

**Mid-term Review Committee of the 18th Legislative Assembly  
Frame Lake MLA Kevin O'Reilly Questions to Minister Alfred Moses  
October 4, 2017**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister of Education. Junior kindergarten implementation has had many issues including a \$1.7 million shortfall in funding to the district education authorities, unresolved issues such as busing, and the impacts of early childhood programs including Aboriginal Head Start and Montessori. Rather than debate this, and I do not want the Minister to go there. I want to give the Minister a chance to see what lessons he may have learned. What would the Minister do differently if he had to start over again with junior kindergarten implementation, and how would he apply these lessons to future initiatives? Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty):** Masi. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the big lesson we learned in junior kindergarten, and actually Bill 16 altogether is communication; that we inform Members. We inform Members as well as education authorities, councils, parents, about the implementation of junior kindergarten moving forward. It was a good lesson learned, and good feedback from Members, as well as Cabinet, and our partners. Moving forward, I think we can build a better partnership communicating with anything dealing with education, and make a better and smoother transition on any of our future initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It appears that no matter what our government seems to do, the use of Indigenous languages continues to decline in the Northwest Territories. I'm not saying we're not trying; I'm not saying that the work is not good that's being done in the communities but no matter what our government seems to do, we don't seem to be making a difference. What does the Minister intend to do to reverse this trend, and what can he bring to the job to get it done? Merci, Mr. Chair.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I agree with the Member, and that's why we worked hard with the federal government to sign this official languages agreement, to increase the funding for Indigenous languages as well as the French. We've also released an NWT Aboriginal languages framework and action plan to address these issues. We have more funding going to Indigenous governments because they know how to spend the money. They know where the money needs to be invested, so we're actually giving them a majority of the dollars.

Our Aboriginal secretariat is doing a good job to address the issues, so we've got a lot of investment into Indigenous languages as well as the French language, and over time with these new investments, we're hoping to start to see a revitalization of Indigenous languages across the NWT with our nine Indigenous languages. Thank you, Mr. Chair.