

**Mid-term Review Committee of the 18th Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife South MLA Julie Green to Minister Robert C McLeod
October 4, 2017**

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Climate change is arguably the most pressing environmental issue of our time. We in the North experience the effects of climate change most severely as temperatures warm and permafrost and ice disappears. It's not enough to study or adapt to climate change. We also have to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The government is working on a climate change framework, I'm aware of that, and also on an oil and gas strategy. How does the Minister of ENR balance these competing interests in Cabinet? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty): Minister Robert C. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct. Climate change is something we have been experiencing firsthand, and it's something that we have to adapt to, and we have all heard the federal government make their announcement on carbon tax and their desire to try to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They say it is about to get to 30 per cent of your 2005 levels. I think we are well ahead of that. We've also been proactive knowing that the federal government made the announcement, and we want to ensure that we can do what we can to have very little effect on the people of the Northwest Territories through the carbon tax. We've seen climate change firsthand here in the Northwest Territories and I think our biggest challenge is trying to adapt to it and work with those across the Northwest Territories to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. I think this government's got a number of programs and initiatives in place to help address that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In your Department of Finance mandate letter, the Premier directs you to implement the government's new Financial Administration Act in order to improve government-wide planning and accountability. How have you improved accountability in the Department of Finance while you've been Minister? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty): Masi. Minister Robert C. McLeod.

HON ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that, through the process that we go through in the Legislative Assembly with the business planning process and budget planning debate on the floor of this House, I think we've gone to improve the transparency within the Department of Finance and there are a number of other - in our meetings with Regular Members we continue to keep them updated as to some of the initiatives we have on the go, and as far as the financial administration, a lot of the departments, when they come forward, when their requests are reviewed by our policy analysts over at Finance, there's always a question there of whether it abides with the Financial Administration Act. So we continue to do the work to be as transparent as possible and to keep this House informed as to all that's going on within the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.