

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Royalty Regimes Review
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 26, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's great. I know the Minister is really anxious to look at the oil and gas legislation, as well. Are we going to be considering the royalty regime during the review of that legislation? He promised to do that with the mining legislation, but it has been pushed off now until the 19th Assembly. Are we going to be looking at the royalties with regard to oil and gas? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, a comment on the Mineral Resource Act royalty part of it. There were two discussions in our public engagement, and, once we got to the intergovernmental council, that is where the decision was made to put that on hold on the royalties.

As far as the Oil and Petroleum Resource Act going forward and the Oil and Gas Operations Act, we will have our public engagement sessions as well. The demand we will be meeting is probably exactly the same thing with the intergovernmental council, having those discussions with them. I couldn't comment at this point if the royalty part of this will be going forward as that initiative, not until those conversations take place. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would hate to think that we are going to get all the way through that one, too, and find out that royalties for oil and gas are going to be hived off to the next Assembly as well. Let's talk, then, about the royalty regime from mining.

The Minister has said that it is the Indigenous governments, themselves, that have been pushing our government to delay review of the royalty regime for mining. Can the Minister share some of that correspondence with committee, then, so that we can see that for ourselves? I am aware that there were several organizations that actually pushed the government to review the royalty regime in light of our poor international standing on capturing revenues. Can the Minister share some of this correspondence from the Indigenous governments with standing committee, where the governments have asked that this be delayed? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to look into that and get back to the Member if we are able to do that at all. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. I appreciate the Minister undertaking that commitment.