

Tłjchq Government and Whatì Community Government Commitments

The Tłjchq Government and Whatì Community Government have reviewed the outcomes of two research studies, and met on an ongoing basis with the Department of Transportation to discuss how to monitor and mitigate effects from the proposed all weather road to Whatì. The following mitigations have been reviewed by the leadership of both the Tłjchq Government and Whatì Community Government and accepted.

Community Safety

Our goal strengthen community security and safety through resilient policing, policies and programs.

- 1) Whatì Community Government is investigating two options to strengthen community security: Community Bylaw Officer and the Aboriginal Policing Program. This is an issue that needs to be addressed jointly the Tłjchq Government and the Community Government of Whatì.
- 2) There is a need to provide on-the-land treatment for substance abusers, using the healing power of the elders and the land. This is social issue that needs to be addressed by TCSA. The recommendation is to introduce the Nishi Program with funds from a variety of sources.
- 3) There is currently a prohibition in place in Whatì. The Whatì Community Government (WCG) allocates a large sum to prohibition enforcement, which is often ineffective. The WCG would like to review the possibility of revisiting the prohibition ban, in favour of more proactive resilience strategies for managing alcohol and drug consumption in the community.

Economic Development

Our goal is to strengthen community economic development through programs and resources.

- 4) The need has been shown for business acumen for local entrepreneurs, in order to maximize local procurement opportunities from the road and mine. The Tłjchq Government currently maintains a full-time Economic Development Officer who assists Tłjchq residents in establishing their own business. The Tłjchq Government needs to redirect this person to focus on local issues.

Community Preparedness

- Our goal is to prepare the community of Whatì for road development through programs, intergovernmental coordination and provision of resources.

-

- 5) The Whatì Community Government coordinates an Interagency Committee, including MACA, the RCMP, the Whatì Community Government and the Tłıchq̓ Government that touches on issues related to community preparedness. Issues such as emergency response, programs, and the community and lands concerns are all brought to this forum. Reasonable discussions about costs, liabilities and insurance will need to be addressed at this forum. The parties commit to continuing this joint forum in order to coordinate among agencies.
- 6) The Whatì Community Government commits to clear and ongoing communication with citizens in the region, using appropriate means. These may include door to door mail outs, newsletters, and public meetings.
- 7) Housing stock and condition is an ongoing barrier to community wellbeing and preparedness. There is insufficient information on housing and the barriers, but key issues to investigate include income support, home ownership, property management, and local organization, as well as financing. There is a local housing organization, but there needs to be further development and information gathered. The parties recommend a fact finding investigation on this topic and further commitments to be made based on the findings. This issue should also be on the Tłıchq̓ Chief Executive Council agenda, in order to propel action forward on this topic.
- 8) There is a need for locally agreed upon goals and plans for Community Well-Being. The Interagency Committee should develop a small set of community based goals of resilience. As an example, the number of local gardens and the support of a community garden could be an example, with goals set for 2020 and 2025. The Whatì Community Government commits to forming a small set of community goals through community planning, and then monitoring progress towards goals over time.

Governance

Our goal is to prepare the citizens and governments for road development through development of predictable regulations, policies and support of services.

- 9) There is desire for design of regulations and policies to manage the construction of cabins and design of hunting, trapping, and fishing in the area, in order to minimize impacts on local animal populations. The GNWT and the Tłıchq̓ Government commit to working together to develop clear guidance on this topic, and provide effective management.
- 10) The Tłıchq̓ Government will develop mineral policy for Tłıchq̓ Lands, so that there is clear and predictable regulation in the region.