



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 19, 2026

The Honourable Caroline Wawzonek
Minister Responsible for Strategic Infrastructure, Energy, and Supply Chains
Government of the Northwest Territories

Dear Minister Wawzonek,

Re: Letter of Support for Arctic Infrastructure Fund – Mackenzie Valley Highway and Arctic Economic Security Corridor

On behalf of the City of Yellowknife, please accept this letter as an indication of support for the funding application of the Government of the Northwest Territories under the Arctic Infrastructure Fund for the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) and Arctic Economic Security Corridor (AESC).

As the capital city of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife serves as a vital commercial, transportation, and service centre for communities and projects across the territory. Advancing the MVH and AESC will strengthen this role by improving access for communities and to mineral rich areas in the Northwest Territories.

These projects will create long-term economic opportunities for Yellowknife and the Territory by improving access to the Mackenzie Valley and the Slave Geological Corridor, reducing the costs associated with seasonal transportation constraints and access to critical minerals. Reliable all-season infrastructure is critical to attracting investment, supporting responsible development, and ensuring that northern businesses remain competitive in a national and global economy. These projects have the potential of making the Northwest Territories a long-term economic net contributor to Canada.

The City of Yellowknife also recognizes the importance of working in partnership with Indigenous governments. The MVH and AESC are advancing in collaboration with Indigenous governments and regional organizations, which provides an opportunity to support reconciliation, reflects our shared values, and brings long-term benefits to all.

These projects support Canada's Arctic sovereignty and security through improved safety, reliability, and resiliency of the Northwest Territories. While the MVH has been a project with focus for decades, the City of Yellowknife wanted to also highlight the importance of the AESC to the future of Canada. In June 2025, Yellowknife City Council unanimously passed a resolution included in Appendix A. The resolution highlighted the city's role as a support to projects of national significance like the AESC as other levels of

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government including the Territorial, Federal, and Indigenous Governments lead on the projects' future. Following that resolution, I am pleased to provide this letter for both projects.

The City of Yellowknife is pleased to express its support for the application to the Arctic Infrastructure Fund by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office by email at mayor@yellowknife.ca.

Sincerely,



Ben Hendriksen

Mayor

City of Yellowknife

Enclosure:

Appendix A - RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARCTIC SECURITY CORRIDOR

(DM#814225v30)



Appendix A

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARCTIC SECURITY CORRIDOR

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is working closely with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to identify and catalyze projects of national significance; and

WHEREAS First Ministers have stated it is important to invest in dual-use infrastructure in Northern and Arctic communities that will address Canada's Arctic sovereignty and security goals, meet local community needs, advance national energy independence, and unlock the North's economic potential; and

WHEREAS First Ministers, including the Premiers of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon as well as all western provinces are advocating that the Government of Canada support the Arctic Security Corridor as a National Building project and demonstrate Arctic sovereignty and to open another route to move Canadian natural resources and commodities such as critical minerals to domestic and international markets; and

WHEREAS Premiers acknowledged the federal commitment to move quickly to improve Canada's defence capabilities and meet international spending targets; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife serves as a gateway to resource development to the Northwest Territories as a whole, and both the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions of Nunavut through highway, airport and access to barge infrastructure; and

WHEREAS Indigenous equity and participation will be pivotal to the success of these projects; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife, together with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Tłıchǫ Government, and the North Slave Métis Alliance, has worked within the framework of truth and reconciliation to form foundational partnerships grounded in mutual respect and joint decision-making, collaborating on infrastructure and economic development initiatives that enhance the well-being of all members, citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife is the largest population, and is the services and logistics centre in the Northwest Territories, offering an established industrial supply chain, skilled workforce, and training institutions capable of supporting every phase of the Arctic Security Corridor, from construction through long-term operations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife supports Canada's selection of the Arctic Security Corridor as a project of National significance; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife ask other governments such as the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Tłıchǫ Governments, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the North Slave Metis Alliance to work with the City to ensure that the Arctic Security Corridor project is realized and maximum benefits accrue to the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife is ready to work collaboratively with all other governments to maximize benefits for all peoples of the Northwest Territories specifically and Canada broadly and make joint investments that ensure Canadian Arctic sovereignty and prosperity.

