



May 15, 2026

Arctic Economic and Security Corridor (AESC)

On behalf of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, I am writing to express our support for the Arctic Infrastructure Fund application for the Arctic Economic and Security Corridor (AESC), jointly led by the Tłıchǫ Government, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Chamber recognizes the importance of strategic northern infrastructure investments that strengthen transportation networks, improve regional connectivity, and support long-term economic development across the North. Projects such as the AESC have the potential to enhance Canada's Arctic presence while improving the reliability and resiliency of transportation and supply chain infrastructure in remote northern regions.

The AESC represents a strategic investment in northern transportation infrastructure with clear dual use value. The corridor would strengthen Canada's northern transportation and logistics capacity by improving the reliability and predictability of overland movement in a remote and environmentally challenging region. In the context of a changing Arctic, such infrastructure supports national defence, sovereignty, and sustained federal presence by enhancing mobility and logistical resilience.

The proposed corridor also represents an important opportunity to support responsible resource development, Indigenous economic participation, community accessibility, and broader Arctic capacity-building. Improved infrastructure in the North is critical to supporting northern communities, advancing economic diversification, and ensuring Canada is well positioned to respond to evolving geopolitical, environmental, and security considerations in the Arctic.

Advancing the AESC will help ensure that construction is undertaken in a deliberate and coordinated manner. Early investment in this work positions Canada to respond effectively to evolving security, climate, and strategic considerations in the North.

The Chamber supports continued collaboration between Indigenous governments, territorial governments, industry, and federal partners to advance this important initiative and its associated planning and development work.

Sincerely,

Hudson Lester

Hudson Lester
Acting Executive Director
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