Community Access Program

2019-2020 Results Report

Government of
Northwest Territories

Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure's Community Access Program (CAP) provides contribution funding to communities across the Northwest Territories for the construction and rehabilitation of transportation and marine infrastructure.

The program is application-based with an annual budget of $1.5 million. The Department of Infrastructure often partners with other departments, as well as municipal and Indigenous governments, to support construction and training. Every effort is made for local and northern residents to benefit from the public dollars spent in their community.

In 2019-2020, a total of 22 projects were supported across all five regions.

2019-2020 Community Access Program Projects

Region	Community	Project	Funding Amount
Sahtú	Dél̨ne	Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point	$57,520
	Colville Lake	Lake Belot & Aubrey Lake Trails	$55,000
Beaufort Delta	Tsiigehtchic	32 KM Arctic Red River Ice Road	$24,840
	Aklavik	Willow River Bridge & Access Road	$86,950
	Aklavik	80 KM Section - Peel River Ice Road from Aklavik to Esau Creek	$50,000
	Fort McPherson	80 KM Section - Peel River Ice Road from Fort McPherson to Esau Creek	$50,000
	Uluhaktok	Kigeevik Community Trail	$4,045
	Paulatuk	Marine Facility Upgrades – Removable Small Vessel Dock	$12,373
South Slave	Town of Hay River	Fisherman's Wharf Access Road	$100,000
	Town of Hay River	Porritt Landing Marine Facility & Access Road	$50,000
	Town of Hay River	Upgrades - Pointe De Roche Snowmobile Trail	$40,000
	Fort Smith Métis Council	Grande de Tour Winter Road	$8,000
	Fort Resolution	Slave River & Nagel Channel Access Road Upgrade	$39,338
North Slave	Wekweètì	Wekweètì Bridge & Access Road	$85,000
	Wekweètì	Brushcutting 6 KM Main Road to Airport	$80,000
	Gamètì	Road Construction and Brush Clearing	$29,478
	Behchokǫ̀	Ice Road "Connector"	$34,500
	Łutselk'e	Austin Lake Access Road	$100,000
	Łutselk'e	Marine Facility Construction - Ramp Upgrade & Reinforcement	$5,000
Dehcho	Wrigley	VOR Access Road & PKFN Trail System	$50,000
	Nahanni Butte	Access Trail Construction - Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, Achinea Trails	$70,813
	Trout Lake	Sambaa K'e Winter Access Road	$50,000
		TOTAL	**$1,082,857**

Sahtú Region

1. Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point – Délı̨ne
Funding Amount: $57,520

The Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government received CAP funding to build and maintain the 22.5 km ice road to Whiskey Jack Point. The ice road provides essential access to on-the-land harvesting activities that help families reduce the cost of living while also improving nutrition and promoting active living. Activities facilitated via the ice road to Whiskey Jack Point include big and small game hunting, ice fishing, wood harvesting for home heating, trapping, and transportation to area cabins and hunting camps.

This ice road project enabled community residents working on the project to further build on and develop their skills in ice road construction and maintenance and heavy equipment operation. A total of 2 community residents were employed continuously for several months as follows:

- 1 Front End Loader Operator
- 1 Grader Operator

Coming into a curve on the 22.5 km Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point in Délı̨ne

2. Lake Belot & Aubrey Lake Trails – Colville Lake
Funding Amount: $55,000

The Behdzi Ahda First Nation in Colville Lake received $55,000 in funding to cover the cost of trail construction on two trails on the west and northwest sides of Colville Lake. The Lake Belot and Aubrey Lake trails are utilized by community residents to access on-the-land harvesting that helps to reduce the cost of living in the community, including wood harvesting for home heating.

This construction project helped community residents working on the project to further develop transferable skills and training in using chain saws and other light tools for brushing and clearing work. A total of 11 community residents were employed for two weeks working on 5 km of trail as follows:

- 10 Wood/Brush Cutters/Clearers
- 1 Construction Camp Cook

Operating on the Lake Belot & Aubrey Lake Trails in Colville Lake – Behdzi Ahda First Nation

Beaufort Delta Region

3. Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road – Tsiigehtchic

Funding Amount: $24,840

The Gwichya Gwich'in Council received $24,840 in funding to construct and maintain the 32 km Arctic Red River Ice Road. The Ice Road runs from the Arctic Red River Ice Bridge to the area of the Environment and Natural Resources camp at 20-Mile.

