

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 15-18(2):  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES' PARTICIPATION AT THE ASSOCIATION OF MINERAL  
EXPLORATION BC ROUNDUP IN JANUARY 2017

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Tim Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 15-18(2) asked by Mr. O'Reilly to the Honourable Bob McLeod, Premier, on January 31, 2017, regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories' Participation at the Association of Mineral Exploration BC Roundup in January 2017.

Can the Premier provide a list of all NWT Ministers and staff who travelled to Vancouver for the meetings and:

1. Total cost of travel including transportation, showing air travel by executive versus economy class; accommodations; expenses; and associated allowances;
2. Any related contract costs for the trip, particularly costs of conference registration, exhibitor staffing, any fees for consulting services outside of those provided by public servants, any funding by the GNWT Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment of the costs of other NWT representatives attending;
3. A description of hospitality events, including costs and numbers and names of persons attending; and
4. Procedures in place to track and report on accomplishments resulting from trip activities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise this House that seven Ministers and 24 staff were in Vancouver at the time of the Association for Mineral Exploration BC Roundup. While attendance at the Roundup may not have been the primary reason for travelling to Vancouver, all seven Ministers and 24 staff attended one or more events at this year's Roundup. For example, on January 23 I met with the Premiers from Nunavut and Yukon to discuss how we might work with Canada on the development of an Arctic Strategy and how all three territories can work together to develop a Pan Territorial Sustainable Development Strategy. I provided the Legislative Assembly with details on both of these initiatives in my Minister's Statement of February 14. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a list of the seven Ministers and 24 staff.

Mr. Speaker, as most Members are aware time is required to reconcile credit card statements and expense reports, but since only 21 days are allocated to respond to written questions, I am advising the House of the following predicted costs on the understanding that the final costs for Ministerial Travel will be calculated, confirmed and made public through the Ministerial Travel Report.

Total cost of air travel for the 31 participants was \$35,350.47. All travel was economy class, except for seven legs of southern travel which had to be accommodated through business class travel when economy class travel was not available.

Participants' accommodations costs varied by lengths of stay, but have been calculated at a total of \$32,239.46 for the seven m-Ministers and 24 staff. Other expenses for the

31 participants such as meal, incidentals and taxis totalled \$21,182.95. No allowances were paid.

The GNWT paid \$3,614.29 in Roundup registration fees and exhibition costs charged to the GNWT totalled \$26,621. No consultant fees were paid.

The GNWT supported the participation of 14 individuals representing NWT Aboriginal governments in this year's Roundup, and contributed additional funding to the NWT Chamber of Mines. The contributions toward these "other NWT representatives" totalled \$70,636.89.

The hospitality events hosted by the GNWT were a private Cabinet luncheon with industry and Aboriginal organizations, and a public coffee with Cabinet at the Booth, costing a total \$3,717.75. The Chamber of Mines used a portion of the GNWT contribution referenced above to host an NWT Night reception.

Mr. Speaker, to put all these costs in some context, I would like to advise the House that the GNWT's direct costs and contributions associated with the 2016 Roundup total approximately \$137,000. The difference between the 2017 costs and the 2016 costs can be attributed to increased participation of Ministers, increased participation of staff and increased participation of GNWT sponsored representatives from aboriginal organizations.

As I said in the House on several occasions, mining is the engine of the NWT's economy and we cannot take our mineral potential for granted. Promoting awareness of NWT priorities and advocating for its interests on the national and international stage is an ongoing responsibility that Ministers and staff undertake

by participating in a range of events, including meetings with other government leaders and dignitaries, representing the NWT at FPT and other intergovernmental meetings, and attending and presenting at conferences, trade shows, workshops and other events like PDAC, the Geosciences Forum, Opportunities North, Meet the North; and later this year the Anti-Poverty Roundtable and the Alternative Energy Conference. While the GNWT does not track specific results for any particular event, this is part of the ongoing work of promoting the interests of the Government and people of the Northwest Territories that is common to all governments. Thank you Mr. Speaker.