

ORAL QUESTION—KEVIN O'REILLY, MLA FRAME LAKE

QUESTION 251-18(3): APOLOGY AND COMPENSATION FOR GIANT MINE

MARCH 12, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to follow up on a motion that we passed unanimously in this House on October 20th of last year. It was with regard to an apology and compensation for damages from the Giant Mine. I would like to know whether the Premier has had a chance to write the letter to the Prime Minister as contemplated in the motion and whether he can table that letter in the House before the end of this sitting. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did write a letter to the Prime Minister as contemplated in the motion of October 20, 2017. I will be tabling that letter probably tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I would like to thank the Premier for the follow-up on the motion. I would like to know whether there has been a response from the Prime Minister of Canada to that letter and whether that response can be tabled in the House before the end of this sitting, as well.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Prime Minister has responded. The letter will be tabled likely tomorrow, as well.

MR. O'REILLY: While I am on a roll here, I want to thank the Premier for that, as well. It would be good to know if negotiations have started and whether there is a target date or any other kind of details on the process. Can the Premier tell us whether he is aware of any further progress on the issue of an apology and compensation for the damages from the Giant Mine?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Prime Minister in his response indicated and advised that he was forwarding my letter to the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and that since then, it is my understanding that the Regional Director General for the Department of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs has agreed to enter into discussions with the Yellowknives Dene First Nations and is working with the chiefs to schedule a meeting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final question. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Three for three. Let's go for four for four. Again, I want to thank the Premier for that. That's really great news. This is something people in this community worked long and hard for, so I really appreciate the response from the Premier.

GNWT is a co-proponent under the Giant Mine Environmental Agreement, and it's also a partner in the remediation of the site, not a financial partner, we will be clear on that, through the 2005 Cooperation Agreement. Our staff have a lot of knowledge and

information about Giant Mine and its impacts. Can the Premier tell us whether our staff will be supporting the work on an apology and compensation, and whether they have begun to be engaged on this issue? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm not aware that our staff have been directly engaged as of yet, but we have a very good working relationship with the federal Department of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. We will endeavour to engage with them, so that we continue to stay on top of this issue and help facilitate a resolution that we are able to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.