This project allows for cost-saving winter transportation and greater access to firewood, hunting, fishing, and trapping.

The community residents who worked on the project further developed transferable skills and training in operating heavy equipment and constructing and maintaining ice roads. A total of 4 community residents were employed for three months (January 2020 to end of March 2020) working on the 32 km ice road as follows:

- 1 Plow Truck Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1 Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operator
- 2 Route Markers/Route Proofers (Via Snowmobile)

Driving on the Arctic Red River Winter Ice Road in Tsiigehtchic

4. Willow River Bridge and Access Road - Aklavik

Funding Amount: $86,950

Culvert Installation – Willow River Bridge and Access Road in Aklavik

Funding was provided to support the Hamlet of Aklavik in covering the cost of culvert installation, heavy equipment (four dump trucks, front end loader, bulldozer, excavator), laborers, surveying, and project management for the Willow River Bridge and Access Road. The construction enabled community residents working on the project to further build on and develop their skills in construction and heavy equipment operation. A total of 12 community residents were employed for two weeks during this construction project as follows:

- 4 Dump Truck Operators
- 1 Front End Loader Operator
- 1 Bulldozer Operator
- 1 Excavator Operator
- 4 Laborers
- 1 Surveyor/Project Manager

5. Peel River Ice Road – Aklavik to Esau Creek

Funding Amount: $50,000

Curving stretch along the 80 KM Aklavik section of the Peel River Ice Road from Aklavik to the Esau Creek.

Funding was provided to Aklavik (Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council) to construct and maintain the Aklavik section (80 km) of the 160 km Peel River Ice Road. Aklavik was responsible for constructing and maintaining its section of the ice road from Aklavik to the mid-way point at the Esau River.

This ice road provides cost-saving winter transportation between Aklavik and Fort McPherson, and improves access to hunting, ice fishing, firewood, and trapping.

Community residents working on the project further developed transferable skills and training in operating and maintaining heavy equipment and ice road construction. A plow truck and snowcat were utilized, with 4 community residents employed from January 2020-March 2020 as follows:

- 1 Plow Truck Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1 Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operator
- 2 Route Markers/Route Proofers (Via Snowmobile)

6. Peel River Ice Road - Fort McPherson to Esau Creek

Funding Amount: $50,000

The Hamlet of Fort McPherson (Tetlit Gwich'in Council) was supported through CAP funding to construct and maintain the Fort McPherson section (80 km) of the 160 km Peel River Ice Road. This road provides cost-saving winter transportation between Aklavik and Fort McPherson. Fort McPherson received $50,000 and was responsible for constructing the 80 km section of the Peel River Ice Road to the mid-way point at the Esau River. Fort McPherson supplied a plow truck and crew used to construct its portion of the ice road.

This ice road is utilized for ground transportation between the two communities, and also provides access to hunting, ice fishing, trapping, and firewood cutting for home heating.

The community residents employed on the project further developed transferable skills and training in operating and maintaining heavy equipment and ice road construction. A plow truck and snowcat were utilized as well as snowmobiles, with four residents employed from January 2020-March 2020 as follows:

- 1 Plow Truck Heavy Equipment Operator
- 1 Snowcat Heavy Equipment Operator
- 2 Route Markers/Route Proofers (Via Snowmobile)

A view along the 80 KM Fort McPherson section of the Peel River Ice Road constructed from Fort McPherson to the Esau Creek.

7. Kigeevik Community Trail – Ulukhaktok
Funding Amount: $4,045

The Hamlet of Ulukhaktok was supported via $4,045 in funding to support construction planning and preparation for the Kigeevik Community Trail.
The Kigeevik Community Trail will be utilized to provide cost-saving and safe overland transportation to remote cabins and other sites and to support community harvesting activities.
The trail will also facilitate educational programing for local students and youth with Elders, teachers, and community leaders conducted by the Helen Kalvak School and other community organizations.
Due to severe ground freeze, construction that would have employed eight community residents could not be advanced in 19-20. Engineering project work did proceed, employing one Engineer.

