



News Release – Interim Woodcutting Restrictions In-Place Along Tłıchǰ All-Season Highway

YELLOWKNIFE (May 31, 2022) – An interim agreement has been reached between the Tłıchǰ Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories to manage timber harvesting along the Tłıchǰ Highway (Highway 9) until a long-term forest management plan is developed.

This agreement will enable non-commercial wood harvesting to occur following a temporary moratorium that was in place during construction of the Tłıchǰ Highway—known as Highway 9.

This interim approach for harvesting is necessary as it is:

- An area that is newly accessible by road
- Home to sensitive habitats – including important areas for Boreal caribou
- Home to cabins and trails used for traditional and cultural activities

Rules vary depending where you are along the road. However, no matter where you are:

- No commercial wood-cutting other than trade permitted under the Tłıchǰ Land Claims and Self-government Agreement
- A Specific permit for cutting wood on Highway 9 is required for all wood-cutting.

Below is a breakdown of the rules by kilometre (km). Kilometre markers begin once you turn onto the Tłıchǰ Highway from Highway 3.

Resident woodcutting

- **km 0-5**
 - Open for all residents with Highway 9 wood-cutting permits.
- **km 5-8**
 - No wood-cutting permits available.
- **km 8-12**
 - Open for all residents with Highway 9 wood-cutting permits (specific to km 8-12).



- Limit of 40 free timber cutting permits available for non-Indigenous harvesters.
- Permits valid for two months, with an option to renew for another two months.
- A maximum of five cords of wood can be cut per permit.
- No cutting within 250m of marked trails.

Indigenous wood-cutting (km 0-75)

- **Km 0-75:** Open for Indigenous harvesters with Highway 9 wood-cutting permits.
- Avoid cabins by 500m and avoid active traplines and traditional trails.

Tłıchǫ Lands (beyond km 75)

- Beyond km 75 are Tłıchǫ private lands, where wood-cutting is open only to Tłıchǫ Citizens, unless specific permission is granted by the Tłıchǫ Government.

Quote(s)

“The Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to work collaboratively with the Tłıchǫ Government to ensure wise management of NWT forests. We look forward to continuing this partnership for years to come, and to working alongside the Wek’eezhii Renewable Resources Board to develop a long-term plan for the management of NWT forest resources.”

- **Shane Thompson**, *Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*

“The Tłıchǫ Agreement created Wek’eezhii as the area where our governments share responsibility for resource management. By working together and following the principles and processes in the Tłıchǫ Agreement, we can ensure Tłıchǫ rights are protected and forests are managed responsibly.”

-**Jackson Lafferty**, *Grand Chief, Tłıchǫ Government*

Quick facts

- Each year roughly 1,200 free timber cutting permits are issued to NWT residents.



- Currently, 63 commercial timber harvesting authorization holders operate in the NWT.

Related links

- [Tłıchǫ Highway \(Highway 9\) Location](#)
- [Apply for timber permits and licences](#)

For media requests, please contact:

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