



MAR 03 2021

MR. JACKSON LAFFERTY
MLA, MONFWI**Oral Question 517-19(2) Incidents Involving Transport Trucks on Highway 3**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised on February 8, 2021, regarding incidents involving transport trucks on Highway 3. I committed to providing a breakdown of vehicle accidents involving tractor-trailers on Highway 3 between Yellowknife, Behchokò and Fort Providence, as well as looking into the possibility of changing the speed limit and a public safety campaign to address safety concerns.

1. Breakdown of vehicle accidents on Highway 3 involving tractor-trailers between Yellowknife, Behchokò and Fort Providence

The Member requested a 10-year breakdown of vehicle accidents. As we are still in the process of collecting data from 2020, the most recent and completed data available is from 2010 to 2019. During this time, there were 44 collisions involving tractor-trailer combinations on Highway 3, resulting in 12 injuries and four fatalities. Of the 44 collisions, 31 took place between Fort Providence and Behchokò and 13 took place between Behchokò and Yellowknife.

A detailed list of all of the collisions is provided in Attachment A. This list shows the kilometre location, date, severity, number of fatalities, number of persons injured and configuration for each collision. Between 1989 and 2019 total collisions on Highway 3 between Yellowknife and Behchokò dropped by 76% despite a 225% increase in traffic during the same period.

There were two fatal collisions involving tractor-trailers, resulting in the death of four persons. Both of these collisions were head-on. It is significant to note that 14, or 32%, of the tractor-trailer collisions that occurred on Highway 3 in this period involved bison. In 2020, preliminary data shows that there were two fatal collisions involving tractor trailers for these segments of highway, but the full scope of that data is not yet available.

2. Looking at the possibility of changing the speed limit

Currently between kilometre (km) 0 and km 240, the posted speed is primarily 100 km per hour (km/h), and between km 245 and km 331, the speed limit is 90 km/h.

Speed may not be the only contributing factor to vehicle accidents and collisions; other factors such as drinking and driving, roadside parking, poor visibility, longer periods of darkness, increased truck traffic during winter, fatigue and mechanical failure of vehicles may play a role. The Department of Infrastructure (INF) will examine the contributing factors for each collision on Highway 3 in order to develop recommendations to improve safety.

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In the meantime, in the interest of public safety, INF will include a review of the speed limit between Behchokò and Yellowknife as part of the overall review of contributing factors and recommendations to improve safety.

INF continues to invest in the rehabilitation of Highway 3 to enhance safety and drivability. In recent years, rehabilitation and upgrade projects were completed on the segment between km 240 and km 331. Repairs and chip seal applications from km 164 to km 332 are planned for the upcoming season.

3. A public safety campaign to address the concerns for safety along the highway

Developing a public safety campaign to educate the public will be important to address safety concerns along Highway 3.

I agree with the Member that there needs to be increased co-operation and improved public safety education for both professional drivers and the general public who use Highway 3. As an outcome of the meeting that took place between the GNWT and Tłıchǫ Chiefs in Behchokò on February 1, 2021, we will continue to collaborate with our partners on this initiative.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has put out a Request for Proposals to retain consulting services to review and evaluate existing safe driving communications materials, and to provide recommendations on how to make GNWT's communications efforts related to safe driving more effective.

It is also worth noting that the GNWT, as like many other Canadian jurisdictions, is moving forward with the implementation of mandatory entry-level Class 1 truck driver training, to be rolled out in late 2021/early 2022. This initiative is being supported as a mechanism to improve road safety for all users.

