320.

The project facilitates improved community transportation access along the Łutselk'e Bay area, including via ATV, snowmobile, and for walkers and hikers.

Heavy equipment used on the construction included dump trucks, front end loader, excavator, bulldozer, and a skid steer. A total of 144 dump truck loads were used to transport granular material for the trail surface/roadway cap and the trail sub-base.

A total of 20 local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 2 Project Leaders/Managers
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)
- 15 Laborers/Slashers



Construction proceeding on the Łutselk'e Bay Access Trail in Łutselk'e.

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

Funding Amount: \$100,000

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation was approved for \$100,000 in 2022-23 for continuation construction on an additional 2 kilometres on the Austin Lake Access Road in Łutselk'e. The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation contributed \$74,800 in gravel, road surfacing materials, labor and heavy equipment to the construction project for a total project budget of \$174,800

The Austin Lake Access Road enables the use of pick-up trucks in particular for wood harvesting for home heating firewood, hunting, fishing, ice fishing, and trapping. The construction project provided employment over 2-3 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, and two dump trucks, as well as lighter vehicles. 560 truckloads of 2,000 cubic meters of 6" pit run large rock and 800 cubic meters of ¾" minus crushed gravel were used in the construction work.

Twenty local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 2 Project Leaders/Managers
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 15 Laborers/Slashers



Construction proceeding on the Austin Lake Access Road in Łutselk'e.

Dehcho Region

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

Funding Amount: \$20,000

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band received \$20,000 in 2022-23 winter CAP funding for continuation construction on the Yohan Lake, Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, and Achinea Trails. In addition to CAP funding, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band contributed \$2000 to the construction project.

The winter 2022 work included trail widening and the removal of obstructions, including trees, brush, and other vegetation. Equipment used in the construction work included chain saws, hand tools, ATVs 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.

Seven local residents divided into two crews worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Supervisor
- 6 Tree and Brush Cutters/Laborers



Winter 2022-23 access trails continuation construction in Nahanni Butte.

18. Boat Launch and Boat Launch Access Road – Nahanni Butte

Funding Amount: \$91,400

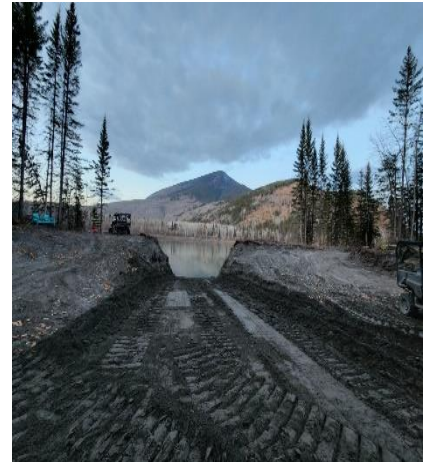
The Nahanni Butte Dene Band received \$91,400 for Phase II construction from June 2022–February 2023 on the Nahanni Butte community boat launch and boat launch access road. In addition, the Band contributed \$3000 and the Naha Dehe Development Corporation \$5,000 to the project.

The new boat launch and boat launch access road will help to improve community transportation access for residents, visitors and tourists, as the community does not have either all-season road access or ferry access.

Construction work included 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 bulldozer, dump truck, front end loader, grader, and Bobcat with additional light equipment including trucks, and chain saws.

16 local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Supervisor
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)
- 12 Laborers



The new Nahanni Butte boat launch after completion of Phase II construction work.

Bulldozer engaged in construction work on the Nahanni Butte Boat Launch Access Road, a component of the overall construction project.



19. Airport Lake Dock – Wrigley

Funding Amount: \$38,663

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation received \$37,971 in 2022-23 for continuation construction upgrades and improvements to the Airport Lake Dock in Wrigley.

Included in the project were construction of new dock surfaces, dock ramps, dock site improvements including tree cutting, brushing and clearing, and the purchase of additional dockage.

Equipment used in the construction work included chain saws, carpentry tools, and a work vehicle with a trailer.

A total of 11 days was required to undertake the work to completion. The Airport Lake Dock is utilized extensively by local community boats and visiting boats, as well as by floatplanes.

Three local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Supervisor
- 2 Carpenters/Laborers



Airport Lake Dock after construction upgrades were completed.

Community Access Program 2022-2023 Results Report



View from the dock after completion of construction upgrades and improvements looking out over Airport Lake.