

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Bathurst Caribou Recover**  
**Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs—February 27, 2018**

**MR. O'REILLY:** The Minister of Infrastructure has said twice in this House that environmental considerations have played no role whatsoever in the routing of the Slave Geological Province road to date, so I want to confirm with the Minister: have his staff been involved with the Department of Infrastructure in looking at the routing of the proposed road? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, well, first of all, I am not sure if I have heard the Minister of Infrastructure say that environmental conditions will play no part in the route to the road. I would have to confirm that. I mean, I will look it up. I will just type it into one of the websites, and I am sure that information will come up. I am going to get Dr. Dragon to talk about the work that he has done with the officials at the officials' level. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Minister McLeod, Dr. Dragon.

**DR. DRAGON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the officials' level, we have started discussions on what are going to be the impacts of a proposed road that would go through caribou habitat. We continue to have those discussions, and once we get more of a formalized approach, as the Minister had mentioned earlier, and going through the EA process, a lot of that research and the feedback from Indigenous groups and organizations as well stakeholders will come through that process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Dr. Dragon. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. We still do not have a Bathurst caribou range plan, and not one square centimetre of habitat has been set aside or protected in any way for this herd. So far the harvesters have, and the Minister talked about this, made extraordinary efforts, and they have restricted their harvesting now for the last three or four winters. The harvesters are doing their part. Our government is not doing our part on protecting the habitat. When are we going to see a completed range plan that's going to start to look at habitat protection, more than just caribou protection measures on harvesting, but caribou protection measures to restrict industrial activities that are going to get in the way of caribou when they are moving around? When are we going to start to look at habitat protection for the Bathurst caribou herd? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I will go to Dr. Dragon.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister McLeod. Dr. Dragon.

**DR. DRAGON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right now with the Bathurst herd, looking at our

opportunities to work with our co-management partners on the harvesting restrictions has worked well. I can tell you that our enforcement in the mobile zone and looking at adherence to that mobile zone has been very, very positive. In terms of working through a full-blown plan, we are still in the midst of that plan. We have been doing multiple plans, coming to the government with the opportunities to see how we are managing the herds. I will just have to come back with a date of when we plan to actually produce that range plan. Thank you.