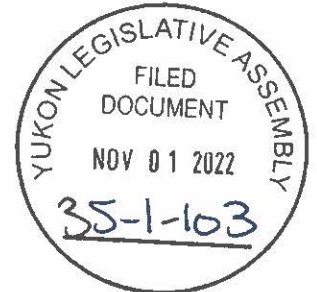




June 8, 2022

Stacey Hassard
Yukon Legislative Assembly
MLA, Copperbelt South
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6



Re: Dempster Fibre Project and the inclusion of economic benefits for citizens of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation

Dear ~~MLA Hassard~~, *Stacey*

Thank you for your letter regarding the inclusion of economic benefits related to the Dempster Fibre Project for citizens of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation.

Construction of the fibre line - an 800-kilometre fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway began in summer 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. The new line will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik and provide many economic opportunities to Yukoners.

The \$67 million contract for this project was awarded to ROHL Global Networks last year. Of this, \$18.5 million, or 27% has been committed by the contractor to be subcontracted to Yukon First Nation businesses. In addition to this, the contractor has also committed an additional 30,000 hours of direct employment to First Nations whose traditional territory is along the project's route. In an effort to increase local capacity to participate in this project, the Government of Yukon also sponsored environmental and wildlife monitoring courses for affected First Nation citizens who were interested.

As the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation is one of the First Nations with traditional territory on the project route, they have a minimum commitment of \$1.3 million subcontracting work on this project. These commitments are part of the construction contract, and we will be working closely with the Contractor to ensure that they are met. Thank you again for your questions.

Sincerely,

Nils Clarke
Minister of Highways and Public Works