



15 AVR. 2010

We are writing to acknowledge your letter received on April 8, 2010. As we understand it, you are seeking information related to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Deh Cho Bridge equity contribution, including allocation and final disbursement amounts, as well as an explanation of other funding amounts that have arisen through your research. The following information is provided in response to your questions.

In 2005, the Department announced the approval of a \$3 million contribution through the Equity Contribution Program to be used for project planning and pre-construction development of the Deh Cho Bridge.

Because of delays with project start-up, the recipient (the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation) incurred eligible expenditures of only \$1,368,837 before the March 31, 2008 Contribution Agreement deadline. This amount was disbursed to the recipient, based on the submission of an audited statement of revenues and eligible expenditures.

As the *Financial Administration Act* does not permit unspent funds to be carried forward and applied to future year expenditures, the remaining funds lapsed and were therefore not transferred to the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation.

With respect to your question concerning the apparent reporting discrepancy in Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's proactive disclosure statement, which indicated that a total of \$3,108,211.77 had been allocated to the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, this amount represents the total funding approved for contribution to the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation under all departmental programs during that fiscal year. The additional funding of \$108,211.77 was allocated through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Community Economic Development Program and Community Economic Opportunities Program.

As you know, there is a distinction between allocations (approved amounts) and disbursements. While the Department allocated (approved) \$3,108,211.77 to the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation in fiscal year 2005-2006, the net disbursement of funds under these agreements was actually \$1,466,227.

With respect to the \$1.8 million which the Government of Northwest Territories' Department of Transportation reported to you as the total amount received from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, this number refers to all of the funding disbursed by the Department related to the Deh Cho Bridge to various recipients from 2000-2001 through 2005-2006.

We trust that the above information is sufficient to answer your primary questions. Specific conditions outlined in Contribution Agreements and other third-party documents are subject to Canada's access to information legislation.

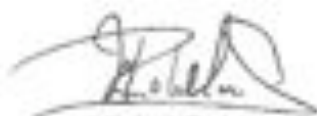
Public requests for information subject to the *Access to Information Act* can be made by filling out the online form on the Treasury Board of Canada's Access to Information website at <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/tbsf-fsct/350-57-eng.asp>. E-mail and telephone contact information is also available here if you require assistance.

Should you have further questions, please contact Mrs. Petra White, CanNor's Northwest Territories Region Communications Advisor, at 867-669-2580 or Petra.White@cannor.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,



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