

Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Spring 2021 Edition



The Dempster Fibre Project will ensure reliable internet service for Yukon and the North.

About the Project

The Dempster Fibre Project is an 800-kilometer fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

The Dempster Fibre Project will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik. Together, the new line will create a 4,000 km network that will provide communities along the loop with a backup line in the event of a service disruption, ensuring they have more reliable internet and cell phone service.

There will be local employment and business opportunities for communities along the route during construction. The Government of Yukon is working with First Nations Governments, Indigenous groups, local businesses and communities to make the most of these opportunities.

Route

- Communities across the North will directly benefit from the line
- The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by NorthwesTel



- Dempster Fibre Line
- Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link
- Existing NorthwesTel Fibre

Project Updates

Start of Construction

ROHL Global Networks, in partnership with Dagoo Services, has been awarded the construction contract for the line, valued at \$67 million. Of this, more than 20% of the contract value will be subcontracted to First Nations' businesses. Work on the line will begin in Dawson City this summer and continue over the following two construction seasons.

In anticipation of the contract signing this spring, initial brushing and clearing activities were completed over the winter by Takhini Valley Contracting, a Yukon-based business.

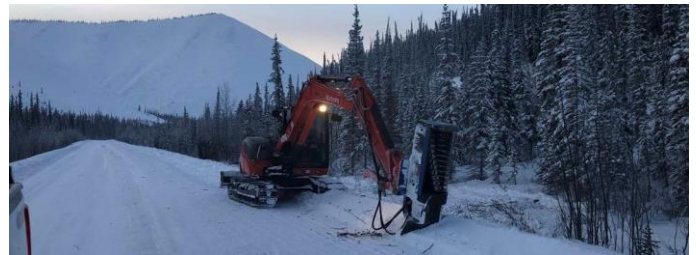
Training and Development

In March, environmental monitoring courses offered by Aurora College began in both Inuvik and Dawson. The courses used a combination of remote and in-person learning in keeping with COVID-19 protocols and best practices. Students completed a wildlife monitoring course in Inuvik in February. There will be another wildlife monitoring course for Yukon communities in the future. We will be recruiting participants from Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in Yukon.

Environmental and Wildlife Monitors will serve a critical role during the construction of the line, ensuring the successful implementation of the project in this important and sensitive ecosystem.

Engagement Activities

The Dempster Fibre Project team remains committed to continued engagement with partners, stakeholders, contractors, and businesses. As part of this commitment, in Spring 2021 we will begin planning future engagement activities with First Nations communities impacted by the project's implementation.



Congratulations to the graduating classe

Current and Upcoming Activities

1. Kickoff meetings with First Nations
2. Start of Construction

Contact Us:

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Or Visit our Website:
Yukon.ca/DempsterFibreProject