

Government of
Northwest Territories

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MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA**Oral Question 323-20(1): Dempster Highway and Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Conditions**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised by MLA Rodgers on October 21, 2024, regarding driving conditions on the Dempster Highway (Highway 8) and Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway (Highway 10).

Regarding my commitment to update Members from the Beaufort Delta on the regular maintenance process for those highways, I can provide the following overview for Highway 8 and Highway 10.

The maintenance providers contracted by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) conduct daily, seasonal and emergency activities on these two highways. The daily activities include patrols to inspect road conditions and identify any issues with road surfaces and embankments that may need maintenance. GNWT highway staff also patrol both highways to identify areas of concern and coordinate with the contractors.

Seasonal winter maintenance on these highways includes road surface work – clearing snow off the highways and ice blading (using a grader to remove an ice sheet from gravel road surfaces) and maintaining the right-of-way through snowbank removal and management. This is done as and when needed throughout the winter. With our ice crossings, once the two ferries close for the season, approaches to the crossings are built and maintained throughout the winter.

Seasonal summer maintenance on both highways includes wet blading and dry blading of road surfaces with graders to fix roughed, potholed, rutted or bumpy gravel road surfaces and adding gravel to road surfaces that require it to ensure safe driving conditions for travellers. This work is done approximately every two weeks on both highways. However, if our highway patrols determine any of this maintenance is needed on a particular section of a highway, it is done as soon as possible. Culverts on both highways are also inspected annually and repaired or replaced when necessary. During the summer, calcium chloride is also placed on both highways regularly to control dust and stabilize road surfaces.

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Emergency maintenance occurs if there is a major washout due to heavy rain, large snowfall or thaw slumps that impact driving conditions. There is equipment on standby to address these emergency situations so contractors can immediately work on clearing the right-of-way and repair any damage to the road surface, in order to minimize travel disruption and quickly restore safe driving conditions.

The GNWT now has contracts in place with Beaufort Delta-based companies to provide operation and maintenance services for the NWT section of Highway 8 and for Highway 10.

These contracts are as follows:

- Highway 8, km 0-142.6 – LJ’s Septic Services and Contracting Ltd. (Start date: March 5, 2021; End date: March 31, 2026)
- Highway 8, km 143.2-178.2 – LJ’s Septic Services and Contracting Ltd. (Start date: October 1, 2021; End date: March 31, 2025)
- Highway 8, km 178.2-272.5 – Northwind Industries Ltd. (Start date: October 1, 2024; End date: April 30, 2027)
- Highway 10, km 0-138.9 – 507983 NWT Limited, a company comprised of E. Gruben’s Transport Ltd., Northwind Industries Ltd. and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (Start date: November 1, 2024; End date: April 30, 2027)

I am also pleased to note that the contract for crushing and stockpiling of aggregate to support the roadway lifting and rehabilitation work on the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway is nearly executed. Work is expected to begin soon, and the rehabilitation work is scheduled to be complete by September 2027 and will enhance driving conditions on the highway for all travellers.



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister, Infrastructure

- c. Clerk of the Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and Housing Planning
Deputy Minister, Infrastructure