

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Community Projects Funding
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs—February 22, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I, too, want to ask some questions about the funding for the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation. Before the Minister tries to say that I am opposed to this funding, it is a one-off here, and I am just wondering: what kind of criteria are there for approving these sort of one-off requests? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. From time to time, we have requests from communities that are not covered elsewhere, and we look at them to see if we feel they should be supported. I think that, if in future perhaps there are starting to be more and more of these kinds of requests, we would look at the possibility of developing policy in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that from the Minister. In fact, there is other funding later on in the budget for the NWT Friendship Centres. Look, I think that is probably a good investment of money, as well. The Minister talked about maybe developing a policy. It looks like it probably is time to develop a policy to ensure that others know that there may be funding opportunities directly with the Cabinet and that there are going to be criteria around that. Is the Minister committing to developing a policy framework for these sorts of funding requests that are made directly to Cabinet? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the easy way would be just to say no to all requests, but I think it would be more appropriate for us to look at developing funding guidelines. It would assist us as we get these requests. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So, funding guidelines, is that something, then, that the Minister is prepared to provide as, I do not know, a draft document to Regular MLAs so that we can have a look at that, or perhaps even the public, so that we can make this sort of process more transparent and accountable? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are prepared to develop those guidelines and share it with committee at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Premier McLeod. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment from the Minister on this. Is that something, then, that is likely to happen in 2018-2019? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Premier McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would endeavour to do that. Thank you.