

Hamlet of Pond Inlet

Supporting Document for CTI Program Application: Community Access Road Development

Date: October 2025

1. Background and Community Context

Pond Inlet (Mittimatalik) is a remote northern community located on the northern tip of Baffin Island, Nunavut, with a population of approximately 1,600 residents. The community relies primarily on marine and air transport for goods, construction materials, and access to other settlements. However, local overland connectivity remains limited, and several essential sites—such as hunting grounds, gravel deposits, and cultural areas—are difficult to reach due to poor or seasonal road access.

Community consultation held in September 2025 identified road access as one of the top infrastructure priorities in the Hamlet's Community Economic Development Plan. This project aims to improve safety, reduce transportation costs, and enhance access to key natural and cultural areas near the community.

2. Project Summary

Project Title: Pond Inlet Community Access Road – Phase 1

Project Type: All-season gravel access road

Estimated Length: 4.3 km

Purpose: To establish reliable road access from the main settlement area to the coastal gravel pit and nearby fishing access point on Eclipse Sound.

Objectives:

- Provide year-round access to local material sources (reducing reliance on imported gravel).
- Improve access to traditional hunting and fishing areas.
- Support potential future expansion of the community landfill and a new emergency shelter site.
- Strengthen local economic development through improved mobility and reduced equipment transport costs.

3. Technical Overview

- **Road Design:** 6-metre-wide gravel surface, with culverts for small stream crossings and gentle grades to accommodate light vehicles and ATVs.
- **Terrain:** Primarily tundra with low vegetation and stable permafrost; includes two minor drainage crossings.
- **Construction Materials:** Local aggregate from the existing community gravel pit; imported geotextile fabric as needed.
- **Estimated Duration:** 2 years (Phase 1: clearing and subgrade work; Phase 2: surfacing and drainage improvements).

4. Financial Overview (Estimate)

Item	Description	Estimated Cost (CAD)
Clearing and subgrade preparation	4.3 km × 6 m width	\$480,000
Gravel surfacing and compaction	7,200 m³ local material	\$270,000
Culverts and drainage	2 small crossings	\$65,000
Equipment rental & fuel	Local heavy equipment	\$90,000
Community labor and management	Local hires (10 workers)	\$75,000
Total (Phase 1)		\$980,000

Funding Request to EDT (Community Transportation Initiatives Program): \$750,000
Community Contribution (in-kind & cash): \$230,000

5. Community Involvement

The Hamlet of Pond Inlet intends to maximize local participation:

- Local heavy equipment operators will be engaged for clearing and grading.
 - Pond Inlet Co-op will supply fuel and logistics support.
 - Youth employment opportunities will be provided through work placements supervised by the Hamlet's public works department.
 - Oversight will be handled by the Hamlet Senior Administrative Officer and local project committee.
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6. Benefits and Long-Term Impacts

- **Economic:** Reduction in cost of construction materials and improved access for future housing and municipal infrastructure projects.
 - **Social:** Safer travel routes for hunters, elders, and families.
 - **Cultural:** Easier access to land-based programs and traditional campsites.
 - **Environmental:** Reduced vehicle traffic through sensitive shoreline areas currently used as informal routes.
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7. Environmental and Permitting Considerations

An initial environmental review identified no major impacts. The route avoids major water bodies and known sensitive habitats.

The Hamlet will:

- Obtain land use authorization from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC).
 - Comply with Nunavut Water Board guidance for culvert installations.
 - Follow best practices for erosion control and tundra vegetation preservation.
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8. Conclusion

The Pond Inlet Community Access Road project directly supports the goals of the CTI Program by improving sustainable transportation options and strengthening local capacity. The Hamlet is prepared to contribute both financially and through community labor to ensure this initiative's success.

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