Hamlet of Ulukhaktok viewed from the bluffs above the community (Courtesy of the IRC)

8. Marine Facility Upgrades/Removable Small Vessel Dock – Paulatuk
Funding Amount: $12,373

The Hamlet of Paulatuk was supported via $12,373 in funding for community marine facility upgrades to cover the procurement and associated road and barge transportation of a removable corrosion-resistant aluminum dock. The removable dock consists of a 6' x 10' feet ramp and two 6' x 10' feet docks for around 50 feet of linear docking space to tie on vessels and is placed in the community's harbour after the sea ice clears at the start of the marine navigation season.
The new dock supports the safe and sheltered docking, operation, and maintenance of local community small marine vessels, government small vessels such as small rescue craft, visiting small vessels from other Beaufort Sea communities, etc.
Three local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 3 Dock Construction Workers

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South Slave Region

1. Fisherman's Wharf Access Road – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: $100,000

A stockpile of brushed & cleared material adjacent to CN railway tracks.

Fisherman's Wharf Access Road with granular work underway in Hay River.

The Town of Hay River was approved for $100,000 in continuation construction in FY 19-20 on the Fisherman's Wharf Access Road. Included in the FY 19-20 continuation construction was design work, earth works, materials, and labor. Road surfacing, grading, road elevation improvements, and aggregate including 220 cubic yards of 2" minus crushed gravel, 30 cubic yards of 2" crushed gravel, 160 cubic yards of ¾" and 30 cubic yards of 4" crush gravel were included in the construction activity, as well as engineering and surveying, brushing and clearing, signage to support public access, and controlled parking area development. Heavy equipment and crews utilized in the construction work included a 323 excavator, 30-ton picker truck, 450 bulldozer, D37 bulldozer, BOMAG packer, Bobcat, water truck, and other heavy equipment.

This project supports community transportation access on the Fisherman's Wharf Access Road to the Fisherman's Wharf, an important community marine facility serving both the community and the region. This construction project helped community residents to further develop transferable skills and training in road construction and heavy equipment operation. Community residents were employed for several months working on the project as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 10 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)
- 6 Carpenters/Concrete Formers
- 6 Mechanical/Electrical
- 10 General Construction/ Labourers

2. Porritt Landing Marine Facility Improvements – Town of Hay River
Funding Amount: $50,000

Paving underway after grading & placement of crushed stone, Porritt Landing Boat Launch.

The Town of Hay River was approved for $50,000 in FY19-20 CAP Program funding to cover the cost of paving and debris removal at Porritt Landing. A total of 600 cubic meters of debris was removed.

Surface gaps between the boat launch approach at Porritt Landing and the concrete boat launch ramp were removed via grading and asphalt paving. Grading work was completed on the boat launch and the approach way to remove angles that were negatively impacting boat launches. Once proper grade was achieved, an asphalt surface was applied to preserve the approach and subsequently reduce maintenance activities.

A total of 6 community residents were employed during the construction as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)
- 2 Labourers

3. Point de Roche Snowmobile Trail Upgrades – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: $40,000

The Town of Hay River was approved for $40,000 for winter construction on the Point de Roche Snowmobile Trail. Mechanical mulching was completed and the trail was widened to a minimum of 12 feet over an 18 km section to support safe snowmobiling and other recreational uses. A total of 80 hours of mulching equipment operation was required to complete the construction.

Signage was designed and produced to provide information for trail users. Multiple signs outlining trail access points, color coded trail markers, and directional arrows now help with access and communication to ensure the safety of trail users.

This construction project helped community residents to further develop transferable skills and training in using heavy equipment and tools for brushing and clearing work. A total of 3 community residents were employed for two weeks working on 5 km of trail as follows:

- 1 Project Manager
- 2 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)

Hay River's Point de Roche Snowmobile Trail after mulching & widening of the trail

4. Grande de Tour Winter Road - Fort Smith Métis Council

Funding Amount: $8,000

The Fort Smith Métis Council received $8000 in funding in FY 19-20 for the construction and maintenance of the Grande de Tour Winter Road. This important winter road provides access for Fort Smith and area residents to firewood harvesting which is around 80% of utilization, as well as recreational and on-the-land educational activities.

