



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Saskatchewan Communities of Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation to get Seasonal Road

Today Chief Bart Tsannie of Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation, Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller, and Minister Greg Ottenbreit, Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, announced that construction of a \$6.750-million seasonal road, joining Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation to Highway 905, was currently underway.

Both levels of government have agreed to contribute funding to the project, with ISC contributing \$6.5 million over a two-year period, and the province contributing \$250,000. The provincial government will also be responsible for maintenance and operation of the road, which is estimated to cost \$250,000 per year.

The work includes the design and construction of 102 km of (winter) seasonal road, leading to the eventual construction of an all-weather road. The work includes clearing and rock and tree removal to develop the roadway. Once the project is completed, it will allow for traffic of passenger vehicles and heavy trucks with a 70-km speed limit.

Quotes

“This is tremendous news for our community and we greatly welcome to see both levels of government invest the dollars into this important infrastructure project. Without a seasonal road, our community has always been heavily reliant on air transportation for freight and passengers where groceries and supplies can only flow in to the retailers and many of our people need to travel down south for health support. The economic benefits it will bring to our community will also be a welcomed bonus.”

Chief Bart Tsannie, Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation

“The development of the seasonal road for the communities of Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation is a first step towards the construction of an all-season road. This road will eliminate safety issues for residents that have relied for far too long on the ice road to access the southern portion of Saskatchewan for goods and services.

I want to commend the leadership of Hatchet Lake and the Prince Albert Grand Council who have continued to press for this important initiative. Not only will this bring

economic development opportunities to the region, it will allow the communities to provide greater services and support for their citizens.”

The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services

“This important work will get vehicles off the open ice of Wollaston Lake, while providing one to two more months of overland access each year. We are delighted to partner with the Government of Canada on this important project.”

The Honourable Greg Ottenbreit, Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Quick Facts

- Access to Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation is provided by an ice road in the winter and by the Wollaston Barge Ferry during the summer.
- Phase One of the four-phase construction process is currently underway.
- The contractor responsible for the project is Points Athabasca Contracting LP – a company which is partially owned by Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation. In addition, the majority of equipment operators and labourers are expected to come from the community.
- The combined population of Wollaston Lake and Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation is approx. 1,800.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Tina Pelletier
Executive Office -- Communications
Prince Albert Grand Council
306-941-7120

Vanessa Adams
Senior Communications Advisor and Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Marc Miller
Minister of Indigenous Services
343-543-7645

Media Relations
Indigenous Services Canada
819-953-1160

David Horth
Assistant Director
Communications and Customer Service
Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure
Government of Saskatchewan
306-787-4804