

Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Spring 2023



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 line. The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by NorthwesTel.

Project updates



Environmental monitor Richard Francis at Job Fair Fort McPherson 2023

Winter 2023

During the winter, the Government of Yukon (YG) supported ROHL (the contractor) by holding community job fairs in:

- Dawson City and Old Crow, Yukon; and
- Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehthchic, and Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

ROHL conducted local hiring and provided orientation and training to employees and sub-contractors. In late May, the first work crews mobilized on the Klondike and Dempster highways to begin work activities.

In May, 16 people graduated from this year's environmental monitor courses held in Dawson City, Yukon, and Inuvik, NWT. Held in both 2021 and 2023, the environmental monitor course was put on as a joint effort between the:

- Government of Yukon;
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in;
- Gwich'in Tribal Council;
- Vuntut Gwitchin First Nations; and
- First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun.

In total, 28 participants have graduated from the course. Of those, 12 graduates have accepted employment on the Dempster Fibre Project.

Upcoming activities

In May/June, work crews will begin by installing conduit

and fibre optic cable on the Yukon sections of the Dempster Highway. In June and July, two highway camps will be set up: one in the Yukon and one in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

This construction season, eight environmental monitors will be completing the following activities:

- water flow and wetland identification;
- animal monitoring; and
- invasive vegetation and species-at-risk management.



Environmental monitor class, Dawson 2023



Environmental monitor class, Inuvik 2023

Engagement activities

This construction season, we will continue to:

- issue monthly reports; and
- meet with the First Nations and Indigenous groups in whose Traditional Territory we are working.

Current and upcoming activities

1. Additional crews and camps will be set up in June and July in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Contact us

By email at

HPW-DempsterFibre@yukon.ca

Or visit our website:

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