



FOR RELEASE  
March 11, 2014

## **Yukon premier advocates for Alaska Highway funding**

WHITEHORSE, Yukon, Canada—Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski is travelling to Washington, DC to meet with senators and congressmen to advocate for continued US funding for the Shikwak highway project.

The Shikwak Agreement was signed by the governments of Canada and United States in 1977. It identifies mutual commitments and responsibilities for the Shikwak highway corridor, which is the only year-round connection between Alaska and the North American road system.

"Now is the time to visit Washington and meet the decision-makers to ensure they are aware of our mutual agreement and advocate for their support to help reinstate project funding," Pasloski said. "We need US federal support to continue improving the Shikwak highway corridor to deliver a safe and modern link between Alaska, Yukon and the lower 48 states."

Shikwak refers to the northernmost portion of the Alaska Highway, from Haines Junction to the Alaskan border, as well as the Haines Road. It is a critical corridor for civil security, economic growth and energy development, with Americans accounting for 85 per cent of its traffic.

Under the 1977 Shikwak Agreement, funding responsibilities to reconstruct and improve the highways lies with the United States and ongoing maintenance is delivered by Yukon.

In 2012, the US federal government removed recognition and funding for the Shikwak highway project from its federal highways act funding.

"The Alaska Highway is critical infrastructure, for both Alaska and Yukon. We need to work together to ensure we meet the common Canada-US objective of re-building and maintaining a modern, stable, all-weather, two-lane highway," Pasloski added.

Pasloski is joined on the trip by Vuntut Gwitchin MLA Darius Elias, who will meet Canadian and US officials to discuss issues specific to North Yukon, including the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

### **Learn more:**

The Shikwak project at [hpw.gov.yk.ca/trans/engineering/761.html](http://hpw.gov.yk.ca/trans/engineering/761.html)

-30-

### **Contact:**

Elaine Schiman  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7961  
[elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca](mailto:elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca)

Michael Edwards  
Communications, Executive Council Office

867-456-6507  
michael.edwards@gov.yk.ca

*News Release #14-059*



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.