

## ORAL QUESTION—KEVIN O'REILLY, MLA FRAME LAKE

### QUESTION 403-18(2): SENIORS SPORT AND RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING

October 27, 2016

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I talked about my communication with the MACA Minister on the support for seniors and sports and recreation. In reply, the Minister indicated that her department is actively encouraging development of an application to support these types of services. How actively though is the department involved? That is, has the department proactively assigned an expert policy program delivery staff to assist in the drafting of proposals or is it simply asking seniors representatives to develop applications and come back with further revisions? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. There are a couple questions there. Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm assuming that'll count for two of the questions then. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is actually very active in trying to support seniors. We recognize that we need to address more and not only from seniors but from cradle to grave, and so we need to address the whole spectrum of sports and recreation within our territories.

So on that end, I mean we do provide some support currently. We support the Elders in Motion Program through the NWT Recreation and Parks Association and the Canada 55+ Games which is provided through Sports North. Of the 55+ Games, 38 athletes actually attended from the Northwest Territories. They competed in nine sports and won a total of 16 medals in swimming, bowling, cycling and darts. They received \$14,000 from Sports North this past summer and it covered uniforms and pins. But we do recognize that we still have a long way to go, and so like I had said yesterday in my question period we are in the process of contacting and I know we've reached some, I don't know if we've reached them all -- we're contacting all the five sports and recreation associations to bring them to a table. Our plan is to address all of the gaps and the duplications that these organizations are providing at this point. Seniors, youth, all of that will be put on the table to address that and then we'll be working with them to develop a new business plan to see where they can go forward with the fiscal constraints where we are today.

So we are recognizing that we have a long way to go but we're being very proactive in actually trying to address the needs of all residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I think I heard a little slip there; the word "fiscal" came into the picture. I did want to ask the Minister, I've got some ideas here, but in view of that MACA only delivers their programs through third parties at the present time, why doesn't MACA include specific terms and conditions in their agreements with these organizations, requiring funding such as a percent of budgets, specific dollar amounts, or required minimal amounts be dedicated to seniors?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Currently, we don't have anything within our application process that I know that states what programs or financial amounts that we dedicate specifically for seniors. But, like stated in my previous answer, we are bringing all of the organizations together to see if we can actually address better the needs of the residents of the Northwest

Territories. I will carry forward the Member's comments to that meeting with the organizations and see if there is more that we can do.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Again, I appreciate the response from the Minister. I wouldn't mind being a fly on the wall in that meeting. Can the Minister commit to report back to Members the results of this meeting, identifying gaps and what sort of commitments might be made with regard to support for seniors in sports and recreation?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Like I said before, we are bringing the organizations together. It probably will be a little bit of a process to get through identifying what the duplications are, what the gaps are, who's going to take them on, how we develop that, where we go forward, but I can commit to once all of that information is received that I will put that forward to all of the Members of Legislative Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate the response from the Minister. The Minister sort of outlined what might be a rather lengthy process here and I'm just a bit concerned about that. Does the Minister have any sense of what the timing of these meetings are and who is going to be invited? Could she just give us a few details about that? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** So I can say that the five sports and rec organizations will be at the table. I can get a list of the five. I knew it yesterday, I'm thinking I'm forgetting a few of them today so I don't want to state and forget some of them, so I will provide that to the Members. The timeline is difficult. It depends on -- it's really hard to say what time that it will be finished. I am respectful that there are some issues with the groups; they might not want to hear about overlaps, there might be some contention. So I can commit, though, that it is a priority for me and that as soon as the results are in I will get that to Members, but I can't say specifically when because it will depend on the feedback and the interactions that we have with the organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.