

## Wabush Underpass

Labrador, Newfoundland



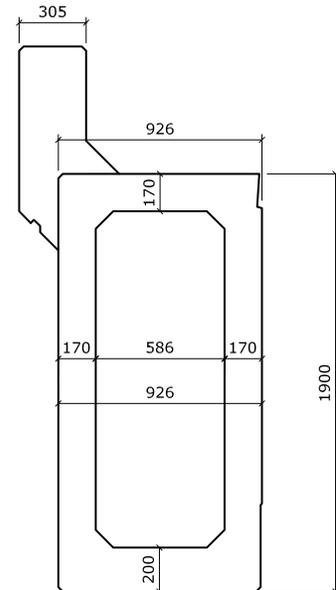
**In 2010 when travelling between Wabush and Labrador City**, you had to cross train tracks. Those tracks were used by iron ore trains that traveled to ports in and around Sept-Îles, Quebec. At times, the wait was up to twenty minutes on Route 500 at the train crossing. Consolidated Thompson decided to invest substantially into a new underpass structure. The actual underpass will accommodate two track crossings; Bloom Lake Railway track and the Wabush Mines track. All vehicle traffic will go underneath the two tracks providing a separate traffic flow through with no stoppage for trains. This dramatic improvement in traffic flow will provide for the fastest possible emergency response between the communities. It also provides for a safe and more convenient travel especially for those commuting for work, school, recreation, etc. without worry of a train crossing.

Strescon Limited was awarded the contract to supply 8 precast prestressed box girders in February 2011. This was not your standard girder; it was 23.5m long, 1900mm high by 926mm wide with 48 pieces of 5/8" pre-stressing strand and weighted slightly over 69 tonnes. The box girder was designed with 5 hollow chambers to reduce its overall weight. Once poured, the concrete was only 170mm thick at the walls and top section with a 200mm thick base. Special forms had to be created along with a special system to hold the insulation in place to handle the stresses from pouring and curing 69 tonnes of concrete.





The transportation of the girders was also not our standard process. In July the girders were moved from Strescon's yard in Bedford to a local rail siding where the girders were loaded on rail cars then shipped to Labrador, Newfoundland by train. Once the girders arrived in Wabush, the girders were unloaded from the rail cars to a special carrier where they were moved in place and quickly installed onto the abutments. Construction of the Wabush underpass is officially completed and the infrastructure is fully functioning. Ron Barron, mayor of Wabush, was on hand to unveil the structure now officially known as "Cliffs Underpass" on Dec. 12, 2011.



Project: **Wabush Underpass- Wabush, NL**  
 Owner: **Cliffs Quebec Iron Mining Limited - Montreal, QC**  
 Engineer: **Cima+ Partners in excellence - Montreal, QC**  
 Contractor: **North Links Construction Co. Ltd. - Labrador City, NL**



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