

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the government is advancing three road projects during this Assembly. This is a question for the Minister of Infrastructure. The road that's likely to have the greatest economic impact to my view is the road to the Slave Geological Province. This road has the potential to expand and extend the economic viability of the current diamond mines and to connect prospective mining developments to markets, yet the road that is the top of the government's list is one that stops 50 kilometres short of a potential mine that itself has only an eight-year life span. Why is the road to Whati this government's top road priority? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty): Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This Legislative Assembly has a mandate for three highway corridors. The Whati, Slave, and the Slave Geological. The Whati is not our number one priority. The situation with the Whati road, it was a P3 project. It was submitted to the federal government under that basis along with our business plan. It was selected through the federal government's process to conditionally fund the Whati road conditional on us getting through the Environmental Assessment Project so there's no tier ranking on these highway systems. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. There is language in the mandate about diversifying the NWT economy beyond the traditional pillars of mining, and oil and gas, into areas such as tourism, agriculture, filmmaking and so on. In order to develop these alternatives as solid contributors to our GDP, we need investment, yet investments in the last budget were modest at just \$12.5 million in total. My question to the Minister is: what is he waiting for? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty): Masi. Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A number of these initiatives, the commercial fishing strategy, the agriculture strategy, these things, we are moving these forward. Particularly, the agriculture strategy, we have laid out the first one for the Northwest Territories. It is a blueprint for moving this forward. We want to help develop and implement the agriculture strategy. As I have said, this is a blueprint that we have laid out. There are actions that have to be taken to move this thing along. We have a working group with the Department of Health and Social Services; Lands; ENR, to move that one along. The fishing strategy, we are in conversation with the fishing federation. We have to make a decision at some point if we are going to stay involved in that or not. We are creating a marketing plan for exporting fish out of the Northwest Territories, so there are a number of things that has to be done. The groundwork has to be laid out before we can just start throwing money at these things, so we are doing our homework to find what is the best way to move these initiatives forward, and we will continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.