



June 3, 2020

MR. JACKSON LAFFERTY
MLA, MONFWI

Oral Question 45-19(2) Tłıchǰ All-Season Access Road Contract

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised on February 11, 2020, regarding the Tłıchǰ All-Season Road (TASR) Project Agreement local content requirements and the catering contract for the project. I committed to clarifying the catering services contract, as well as providing more information on contract monitoring to ensure hiring and contracting targets are being met.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has a Public-Private Partnership (P3) Project Agreement with North Star Infrastructure (NSI) to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the TASR. NSI hired Kiewit to deliver the design-build portion of the project. Kiewit tendered the catering contract for the construction period; the contract was subsequently awarded to Aramark, a large American food service and facilities provider. Under the P3 model, the Project Company and its sub-contractors are responsible for their own tendering processes, but are also responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of the Project Agreement.

Aramark initially contracted Denendeh Food Services to supply food for the small construction camp located at kilometer (km) 0 of the project. When the large construction camp was established at km 19, a subsequent Request for Proposals was issued for food services. Only distributors that could meet the service and quality standards of Aramark were invited to bid, and these were mainly large regional and national providers. Denendeh Food Services was not eligible to bid as they do not meet Aramark's standards. Aramark awarded the contract to Sysco Canada, a national company that could meet Aramark's standard for food safety and system protocols.

With regards to the local content requirements under the Project Agreement, NSI is managing and meeting the contractual obligations with regards to Total Capital Costs to Tłıchǰ/Northern Businesses and Labour. Aramark is currently employing 14 catering staff of which 10 are Tłıchǰ citizens or Northern residents.

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The GNWT takes the northern and local content matters seriously and will continue to monitor for compliance with the Project Agreement throughout the life of the project.

As I mentioned in response to your questions of February 11, 2020, I would be pleased to set up a meeting with departmental staff in the near future should you feel further discussion is required.



Katrina Nokleby, P.Eng.
Minister, Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs