

Prime Minister Mark Carney
Government of Canada
Ottawa

17 June, 2025

Proposed Taltson River Hydro Expansion Project

Dear Prime Minister;

Alternatives North (alternativenorth.ca) strongly believes that the Government of the Northwest Territories' Taltson Hydro Expansion Project proposal for exceptional funding should be rejected. The Taltson project is horrifically expensive, fails to serve people and communities, does not serve sustainable economic development needs, has no demonstrated economic market, and fails to achieve the timely reduction in NWT GHG emissions that is now required.

The attached letter to the Government of the Northwest Territories provides the reasoning for our position. Although the letter was written in 2019, the case has only been strengthened in the interim.

While the cost estimate has dramatically increased to \$2-3 billion most recently, there are also solid reasons to expect final costs to come in at multiples of the current estimate. Very recent examples include the Inuvik wind generation project estimated at \$35 million costing \$75 million with significant delays, and the Taltson Hydro Renewal project estimated at \$60 million and 6 months coming in at over \$115 million and 2 years. In contrast, with GNWT's recent progressive policies on electricity there are amazing opportunities to see community renewable and integrated energy projects that support people and local economies. A relatively modest budget compared to the Taltson project costs would yield much greater benefits.

Mines, both existing and contemplated, have not indicated interest in electricity from the Taltson projects because they are able to generate electricity cheaper on site. Increasingly, mining projects are turning to onsite renewables to meet much of their need, backed up by diesel generation. Alternatives North believes Renewable Diesel should be an interim part of their options as renewable and storage technologies continue to improve in performance and costs.

In your government's contemplation of the most effective nation building projects to support, we appreciate your consideration of our perspectives.

Sincerely,

Alternatives North