

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Mining Incentive Program
Committee of the Whole—2019-20 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 25, 2019

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have another question on this one with regard to the Mining Incentive Program. There is a table in the business plan. It's figure 11. That talks about how the money from the Mineral Incentive Program has resulted, at least in the opinion of the department, in a whole bunch of extra spending on mineral exploration. Can someone explain to me what this leveraged spending is all about and why some of it doesn't even occur in the same financial year as the money that is provided? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Jensen.

MR. JENSEN: I am just looking at the numbers here. Thanks, Mr. Chair. In terms of leveraging, the argument is that we make the argument that, if we have provided mining incentive funds to a particular exploration company or advance exploration company, that the funds that they contribute to exploration would not have happened otherwise. That is why we use the term. We would leverage that money. It is money that would not have been spent if we had not contributed money under Mining Incentive Program.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Jensen. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I guess I remain to be convinced that the GNWT contributing \$400,000 in one year is going to lead to \$3.28 million in exploration funding, but I guess at some point I am going to have to meet with the Minister and his staff to get a better explanation because I don't really quite understand or accept some of the figures that are presented here. I am happy to meet with the staff and the Minister if he will make that commitment. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly, we can sit down and have a discussion with the Member, but one thing: the Mineral Incentive Program has now \$1 million to it. It is not \$400,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.