

Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Fall and winter 2022-23



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

About the project




The Government of Yukon is currently building an 800-kilometre fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon, to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

This project, known as the Dempster Fibre Project, will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik. The new line will create a 4,000-kilometre network, offering communities along this loop a backup line in the event of a service disruption and ensuring they have more reliable internet and cell phone services.

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

Route



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

Communities across the North will directly benefit from the fibre line. The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by Northwestel.

Project updates



Fall colours along the Dempster Highway.

Fall and winter 2022-23

During the 2022 summer construction season, five crews were employed to install conduit and fibre optic cable at several locations along the route. Over 375 kilometres of conduit and 85 kilometres of fibre optic cable have been installed.

Construction activities wrapped up in late October. As the snow and cold weather set in on the Dempster Highway, the focus on work activities shifted to shutting down camps and preparing for the 2023 construction season.



Snow-covered mountains along the Dempster Highway.

Spring 2023

Construction work on the Dempster Fibre Line project is set to begin again in late May 2023, with a focus on wildlife and environmental activities.

Spring activities include the identification of wolf dens and invasive species, as well as the observation and flagging of nesting bird habitats.

Spring community job fairs

The Government of Yukon supported ROHL (the contractor) and held community job fairs in Dawson City, Old Crow, Mayo, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik in February and March 2023.

Each job fair provides community members with a chance to ask questions about the project and pursue business and employment opportunities available for the 2023 construction season.



Gary Seed, project manager at ROHL, gives a presentation at the community job fair in Dawson in February 2023

Environmental monitor training

In 2021, the Government of Yukon offered certification training in environmental and wildlife monitoring through Aurora College. A total of 26 people were certified through this training. This certification is recognized by the Environmental Careers Organization of Canada.

Because of the success of the training programs, we plan to deliver them again. Course delivery will take place in Inuvik, NWT, and Dawson City, Yukon, from April to May 2023.

Current and upcoming activities

1. Planning and engineering reviews for the upcoming season.
2. Environmental monitor training program.

Contact us

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Or visit our website:

<http://www.Yukon.ca/DempsterFibreProject>