

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for that detail. I want to move back up to the contaminated sites and remediation line item, \$319,000, and I believe one of our witnesses talked about how that is really for oversight and administration.

ENR is the GNWT partner on the Giant Mine remediation, and I know we are not responsible for paying for that, but the Giant Mine remediation is going to be the largest project ever undertaken in Yellowknife. I don't know what the cost figures are, because the federal government has not released anything recent, but it is going to be well over a billion dollars.

What is ENR doing, maybe working with ITI, to make sure that people here in the Northwest Territories are going to benefit from that remediation effort? Is there anything that ENR is doing on that front? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**DR. DRAGON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of benefitting and working with the department of ITI, what we've looked at is having our staff have regular meetings with the Department of ITI to understand what are the potential opportunities, and that includes not only local employment, but the conversation that has happened over the last few months is looking at having local employment and providing opportunities.

We have also been working with ECE on looking at developing opportunities for local northern businesses that could be available that would be able to train Northerners to be able to participate in that operation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to hear that. I would like to get some more details at some point.

Under the devolution agreement, there are more than 700 contaminated sites that are identified. This is a project that is probably going to start in the next two or three years. Well, I shouldn't say that, but this is an opportunity for us to build capacity locally, to do a lot of the other work that is going to come from the 700 contaminated sites, and start to build the kind of knowledge economy that my colleague from Yellowknife North talked about as well, where we have some expertise in knowledge of environmental remediation. I know that there's another big project at Norman Wells that is going to require a lot of remediation as well.

Can the Minister commit to give us, not now, but in writing or through a presentation, a little bit more about what our government is doing to help build capacity around the issue of environmental remediation and how that is linked to the knowledge economy? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will commit to the Member and committee that we will pull some information together. I believe the contract for the management of that has been awarded, so we will work closely with them and see what opportunities we can take advantage of for some of the people in the Northwest Territories and the businesses to be a part of that project.

We will pull some information together, and then, at the wish of committee, we will come and make that presentation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, the company that got the contract is Parsons, which is an American company, unfortunately, but they have done work here before. In any event, I am not sure what their Aboriginal or northern hiring or contracting commitments were with the federal government who did the tendering process, but that would be interesting information to get.

I want to move on to the contaminated sites and remediation. I know one of the witnesses talked about how the money to actually do that work is in the Environment Fund, so can I just get a bit more of an explanation, then? So does ENR actually contract or carry out the remediation work or manage it in some way, or what is their role in these contaminated sites and remediation? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my understanding is that ENR does contract out the work to do the remediation on these on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.