

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Mining Incentive Program

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

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MR. O'REILLY: So I just want to move on to the Mining Incentive Program. Do we actually have any way to measure how effective this money has been in say the discovery of new properties? Have any of the properties that are being explored as a result of this program, have any of them actually gone into production? How do we evaluate the effectiveness of the investment that's made here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now we primarily evaluate it or based on the -- as we said, we spent a dollar, we get the industry to spend -- it's resulted in the industry spending \$2.7. And we've only had this program going for two years, so it's too early for it to result in having a brand new mine developed. It is bringing in money for exploration which is the backbone of mining. The recipients have to provide the reports and in our prospectors grub stake, two prospectors have sold projects to junior mining companies. That will certainly be another indicator of success. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That sounds helpful. I'm just wondering though, does the department think it would be a good idea to develop some sort of criteria or way to measure the success of this program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the fact that it's oversubscribed and the fact that it's resulted in increased spending and as an industry we already have a guideline that for every dollar you spend on geoscience it results in \$5 on exploration and when it goes to development it's about \$150. So we think that the criteria we have now is sufficient. We only have \$400,000, so we don't want to spend a lot of money developing additional criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chair.