

# Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Summer 2021 Edition



## 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

- Communities across the North will directly benefit from the line
- The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by NorthwesTel



- Dempster Fibre Line
- Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link
- Existing NorthwesTel Fibre

## Project Updates



Plow Cat on the Dempster Highway. This machine buries the conduit in the ground.

## Project Activities

As directed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board, we completed a physical site assessment along the fibre route to identify potential heritage sites. This was done within the traditional territories of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND). We are also monitoring for and avoiding invasive species. This approach is consistent with specific procedures and mitigations that are in place to limit environmental impacts along the fibre route.

## Construction

In July 2021, ROHL Global Networks, in partnership with Dagoo Services, did further clearing and brushing work on the route and started plowing and installing conduit.

[Work has started](#) at kilometre 0 of the Dempster Highway and is proceeding north toward Inuvik. Crews, comprised predominantly of local and First Nations workers, are being provided accommodations at the TH-owned Downtown Hotel in Dawson City.

## Training and Development

Aurora College has completed three of the four planned courses in environmental and wildlife monitoring that are funded by the project. They are now recruiting participants from the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the FNNND, and TH for the final wildlife monitoring course. It will be held in Dawson City between October 4-7, 2021.

## Engagement Activities

The Dempster Fibre Project team remains committed to continued engagement with partners, stakeholders, contractors, and businesses. In August, we will issue the first monthly reports to the First Nations and Indigenous groups in whose traditional territory we are working.



Completed section of the conduit installation

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## Current and Upcoming Activities

1. Clearing and brushing.
2. Conduit installation.
3. First Nations engagement.

## Contact Us

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