

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Communities' Drinking Water Protection

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Municipal and Community Affairs—June 24, 2016

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I notice that there is a contribution that took place in 2014-15, Management of Drinking Water in the NWT for \$50,000, but there's no further funding provided for that purpose. Was that money that we received from another order of government, or are we continuing to support the function in some other way? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's a reduction, but we do support the community in other ways. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm sure the Minister can probably guess my next questions, but so what are the ways that we actually support communities in protecting drinking water, if we're not allocating \$50,000 for it anymore? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this was money that was to help the communities as they applied for water licenses, and they do have some money through the money we provide to them. So we provide them with some technical assistance and some administrative assistance, and I can assure the Member that the quality of the drinking water across the Northwest Territories, with the work that the communities have done building their own water treatment plants, is very good, and they've done a really good job with that. But it was for water licenses, and they use the money that they have now, and we support them with our regional and headquarters staff. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to prolong this, so communities can use the funding that they get from MACA, which has incrementally increased, and that's a good thing, and I know even in this budget, but they can use those funds to support their participation in water licensing and whatever. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, Mr. Chair, the Member is correct. They do use the money that we provide to them to apply for their water licensing. As I said before, we do support them technically and administratively when we can. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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