KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Mining and Oil and Gas Royalties Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 26, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. My questions are on 208, the revenues. Minerals, oil and gas royalties, are there any oil and gas royalties predicted for 2018-2019? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you. Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to check with the department and get back to the Member on that one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, that would be helpful to know. The "Licenses, rental and other fees," can someone just tell me what those are comprised of? Can someone just explain a little bit more about what that is? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That line item includes revenue from the mining recorder's office of rentals, prospecting licence permit fees, claim fees, and other administrative fees related to the registry documents. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. It has declined precipitously, from over \$20 million in 2016-2017 to \$2.3 million. Does this just reflect a lot less activity that is going on? Are these reduced fees or something here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was the bid deposit stuff from the Sahtu that was forfeited. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think the Minister is referring to the large total for 2016-2017. That was, I don't know, MGM or something that decided not to proceed with exploration, so they forfeited a large amount of money. Is that what that is? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I won't say who they were, but we can give committee a detailed item list of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess, my last point, I don't really expect a response necessarily from the Minister. I have already said this before. We have raised

more revenues now from tobacco taxes than the oil and gas and mining royalties. We get \$16 million in tobacco taxes. For mining, oil, and gas royalties, we get \$13.4, maybe \$13.5. The liquor commission revenues are \$24.7 million, about twice what we get from mining, oil, and gas royalties. This, to me, demonstrates the need for us to examine how we collect these revenues and whether they are appropriate or not and whether we are getting a fair share of the revenues from oil and gas and mining. I don't understand why this is being delayed to the next Assembly. Then again, I don't expect a response from the Minister. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I will take it as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.