



May 9, 2005

Ms. Gaila Whelan Enns
Manitoba Wildlands Campaign
412 – 63 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1G4

Dear Ms. Whelan Enns:

Nunavut Manitoba Route Selection Study

I am pleased to inform your organization that the Kivalliq Inuit Association in collaboration with the Governments of Nunavut, Manitoba and Canada, has retained a multi-disciplinary engineering and planning consulting team led by Nishi-Khon/SNC-Lavalin to undertake a route selection study for a road linking the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut to the existing transportation network in Manitoba. Additional information outlining the background and objectives of the Study is attached for your information.

The consultant will be arranging a series of meetings in each of the affected communities at an early stage in the study. You may expect to hear from the consultant shortly regarding meeting arrangements. In the interim, you are invited to provide any comments, in writing to:

Mr. Tony Wachmann, P. Eng.
Nishi-Khon/SNC-Lavalin Limited
1800-1075 West Georgia St.
Vancouver, BC V6E 3C9

We are looking forward to your community/organization's participation in this study.

Yours truly,

John Spacek
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment

Nunavut-Manitoba Route Selection Study: Additional Background Information

The Nunavut-Manitoba Route Location Study is taking place under the auspices of the Manitoba-Nunavut Transportation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed by the two jurisdictions in December 2001. A key objective of the MOU is collaboration on a road initiative.

Throughout 1999 and 2000, a "Manitoba-Nunavut Transportation Assessment" was undertaken jointly by the Governments of Canada, Nunavut and Manitoba. This study established that a road connection between Manitoba and Nunavut is a critical requirement to providing communities in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut with access to Manitoba and the rest of North America.

In addition, the recently completed Nunavut Transportation Strategy has identified the need for a road between Manitoba and the Kivalliq region. This road is envisaged to start as a winter road/seasonal trail and progressively develop into a two-lane all-weather road. It is intended that the viability, economic and social benefits of an all-weather road could be demonstrated through a multi-year test of a winter road.

The engineering consulting firm of Nishi-Khon/SNC Lavalin has been engaged to undertake the additional planning and engineering work required to identify a preferred route for a road. This study will assess three alternative corridors (see attached Figure 1) on the basis of detailed analysis of economic and social impacts and opportunities associated with such a route. The study will include an extensive community consultation process to identify economic, social and environmental issues. In addition, technical details and costs will be refined for each of the three alternative corridors in order to provide an objective basis upon which to choose the preferred route.

Issues such as community service requirements, resource development opportunities, and a general environmental scoping analysis would form part of this assessment. Consideration will also be given to environmental mitigation and methodologies for staging development in such a way that would accommodate winter road development along a future all-weather road alignment.

The funding partners for the study are as follows:

- Kivalliq Inuit Association (via the Resource Partnership Program, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada)
- Manitoba Transportation & Government Services
- Nunavut Government Services & Transportation
- Transport Canada (via the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program)