



Community Access Program

2017-2018 Results Report

Department of Infrastructure



Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure's (INF) Community Access Program (CAP) provides contribution funding to communities for the construction or rehabilitation of transportation and marine infrastructure supporting access to recreational and traditional use areas.

Projects are initiated by communities through a proposal to INF. The CAP has an annual budget of \$1.5 million, and INF often partners with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), as well as municipal and Indigenous governments, to support construction. Every effort is made for local and northern residents to benefit from the public dollars spent in their community.

In 2017-18, a total of 18 projects received funding across all five regions.

2017-18 Community Access Program Projects

Region	Community	Project	Funding Amount
Sahtú	Délne	Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point	\$23,000
	Tulita	Willowlake Traditional Trail	\$166,160
Beaufort Delta	Tuktoyaktuk	Huskey Lakes Access Trail	\$95,000
	Tsiigehtchic	Arctic Red River Ice Road	\$16,490
	Aklavik	Bridge & Culvert	\$200,000
	Aklavik & Fort McPherson	Ice Road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson	\$60,000
South Slave	Hay River Kátł'odeeche First Nation	Sandy Creek Access Road	\$115,000
	Town of Hay River	Fisherman's Wharf Access Road	\$50,000
	Town of Hay River	Beach Access Road	\$100,000
	Fort Smith Métis Council	Grande de Tour Winter Road	\$7,440
	Salt River First Nation	Plowing Thebacha Village Road	\$3,000
	Fort Resolution	Brushing Rocher River & Hook Lake	\$63,885
	Fort Resolution	Mission Island Access Road	\$120,000
North Slave	Wekweètì	Bridge & Access Road	\$165,000
	Behchokò	Ice Road "Connector"	\$33,000
	Łutselk'e	Austin Lake Access Road	\$97,018
	Łutselk'e	Marine Facility	\$118,460
Dehcho	Jean Marie River	Access Road & Culvert	\$4,905
TOTAL			\$1,438,358

Sahtú Region

1. Ice Road to Whiskey Jack Point – Délıne

Funding Amount: \$23,000

The Délıne Got'ıne Government (DGG) received funding to build and maintain a 22.5 kilometre (km) ice road to Whiskey Jack Point. The ice road provides community members with access to hunt moose and other game animals, as well as to fish, trap and harvest firewood for home heating. The project also supported educational and cultural activities as Whiskey Jack is often the site of community gatherings, including on-the-land educational programming with students, teachers and Elders, organized by the local ʔehtseo Ayha School.

2. Willowlake Traditional Trail – Tulita

Funding Amount: \$166,160

The Hamlet of Tulita was supported to undertake construction on the Willowlake Traditional Trail, approximately 7 kms from the community. The Trail has been accessed by members of the Tulita community for generations to hunt, trap, net fish, and participate in other on-the-land activities. The Trail is also used by residents to reach their cabins around Willowlake, Kelly Lake and Mahony Lake. In 1995, the trail suffered considerable damage from a forest fire, and as a result, dense vegetation had repopulated the area and made it difficult to navigate hazards. Work on undertaken by the Hamlet this year involved trail cutting and clearing, removal of fallen branches and debris, removal of garbage and refuse along the trail route, harvesting of firewood for community use, and removal of stumps and pokers. ECE provided funding to help cover the cost of labour.

Beaufort Delta

3. Husky Lakes Access Road – Tuktoyaktuk

Funding Amount: \$95,000

The Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation (TCC) is constructing the Husky Lakes Access Road, which runs from km 27.6 of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway (ITH) to the saline Husky Lakes. The road was designed to deter the creation of unofficial trails across the tundra and thereby prevent rutting and eventual permafrost damage. Residents of Tuktoyaktuk are able to safely travel the route by ATV, Argo, or light vehicle without damaging the surrounding tundra, and in doing so, access the area to hunt, fish, and gather other local resources for their families.

Funding was provided this fiscal year for the spreading of pit run gravel. The project provided employment opportunities for an engineer and a Bobcat operator, among others.

4. Arctic Red River Ice Road – Tsiigehtchic

Funding Amount: \$16,490

The Gwicha Gwich'in Council (GGC) contracted local crews for the construction of a 40-km ice road up the Arctic Red River in the Community of Tsiigehtchic. The ice road is used primarily to harvest wood for home heating, but also provides residents and visitors with increased mobility and access to areas for educational, recreational and harvesting purposes.

