

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister of Lands. Part of our mandate commitments included development of a "sound financial security system to prevent public liabilities." During our watch of NWT resources, the Cantung Mine went into receivership and Cabinet took out a special warrant to buy Mactung. I cannot recall seeing any new policy, regulations, or legislation that could possibly protect us from new public liabilities from resource development. Can the Minister explain why there's been no visible progress on this important mandate commitment to prevent public liabilities? Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, Mr. Chair. The amounts of money that are paid in as security for these projects are being constantly reviewed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Members will know there has not been all that much mining or other industrial activity that would lead to a need to enhance those amounts. We are looking at this constantly, as I mentioned, and if there are legislative changes needed, we will certainly bring them forward, but we think the present system is working quite well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I always try to get the last word here, maybe, but I have one more question. It's my last one for my Cabinet friends, and this one is to Minister Sebert. During his candidacy speech to serve in Cabinet, MLA Sebert said, "I don't think this is time for excessive restraint." So what happened? Can the Minister explain his current perspectives on our fiscal strategy and what he sees happening over the remainder of our term? Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty):** Minister Sebert.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Well, there is no excessive restraint. There is reasonable restraint by all of this government. Also, at that point I had never had the honour of sitting here. I'd never gone through the books, I'd never heard the very substantial concerns that have been expressed around Cabinet about budgets. I was looking at our overall financial situation the other day, and we have quite a bit of debt. It's almost per capita the same rate as Ontario, where that seems to be a crisis. Despite that, we still have moved ahead on very many programs, and I think we're all proud of those programs, and in the end I don't think the restraint we've shown is excessive. I think it's proper. Thank you.