



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

ACEC-NT c/o NAPEG  
Bowling Green Building  
201 - 4817 49th Street  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S7

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Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Attention: Member of the Legislative Assembly Kevin O'Reilly

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

**Re: Statements Regarding Companies Selected by the GNWT for the Lockhart All-Season Road**

During the Legislative Assembly debate on 26 August 2020 (Day 35 of the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly), you made statements indicating that the Lockhart All-Season Road project was awarded by the GNWT to 'another southern company', echoing statements in the media characterizing the successful bidders as 'multinational firms'. The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Northwest Territories (ACEC-NT) would like to take this opportunity to clarify this misperception, on behalf of our affected members.

ACEC-NT is a non-profit society comprised of 17 independent consulting engineering firms operating in the NWT. ACEC-NT advocates on behalf of its member firms with the goal of strengthening the relationship between consulting engineers and their public and private sector clients. ACEC-NT member firms are active participants in the development of northern communities, infrastructure and resource development projects, and can often be found volunteering their time for the betterment of their communities.

Four ACEC members were selected to assist the GNWT with the Lockhart All-Season Road through this process (Golder Associates, Associated Engineering, Stantec and Tetra Tech). While these companies naturally also have southern offices, and some are multi-national, the teams presented to the GNWT for the Lockhart All-Season Road have a long history and significant presence in the NWT. Stantec and Tetra Tech have both maintained fully staffed offices in the NWT for more than 30 years each. Golder Associates is currently celebrating 25 years in Yellowknife while Associated Engineering has had a presence for over 10 years. Golder Associates and Tetra Tech are both listed under the Business Incentive Program. Stantec, Tetra



Tech, and Golder are each minority owners of more than one Indigenous-owned companies in the NWT. This is our home.

Combined, these four companies currently employ more than sixty-two full-time staff members who live and work in the NWT, and additional part-time seasonal staff also hired locally. The Request for Proposals from the GNWT for the Lockhart All-Season Road contained significant weighting for NWT teams (beyond the usual Business Incentive Program points). Teams without significant NWT content would be unlikely to win. These teams were led by NWT residents, rely on NWT residents, and will endeavor to keep as much of the work in the NWT as capacity allows.

All four companies, like many of our member companies, have contributed to many GNWT projects across the NWT - including project such as municipal infrastructure, highway upgrade projects, schools, bridges, roads, power infrastructure, environmental baseline studies, regulatory approvals and environmental assessments. All this experience has included building relations with affected communities, hiring locally, understanding the challenges of working in remote Northern environments, and experience in our unique NWT environmental regulatory system.

The contribution of these and all other ACEC member companies to the local economy should be recognized, where our companies not only help to keep dollars in the NWT, but also bring in dollars through projects based outside of the NWT. ACEC members also contribute to the NWT Indigenous communities through joint ventures, partnerships, employment, donations, sponsorships and training.

The members of ACEC who were awarded this work expect to collaborate with YKDFN on all aspects of the Project and were planning and looking forward to doing so from the start. This involvement should at least include community engagement, direct hiring of YKDFN and other Indigenous people, and significant involvement of NWT and Indigenous-owned companies both as sub-contractors or directly by the GNWT.

Government procurement, whether federal, territorial or municipal, has always garnered a lot of interest. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our member companies and the projects we work on, and how local content in the Lockhart All-Season Road may be maximized.

Mr. O'Reilly, as this issue continues to attract attention and could have significant implications for our members future involvement in the Lockhart All-Season Road and other GNWT infrastructure projects, we would be very grateful if you could use the 'Personal Explanation' procedure to clarify your earlier statement. We make this request as an opportunity for a more wholesome discussion of this issue in the public arena, and we believe it will also help to improve public understanding of the GNWT procurement process.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Yours truly,



Rob Girvan, P.Eng.  
President, ACEC-NT  
acecntpres@gmail.com  
Phone: 867-675-0252