

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**NWT Chamber of Mines Contributions**  
**Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 16, 2017**

**MR. O'REILLY:** This contributions is for the NWT Chamber of Mines; is that core funding that is provided to the chamber? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, that is not core funding.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister then explain what the money is for? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. These contributions allow the NWT mineral industry sector to have a visible presence at two of the largest, most important trade shows held in Canada, helping attract investors and increase awareness of the NWT. This is one of the goals of the Mineral Development Strategy. The contributions include projects such as prospecting courses, event studies, regional mineral strategy projects, and more. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Was there any consideration given to cutting this funding to help meet our government's fiscal strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said earlier, all these items are in our mandate commitments, so there is no consideration of cutting funding to mandate items. Thank you, Mr. Chair...

...**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just want to go back to this line item under grants, contributions, and transfers. It is the NWT Chamber of Mines. This is just a continuing contribution. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and smells like a duck, this is core funding, essentially. It sort of sticks out to me. I don't see similar contributions, say, to Northern Farm Training Institute for agriculture that would enable them to attend agricultural conferences and do training and so on. Or I will just pick another one, Ecology North, when it comes to renewable energy or climate change. How can the Minister convince me that this is not really core funding? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not certain I can convince him otherwise. This money is for specific projects, so every year it is allocated to specific projects. Last year, they have actually spent more than the money they were allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to prolong this, but can the Minister then commit to provide similar funding, then, to an organization like NFTI so that they can participate in agricultural conferences and so on as part of the agricultural strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't have that detail, but I believe we already give them grants and contributions and it is used for some of this stuff. We will get that information for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.