

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Mineral Resources Act Regulations Development
Committee of the Whole
2022 2023 Operating Budget Review Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment
March 10, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, Madam Chair. And I appreciate the Minister making the offer for a briefing on the Mineral Resources Act regulations. And I've been asking if there's a plan for this, a schedule, for years quite frankly. Can the Minister just explain to me is there going to be one set of regulations for royalties? Is there going to be another one for map staking? Is there going to be another one for the benefits part of the MRA? Or are we just talking one set of regulations that will get amended over time and so on? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of ITI.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, there's a fairly detailed chart with respect to the state of the work on all of these different parts. And Madam Chair, under the Mineral Resources Act, it is likely that under that act there will be multiple regulations to deal with all these different parts. But then beyond that, again, I would want to be able to defer to the work that's happening in each of those sections. So I'm happy to take further questions now or to do so in the course of the briefing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Well, rather than prolong this here, I really want to get that briefing, and I want to encourage the Minister not just to brief the Regular MLAs but the public, and even the mining industry. Maybe they already know what's happening, but I think there's a lot of questions out there about what is going on. So is the Minister going to make that sort of information public? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of ITI.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, there's -- I know that some of the work has already been underway in terms of developing things publicly and beginning some of the consultation on some of these elements and some of these aspects. The formal public engagement on certainly some of the remaining aspects is forthcoming in the next few months. I believe the royalties paper has been released or is about to be released, for example. So yes, absolutely will continue on. And actually I should note, Madam Chair, one thing is that of course there's been a lot of work done with IGCS, or the intergovernmental council. So, you know, again I'm happy to ensure that we do -- what I think I might actually suggest we do is to just get a timeline or a schedule out to at least to Members of what's coming when. I know that I have a very difficult to read small gantt chart that outlines that, so we'll put that down so that there's less uncertainty. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. Thanks to the Minister for that. Can the Minister, though, give that or make that gantt chart, or whatever it is, public because nobody that I've talked to -- some of the folks that I've talked to that were involved in the last Assembly in the development of the MRA, they have no idea as to what's going on with the development of the regulations other than the just-released discussion paper which contains very little actual detail. But that's another matter. So can the Minister commit to make that gantt chart and a schedule and a plan, essentially, public. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of ITI.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I'm not going to make an internal gantt chart public. I don't think that's appropriate. But -- and nor is it necessarily going to be useful or answer the questions. So I don't know who has specific questions out there. I know that, again, as I've said, ICGS has been quite involved. And you know, there certainly has been efforts to start to communicate what's going on, including with the royalties paper. So I will, again, start with a sense of timeline of the different areas, and some of which the Member has, you know, appropriately noted here just with respect to there being the general regulations, benefits, different royalties, and then staking. So those are some big areas. We'll ensure that the sense of time of which ones coming up at which stage is available so that folks know what they can plan for coming out when. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. So I guess while we're talking about this, and I'll take the Minister at her word on this, I want to get the briefing, and I'll be making further suggestions to her about what she needs to make public or should be making public. There has been nothing in the last couple of years.