



COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT OF BEHCHOKÒ

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Honourable Katrina Nokleby
Minister of Industry, Tourism & Investment (ITI)

June 1, 2020

Honourable R.J. Simpson
Minister of Education, Culture & Employment (ECE)

c/o P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Honourable Ministers,

I am writing to solicit your support and assistance in addressing a long overdue matter of cellphone connectivity between Yellowknife and Behchokò. Two of the larger population centres in the NWT have no cellphone service after people leave the boundaries of either community, yet there are communication towers along the Highway 3 corridor.

The Ministers are aware that there is currently significant daily business and personal traffic between the two communities, yet communication resembles the 1980s when vehicles get less than 10 kms out of either community. That is not just embarrassing, but it handicaps safety and economic development.

Certainly, we can discuss the importance of safety issues relating to the ability to call for emergency assistance, but for the North Slave Region to experience real economic development and growth, one of the most fundamental needs is communication.

When dealing with national corporations like Bell or NWTel, Behchokò is a small community with a small voice. In contrast, however, the Government of the Northwest Territories has an important voice that requires those corporations to listen closely and pay attention.

As Chief of Behchokò, and a member of the Tłı̨ch̨ Government's Legislature, I am asking respectfully and earnestly to have your joint Ministries to use your considerable influence to expand and link the cellphone services between the two communities of Yellowknife and Behchokò. Together, our communities can become stronger ... but first we need to be able to communicate.

I look forward to your support with this essential initiative.

Masi Cho,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clifford Daniels', is written over the printed name.

Chief Clifford Daniels
Community Government of Behchokò

Cc: Honourable Premier Carolyn Cochrane, GNWT
Grand Chief George Mckenzie, Tłıchq Government
Jackson Lafferty, MLA Monfwi
Mayor Rebecca Alty, City of Yellowknife