Funds were used to purchase signage and maintain the road throughout the year, facilitating employment opportunities for residents of Tsiigehtchic.

5. Bridge & Culvert – Aklavik

Funding Amount: \$200,000

The Hamlet of Aklavik is proposing to construct a new bridge and culvert approximately 6 kms west of the community. The bridge is expected to be a single-lane, clear-span structure, and will run 33.5 metres in length. This project will ensure that residents have year-round access to the foothills of the Richardson Mountains within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Currently, a creek blocks passage along the traditional trail, and in the summer, residents can only access the mountains by a floating bridge maintained by volunteers.

Work this fiscal year included the stock piling of granular material required to build the approach, as well as the preparation of sites on either side of the creek for the storage of this granular material.

6. Ice Road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson – Aklavik & Fort McPherson

Funding Amount: \$60,000

The construction of a 160-km ice road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson via the Peel River is a collaborative effort between the two communities. The Aklavik Indian Band (AIB) and the Tetlit Gwich'in Council (TGC) each received \$30,000 and were responsible for the construction and maintenance of 80 kms of the ice road on their side of the Esau River.

Residents and visitors rely on the ice road for local vehicle transportation between the communities, access to cabins along the Peel River, and harvesting activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering firewood for home heating.



A view of the Ice Road from Aklavik to Fort McPherson .

South Slave Region

7. Sandy Creek Access Road – Hay River Kát'odeeche First Nation

Funding Amount: \$115,000

The Kát'odeeche First Nation (KFN) upgraded the Sandy Creek Access Road, which connects residents to the Wilderness Lodge at Sandy Creek. This project creates tourism opportunities for the Wilderness Lodge and allows KFN to provide subsistence income and support for their members through access to traditional harvesting areas adjacent to Sandy Creek. Employment and rental opportunities were granted exclusively to members of the Hay River community. The road also provides access to several cabins on the site.

Work involved laying down three quarters of the required crushed gravel and finishing the surfacing on half of the Sandy Creek Access Road.

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

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Approximately 510 meters of the 0.6 km Fisherman's Wharf Access Road received upgrades. Pit run, crushed aggregate, new culverts and calcium for dust control were purchased. The Town of Hay River completed the roadwork through a combination of in house and contract services.

This project supports tourism in Hay River by improving access to a weekly market held in the summer at Fisherman's Wharf, where approximately ten vendors gather at the location to sell their goods, which include caught fish, freshly grown vegetables, arts and crafts, local fruit preserves and honey.



A bend in the Hay River Beach Access Road .

9. Beach Access Road – Town of Hay River

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Overall grade repairs and dust control to improve visibility and air quality along the Beach Access Road in Hay River will accommodate increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

This year, pit run, crushed aggregate, new culverts, and calcium for dust control were purchased. The Town of Hay River completed the work on approximately 4.8 km of the 6 km road through a combination of in house and contract services. This included the installation of new signage and the mulching of vegetation at blind corners for public safety.

These improvements have supported businesses located along the road, and provided safe and efficient access for tourists and residents.

10. Grande de Tour Winter Road – Fort Smith Métis Council

Funding Amount: \$7,440

The Fort Smith Métis Council received funding for the construction and maintenance of the Grand de Tour winter road providing Fort Smith residents with numerous harvesting, recreational and educational opportunities. Fort Smith relies on this road for the collection of firewood used in home heating.

11. Plowing Thebacha Village Road – Salt River First Nation

Funding Amount: \$3,000

The Salt River First Nation (SRFN) completed maintenance work on the 2-km access road into Thebacha Village, including plowing snow buildup to ensure unimpeded travel. As a result of this project, residents were able to safely access Thebacha Village to harvest firewood, moose and other resources.

12. Brushing Rocher River & Hook Lake – Fort Resolution

Funding Amount: \$63,885

This year, the Denínu Kúé First Nation (DFKN) sought funding to support two brush cutting projects in their territory, including a 90-km trail from Fort Resolution to Rocher River, and a 110-km trail from Fort Resolution to Hook Lake on the Slave River. Both trails give community residents access to hunting and trapping areas. Eight workers, two foreman and six skilled laborers were employed on the project, all having received chain saw safety and first aid certification. Throughout the project, workers camped on the land so as not to disrupt the current traditional land use practices.

Funding for this project was a collaborative effort between the DFKN, INF, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), and the Akaitcho Territory Government ASETS Program. The DFKN provided \$29,486 of in-kind funding to support the GNWT's investment in the Community of Fort Resolution.

13. Mission Island Access Road – Fort Resolution

Funding Amount: \$120,000

The Denínu Kúé First Nation (DFKN) advanced construction of an access road to Mission Island with the aim of providing residents with improved access to this area of cultural, recreational and educational significance. The island hosts on-the-land programming activities, and is a frequently used for berry and firewood harvesting. The area is also a popular tourist destination and residents and tourists require access to the island's cabins and smoke house throughout the year.

Work on the access road this fiscal year involved the continuation of road surfacing and repairs, and the crushing and spreading of pit run and aggregate. Funding also facilitated the employment of two heavy equipment operators and heavy equipment rental.



Construction takes place on the Mission Island Access Road in Fort McPherson.

North Slave Region

14. Bridge & Access Road – Wekweètì

Funding Amount: \$165,000

The Tłıchǫ Community Government of Wekweètì (TCGW) has undertaken a multi-year construction project to improve road access for their residents. With the completion of the Wekweètì Bridge, which is now in service and certified by INF, the community is continuing to lengthen the Wekweètì Access Road. The Access Road will eventually connect with the Wekweètì Winter Road.

Local contractors worked on a total of 1.2 kms, 0.6 of which were fully completed by the end of the construction season. The \$165,000 in funding supported a variety of work, including ground proofing, permitting, construction of a trail along the alignment west of the river, removal of trees and underbrush, and stockpiling wood for community use.

Work on the Wekweètì Bridge and Access Road represents an ongoing commitment to improving access to an important harvesting and recreational area for the residents of Wekweètì. The work benefits employees engaged on the project through income and transferable skills. Once complete and connected to the Wekweètì Winter Road, the access road will also strengthen the regional transportation system and further the community's tourism potential.



Workers stand in front of the completed Wekweètì Bridge.

15. Ice Road “Connector” – Behchokò

Funding Amount: \$33,000

The Community Government of Behchokò constructed an ice road “connector” linking Behchokò to the Tłı̨chǫ Ice Road System and Edzo. Benefits of the ice road extend beyond Behchokò to the residents of communities like Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì. The ice road “connector” allows for more efficient intercommunity travel due to the much short distance residents and tourists have to travel to visit Behchokò. These efficiencies translate into cost savings for residents.

Ice profiling, construction of the road, and the erection of signage along the “connector” was completed using the funds provided. The Community Government of Behchokò contributed \$15,000 with in-kind maintenance services.



Vehicles access the Ice Road “Connector” in Behchokò .

16. Austin Lake Access Road – Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: \$97,018

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) has begun construction of the Austin Lake Access Road. Trappers and hunters often travel the Austin Lake route to harvest meat for the winter and supplement store-bought food, which ultimately leads to healthier lifestyles for community members. A permanent access road would facilitate these practices with a shorter travel time, as well as provide greater opportunities for youth and Elders to interact with their environment and experience their cultural ways of life.

This fiscal year, work focused on additional brush clearing and the laying down of geotextile and gravel. The LKDFN hired a variety of local workers, giving those with less experience the opportunity to gain transferable skills. Once complete, the access road is expected to be wide enough for two-lane traffic and will connect to a micro hydro project on the Snowdrift River.

17. Marine Facility – Łutselk'e

Funding Amount: \$118,459.63

The Łutselk'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN) partnered with INF through the CAP to advance construction of a new marine facility in Łutselk'e. The new facility will support increased marine traffic on Great Slave Lake, including recreational traffic from Alberta, commercial fisheries, and the Canadian Coast Guard. Work this fiscal year involved shipping the dock components via tug and barge. Installation and commissioning will follow. In addition to the safety and tourism benefits of the project, the marine facility is expected to improve accessibility to traditional hunting and fishing sites.



The site of Łutselk'e's new Marine Facility.

Dehcho Region

18. Access Road & Culvert – Jean Marie River

Funding Amount: \$4,905

The Jean Marie River First Nation (JMRFN) undertook repairs to the Jean Marie River Access Road in order to maintain the integrity of the drainage and prevent potential flooding or deterioration in the long-term. JMRFN replaced six culverts between km 14 and 26. Work also included ditching along either side of the access road with a backhoe to prevent water from settling. The preventative nature of this project will reduce future costs to the community to repair and increase the quality of access along the road.