



Northern Transportation Strategy

The Ministry is committed to developing partnerships with First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples and recognizes the importance of the northern economy to the overall prosperity of the province. The Northern Transportation Strategy is intended to connect the northern economy and citizens to the provincial economic and social development opportunities available in the global marketplace. The Ministry's role is to support northern communities and the growth of northern industry through investment in transportation infrastructure.

Discussions with northerners have focused on how their participation in the strategy could be maximized. Consultations are being conducted with northern industries in the context of the federal Building Canada Plan on how best to advance progress on improvements to strategic infrastructure investments such as the Athabasca Basin roads and a northwest economic corridor. These strategic northern corridor system developments will address the mobility needs of northern residents and support resource development and exploration activity in northern Saskatchewan.

The Ministry is evaluating northern gravel highways similar to the Rural Highway Strategy. Improved northern roads and the addition of 5,000 km primary weight highways will benefit northern industries and communities by providing access to economic opportunities and ensuring access to northern communities is consistent with that provided on the rural municipal system in the south. The strategy will also support sustainable training and development of northerners such as new ways of doing business in the north, involving northern participation in infrastructure development through procurement, business development, training, and employment initiatives

Northern road improvements have already taken place on Garson Lake and Doré Lake roads. Future plans include upgrades to the Athabasca seasonal roads and new construction of Wollaston Lake road.

Developing innovative financing arrangements is a major component of the Northern Transportation Strategy. The need for shared federal funding is a major consideration for the completion of these projects. The Ministry is also investigating the potential for public private partnerships to construct the Wollaston Lake and Athabasca seasonal roads and other significant economic northern corridors. Through investment in the north, the province will be improving access for isolated and remote First Nations communities and upgrading connections to the broader provincial transportation system.