

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**

**Mineral Industry Advisory Board**

**Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review**

**Industry, Tourism and Investment—June 16, 2016**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I presume that we're in the right section here, so what's the funding for the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The maximum allotted is \$10,000, the amount utilized has averaged around \$5,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering if the Minister can explain what the difference is between the Mineral Industry Advisor Board and the Chamber of Mines. I understand the membership might be different, but can you explain now the function of these two organizations is different? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Ministers' Advisory Board provides high-level advice to myself and the Chamber deals with mining on an issue-by-issue basis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I guess though in some cases the Minister's getting advice from the same people? Because probably some of the same people involved in the Chamber are also involved with the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are some members that are on both, but they're essentially different and they're not carbon copies of both boards. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So can anybody tell me how often does this Mineral Industry Advisory Board meet, is it once, twice a year, and have they actually met in the last year? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We meet at least once a year. I think this year, because they had a new minister, we were going to attempt to meet this summer as well. So we met in January, and we are looking at meeting again. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand that the membership of the board is just people from the mining industry, and that's good. But has the department looked at a way to try to broaden representation of other public interests on the board, including say Aboriginal governments or environmental organizations to just provide a bit more representative set of advice to the Minister? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. The Chamber has a number of Aboriginal business people, Aboriginal miners on their board. Thank you, Mr. Chair...

...**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I wanted to go back to the Mineral Industry Advisory Board. I think I heard the Premier say that there were Aboriginal members of the Chamber of Mines, and that-- I'm not quite sure what the connection is to the Mineral Industry Advisory Board because I was asking about whether the department was prepared to consider broadening the membership of the Mineral Industry Advisory Board to include other interests, including Aboriginal governments and environmental organizations and so on.

So can I ask again of the Minister: is the department prepared to look at broadening the representation on the Mineral Industry Advisory Board? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have an Aboriginal member on the Mineral Industry Advisory Board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's helpful to know, but is the Minister prepared to expand the board to make it more representative of other public interests, environmental organizations or tourism or whatever? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll review the terms of reference of the Mineral Industry Advisory Board and see if it falls within the parameters, but we're always prepared to look at all boards. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, and I have looked at the terms of reference for the Mineral Industry Advisory Board and I believe that there were concerns actually raised in this House in the previous Assembly about the need to make it more representative of various interests. So I'm just wondering when the Minister might be able to consider that and get back to standing committee on economic development and environment. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll take the Member's request under advisement. We have other boards as well that fulfill the functions that the member has raised so we'll see how we can best serve the interests of the people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.