

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Western Canada Lotteries Act
Committee of the Whole—Consideration of Bill
March 1, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I don't want to prolong this, but the Minister did say in her opening remarks that she was prepared to answer any questions about this. I want to speak to the definitions of the bill. Not what's there, but what's not. There's no definition of "recreation." The Minister at committee had talked about a process for developing a definition in collaboration with a sports and recreation organizations for the word "recreation."

The committee has now reported on this issue as well and notes in its report on page 7 that there is a framework for Recreation Canada 2015, Pathways to Well-Being, Definition of Recreation. Has the Minister had a chance to consider this definition and has she reconsidered her approach to looking at this issue of defining recreation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I did have a chance to review the national definition of "recreation" and I agree with the national definition, but my issue is that it is pretty broad. The framework that goes on to define it a little bit more concise. What I committed to doing was to bring the definition to the five sports and recreation organizations. At that point, we will look at the national definition, decide if we will accept it as is, if we need to expand it, if we need to do more measurable outcomes within that. That process will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that from the Minister. Look, I agree that this national definition is a good starting point. I'd probably be happy even with this.

She's talked about how she's going to work with these sports and recreation organizations to talk to them about this definition of "recreation." Is the Minister prepared to include others in that process, more specifically, the arts community? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I said in committee that I would bring that to the five sports and recreation organizations. I will put it on the table when we meet with them if they want to open it up to a broader sector. It is important to recognize, as one of the MLAs stated, that this funding is really specifically, and has in the past been specifically, for children and youth within the Northwest Territories. The arts sector is bigger than that and actually tends to be lot more adult-focused.

I will commit to bringing it to this sector to the five organizations. We will discuss the option of opening it up further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's consistent with what the Minister said at committee. Again, I would encourage her to expand the scope of those consultations to be more inclusive and include the arts community. Look, I support the use of these funds for, as one of my colleagues had talked about, youth-focused activities. You're probably going to have to face or deal with this question in terms of the first recommendation from the standing committee. I just want to go on record as encouraging the Minister to have a more inclusive approach in looking at this issue and defining recreation and the focus of how the funds will be used into the future.

I'm not suggesting that they be used for other purposes, but recreation is quite broad. The Minister has recognized that herself. I think that we would be better served by having a more inclusive approach on that, and I want to continue to encourage the Minister to do that. Thanks. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. Thank you.