

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Works, Services and Transportation (WST) is proposing to construct a two-lane, all-season, gravel surface highway from Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Cartwright Junction. This highway is Phase III of the Trans Labrador Highway (TLH) and will link the existing TLH highway sections to the east (Phase II) and west (Phase I). The TLH - Phase III project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment under both the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protection Act* and *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). As part of the environmental assessment, WST has been requested to provide further information and clarification on aspects of the environmental impact statement (EIS) and comprehensive study report (CSR) prepared for the TLH - Phase III project.

The additional information requirements for the EIS/CSR are divided as follows:

- Part I: Sections of the guidelines that have not been addressed or have not been adequately addressed.
- Part II: Sections of the EIS/CSR for which additional information and/or revisions or clarifications are required, and sections for which the analysis and/or interpretation is not correct.
- Editorial modifications and changes required to the EIS/CSR.

This addendum addresses questions and comments as outlined in the deficiency statement, presenting a response to each individual comment and question. Deficiency statement comments were addressed using in-house sources and data and, where necessary, communication/interviews with representatives from various resource management agencies. Additional information or clarification was provided on the following:

- alternative methods of carrying out the project;
- alternatives to the project;
- regulatory approval requirements;
- project construction;
- existing environment;
- environmental effects;
- mitigation;
- effects evaluation and selection of preferred alternative;
- watercourse crossings;
- design criteria for crossing structures;
- site rehabilitation and monitoring;
- effects of the environment on the project;
- environmental management planning and protection measures;



- environmental effects monitoring;
- rare and endangered vascular plant species;
- wildlife;
- freshwater environment;
- raptors;
- waterfowl;
- caribou;
- furbearers;
- fish and fish habitat;
- species at risk;
- geomorphology
- water resources;
- wetlands;
- resource use and users;
- Akamiuapishku/Mealy Mountains National Park;
- tourism and recreation; and
- mitigation measures.

The EIS/CSR for the outfitter route, which was determined to be a viable alternative to the preferred route, is appended to the addendum. The outfitter route EIS/CSR provides information on each VEC, as collected from existing literature and field studies, project-VEC interactions, environmental effects and mitigation measures.