Sincerely,



Diane Archie
Minister, Infrastructure

Attachment

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Appendix A - Highway #3 Tractor Trailer Collisions

A) Highway #3 Fort Providence to Behchoko	Km Location	Collision Date	Severity	Persons Killed	Persons Injured	Configuration	Configuration	Number	%
		32 Dec 9 2015	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Collision with Bison	14	31.8
		35 Sep 28 2018	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Rear End	8	18.2
		48 Sep UU 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Sideswipe - Opposite Direction	4	9.1
		53 Apr 5 2016	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End	Ran Off Road - Left	3	6.8
		64 Jan 17 2011	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Parked Vehicle	Ran Off Road - Right	3	6.8
		68 Mar 3 2017	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End	Collision with Parked Vehicle	2	4.5
		74 Feb 19 2013	Fatal	2	1	1 Head -on	Head -on	2	4.5
		75 Aug 16 2017	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Right Angle	2	4.5
		76 Mar 15 2017	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End	Collision with Fixed Object	1	2.3
		80 Sep 13 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Other Single Vehicle Collision	1	2.3
		87 Nov 9 2014	Property Damage	0	0	0 Sideswipe - Opposite Direction	Passing - Left Turn	1	2.3
		95 Jun 30 2014	Injury	0	1	1 Rollover on Roadway	Right Turn Into Traffic	1	2.3
		110 Nov 20 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Rollover on Roadway	1	2.3
		143 Jan 11 2011	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Sideswipe - Same Direction	1	2.3
		143 Mar 12 2015	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison	Total	44	100.0
		150 Dec 19 2019	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End			
		164 Jan 30 2019	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End			
		167 Nov 2 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison			
		170 Nov 7 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison			
		174 Jun 6 2019	Injury	0	1	1 Ran Off Road - Left			
		176 Sep 15 2019	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison			
		180 Jul 26 2010	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison			
		198 Mar 25 2018	Injury	0	1	1 Ran Off Road - Right			
		198 Jul 9 2013	Injury	0	1	1 Ran Off Road - Left			
		198 Sep 29 2011	Injury	0	1	1 Ran Off Road - Left			
		199 Jul 9 2013	Injury	0	1	1 Other Single Vehicle Collision			
		201 Oct 19 2019	Property Damage	0	0	0 Passing - Left Turn			
		202 Dec 20 2017	Property Damage	0	0	0 Sideswipe - Opposite Direction			
		215 Sep 18 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Right Angle			
		225 Jun 4 2010	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Parked Vehicle			
		235 Nov 2 2019	Injury	0	1	1 Collision with Bison			
Summary Highway #3 Fort Providence to Behchoko	Property Damage Collisions	Injury Collisions	Fatal Collisions	Total Collisions	# Persons Injured	# Persons Killed			
	23	7		1	31	8			2
B) Highway #3 Behchoko to Yellowknife	Km Location	Collision Date	Severity	Persons Killed	Persons Injured	Configuration			
		248 Oct 27 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Bison			
		262 Oct 14 2019	Fatal	2	0	0 Head -on			
		270 May 1 2018	Property Damage	0	0	0 Ran Off Road - Right			
		273 Feb 20 2017	Property Damage	0	0	0 Sideswipe - Opposite Direction			
		289 Jan 25 2013	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End			
		289 Feb 15 2016	Property Damage	0	0	0 Collision with Fixed Object			
		293 Jan 6 2012	Property Damage	0	0	0 Ran Off Road - Right			
		294 Feb 2 2014	Injury	0	1	1 Sideswipe - Opposite Direction			
		298 Dec 17 2012	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End			
		328 Dec 11 2012	Property Damage	0	0	0 Sideswipe - Same Direction			
		328 Dec 13 2016	Injury	0	3	3 Right Turn Into Traffic			
		332 Jan 20 2017	Property Damage	0	0	0 Rear End			
		337 Feb 21 2014	Property Damage	0	0	0 Right Angle			
Summary Highway #3 Behchoko to Yellowknife	Property Damage Collisions	Injury Collisions	Fatal Collisions	Total Collisions	# Persons Injured	# Persons Killed			
	10	2		1	13	4			2
Summary All Highway #3	Property Damage Collisions	Injury Collisions	Fatal Collisions	Total Collisions	# Persons Injured	# Persons Killed			
	33	9		2	44	12			4