

**Gwichya Gwich'in
Ts'ajj Gijilch'ejj**



**Gwichya Gwich'in
Council**

June 17, 2022

VIA FAX – HIGH PRIORITY

The Honourable Diane Archie
Minister of the Department of Infrastructure
Government of the Northwest Territories

Dear Minister Archie:

Public Safety and Health

With warm weather, the snowmelt from mountains in BC, Yukon, and the NWT is beginning to hit the Mackenzie River water system. This is contributing to high water levels and flow at the confluence of the Arctic Red and Mackenzie rivers, and thereby preventing ferry landing operations since this past Monday.

Tsiigehtchic is effectively cut off from critical medical services with postponed eye and physician clinics; from essential food and mail delivery with bare shelves at our local store; and from law enforcement responses should there be emergencies of the sort. In other words, we are in total isolation.

The Gwichya Gwich'in Council supports the temporary public safety / emergency landing of the M.V. Louis Cardinal ferry at what is known as the boat launch area until the high water recedes and landings at the GNWT Marine Operations public ferry site are once again possible. Failing this, we may have to declare a state of public health and safety emergency to ensure the health, safety and nutrition needs of our Elders and children.

Gwiinzii adik'anaantii (take good care of yourself),

Mavis Clark
Interim President

cc: P. Blake, Mayor, Tsiigehtchic Charter Community
Frederick Blake, Jr., MLA Mackenzie Delta
CBC North