This construction project helped community residents working on the project to further develop transferable skills and training in winter road operations and maintenance. A total of 4 community residents were employed for several winter months working on the road as follows:

- 2 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 2 HEO Assistants

Driving on the Grande de Tour Winter Road in Fort Smith

5. Slave River & Nagel Channel Access Road Upgrades – Fort Resolution

Funding Amount: $39,338

The Deninu Kųé First Nation received $39,338 in funding to support the cost of continuation construction on the Slave River and Nagel Channel Access Roads. These access roads facilitate road access for local boaters to Great Slave Lake to engage in fishing, ice fishing, and duck and other bird hunting on the water. The access roads also facilitate community and regional road transportation access, and are also utilized for wood harvesting for family home heating, big and small game hunting, ice fishing, fishing, trapping, and other on-the-land activities.

Heavy equipment was utilized, including a bulldozer as well as other equipment obtained from a South Slave region construction company. A total of approximately 14 community residents were employed in the construction work as follows:

- 2 Heavy Equipment Operators
- Woodcutters
- Laborers

Deninu Kųé First Nation construction crew working on the Slave River & Nagel Channel Access Roads

North Slave Region

1. Wekweètì Bridge & Access Road Continuation Construction - Wekweètì

Funding Amount: $85,000

In FY 19-20 the Community Government of Wekweètì received $85,000 in funding to further advance construction on the remaining 15km of the Wekweètì Access Road. The Wekweètì Bridge and Access Road facilitates greater transportation access for residents including, when completed, to the Wekweètì Winter Road.

The continuation construction also provided employment opportunities and beneficial training and skills to community residents working on the construction.

A variety of heavy equipment was utilized on the construction, including a front end loader, crusher, bulldozer and dump trucks, with project staff as follows:

- 1 Crew Boss
- 7 Heavy Equipment Operators (HEO's)
- 2 Cooks

Continuation construction with new aggregate spread on the Wekweètì Bridge & Access Road

2. Brushcutting – 6 KM of Main Road to Airport - Wekweètì

Funding Amount: $80,000

The Community Government of Wekweètì was approved for $80,000 in funding to cover the cost of brushcutting work along 6 km of the Wekweètì Airport Main Road. The construction work improved drainage and road surface soil stability via a reduction in water pooling and water run-off onto the surface of the road.

The Wekweètì Airport Main Road is an important community access road to the community's airport, which provides year-round air access to the community from Yellowknife.

The Community Government provided vehicles and equipment in support of the project. Ten community residents were employed, with project staff as follows:

- 1 Foreman
- 4 Chainsaw Operators
- 3 Brushcutters
- 2 Laborers

Safety for motorists travelling the Main Road to the Wekweètì Airport was enhanced via brushcutting work.

3. Duck Pond Access Road Construction & Brushcutting - Gamètì

Funding Amount: $29,478

The Community Government of Gamètì received $29,478 in FY19-20 CAP Program funding to cover the cost of brushcutting and road construction on the Duck Pond Access Road to the proposed new community campground at Duck Pond in Gamètì.

The Duck Pond Access Road will facilitate community access to the Duck Pond campground and Duck Pond. It also increases access for harvesting activities and educational programming.

Twelve construction workers were employed during this access road work as follows:

- 1 Foreman
- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- Brush Cutters
- Laborers

Terminus for the FY 19-20 construction on the Duck Pond Access Road in Gamètì.

4. Ice Road "Connector" - Behchokǫ̀

Funding Amount: $34,500

The Community Government of Behchokǫ̀ was approved for $34,500 in FY 19-20 to support construction of the Behchokǫ̀ Ice Road "Connector" linking Behchokǫ̀ to the Department of Infrastructure's Tłı̨chǫ Winter Ice Road System and Edzo. The Behchokǫ̀ Ice Road "Connector" benefits several communities in addition to Behchokǫ̀, including Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì. The "Connector" significantly reduces travel times while improving winter transportation access for family home heating wood harvesting, ice fishing, hunting, trapping, and on-the-land educational programming. The decreased travel time allows residents to save on fuel and vehicle operating costs, consequently helping to reduce the cost of living.

The funding provided covered the cost of ice profiling, ice road construction and maintenance. The Community Government of Behchokǫ̀ contributed $15,000 to this winter access project for in-kind maintenance services.

Seven local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 2 Snowcat Operators
- 1 Heavy Equipment Operator – Plow Truck
- 3 Pilot Vehicle Operators (Piloting, Patrolling, Fueling)
- 1 Ice Profiler (Ice Profiling, Scouting & Route Setting)

Vehicle travelling March 4th 2020 on the Behchokǫ̀ Ice Road "Connector"

5. Austin Lake Access Road – Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: $100,000

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation was approved for $100,000 in FY 19-20 for continuation construction on the Austin Lake Access Road, reaching both the Snowdrift River Falls and the Cultural Camp. This access road improves community transportation access while reducing travel times and enabling the use of pick-up trucks and other larger capacity personal vehicles for wood harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, and other on-the-land activities. This helps to facilitate healthier living while helping to reduce the cost of living. The road also provides greater opportunities for youth and Elders to undertake educational programming. In addition to employment, the construction provided valuable transferable work skills in the operation of heavy equipment, modern road construction and environmental protection techniques, and staff supervision.

Drainage work underway on the Austin Lake Access Road in Łutselk'e

Seven local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Foreman
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Laborers

6. Marine Facility Ramp Upgrade & Reinforcement - Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: $5,000

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation was approved for $5,000 in FY 19-20 for minor continuing capital construction on the new marine facility in Łutselk'e involving the installation of one new, wider ramp and additional reinforcement.

Phase 1 of the project in 2017-2018 involved site investigation, ground proofing, and the purchase of materials and supplies to construct the facility. In 2018-2019 the barge transportation of over 100 tons of dock construction materials to Łutselk'e and major construction took place. This construction project provides more convenient marine access to the community for both vessel traffic and floatplanes.

Three local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Foreman
- 2 Laborers

The new Łutselk'e Marine Facility provides safe, modern, secure docking for marine vessels operated by community residents and floatplanes.

Dehcho Region

1. VOR Access Road & Pehdzeh Ki First Nation Trail System – Wrigley

Funding Amount: $50,000

The Pehdzeh Ki First Nation was provided with $50,000 in funding to support construction on both the VOR Access Road and the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation Trail System. The construction work provided consisted of cutting, grading, gravel placement and spreading, and movement of the gravel via dump truck on the VOR Access Road, and wood cutting and clearing on the trail system as well as carpentry for an outdoors staircase.

This project facilitates improved road access from Wrigley on the VOR Access Road, and also to areas that support fire wood harvesting for home heating, hunting, fishing, trapping, and on-the-land cultural and educational programming.

Local residents worked on the construction at the two locations as follows:

Driving on the upgraded VOR Access Road in Wrigley after the addition of gravel, grading & spreading.

VOR Access Road:

- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 4 Laborers

Pehdzeh Ki First Nation Trail System:

- 3 Heavy Equipment Operators
- 1 Carpenter

2. Access Trail Construction – Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, & Achinea Trails – Nahanni Butte

Funding Amount: $70,813

Removal of overgrown vegetation along the trail system using a chain saw.

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band received $70,813 in FY 19-20 for trail construction on the Arrowhead, Bluebell, Swan Point, and Achinea Trails.

The work was mostly comprised of trail widening and the removal of obstructions, including trees, brush, and other overgrown vegetation. A total distance of approximately 150 km of trails was worked on, covering a wide range of territory adjacent to the community.

A total of 20 days was required to undertake the work to completion, with the goal of completing around 10 km of trail per day. Eight local residents divided into two crews worked on the construction as follows:

- 2 Supervisors
- 6 Laborers

3. Sambaa K'e Winter Access Road – Trout Lake

Funding Amount: $50,000

$50,000 was approved in FY 19-20 for heavy construction to improve motorist safety and eliminate hills with steep grades that have resulted in jackknifes on the Sambaa K'e Winter Access Road to Trout Lake. The winter access road is a vital link in improving community transportation access for this isolated community, allowing the road delivery of food, fuel, building materials, personal and household goods, and other supplies that are too expensive to fly in via air. The Sambaa K'e Winter Access Road also facilitates the use of quads, pick-up trucks and snowmobiles for wood harvesting for home heating, hunting, fishing, trapping, and other on-the-land activities. This helps to facilitate healthier living while helping to reduce the cost of living.

Heavy equipment utilized included a D5 bulldozer, grader, front end loader, and dump trucks. In addition to employment, the construction provided valuable transferable work experience in the operation of heavy equipment, modern road construction and environmental protection techniques, and staff supervision.

Eight local residents worked on the construction as follows:

- 1 Supervisor
- 7 Heavy Equipment Operators & Laborers

Paradise River construction zone from KM 70 to 100 during March 2020 heavy construction to reduce steep hills and improve grades on the 126 KM Sambaa K'e Winter Access Road.