

ORAL QUESTION—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

**QUESTION 498-18(3)/ 505-18(3):
UNFULFILLED MANDATE COMMITMENTS**

February 5, 2019

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Premier. As I mentioned in my statement, more than half the commitments the Members of the 18th Assembly made in our mandate have not yet been fulfilled, and many of them are of immediate importance to our future. My question for the Premier is: what is the plan to complete the 109 outstanding commitments in the next seven months? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 230 mandate commitments for the 18th Legislative Assembly. Some of these are specific and targeted. Others are very broad and focused on fundamental issues that have faced our territory and require long-term efforts. With that said, we are committed to advancing each of these mandate commitments and, where possible, completing them. There are many positive advancements being made and tracked on the mandate reporting website. Between now and the end of this Assembly, the government will continue to work toward fulfilling the mandate commitments of the 18th Assembly.

MS. GREEN: I thank the Premier for that answer, but I am not satisfied with it because, in the three years to date, less than half of the mandate commitments have been fulfilled, so why will we have confidence on this side of the House that in fact the rest will be fulfilled in seven months?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As of February 1, 2019, we are reporting on the implementation of the mandate. We have 123 commitments fulfilled, 107 commitments in progress, and zero commitments in the planning stage.

MS. GREEN: It seems that two commitments have gone into the fulfilled category since I did my research. My question, however, remains: with more than a hundred commitments still not fulfilled, what confidence can the Premier give us that in fact they will be fulfilled in the next seven months?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As a government, we are working very hard and we are committed to fulfilling all of the mandates, and we will be reviewing the commitments as we go forward. At some point, we will make a determination. Some of them we know are ongoing commitments, as I said. Some of them, the commitments are very broad, so I think a lot of them are ongoing. We will be reviewing each of them to determine if they will be fulfilled or not, and, at some point in the next seven months, we can report on our progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question at this time is to ask

the Premier whether he is going to involve Regular Members in the discussion about commitments that still need to be fulfilled in the balance of this term so that we can add our voices to the priorities that are established.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We track and report progress on all the commitments and, as always, we welcome feedback and input from the Members as to what the priorities should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION 505-18(3): UNFULFILLED MANDATE COMMITMENTS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to my line of questioning for the Premier. The Premier is aware that the mandate belongs to all of us, as do the results of the mandate for the 18th Assembly. I would like to again ask the Premier if he can make a more robust effort to include Regular Members by creating a forum, such as using caucus, for discussing outstanding commitments and prioritizing the completion of those that are possible in the next seven months. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't see why we need to create another forum. The information is updated on a regular basis. We meet at caucus once a week when we are in session. I think the process is already in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Is the Premier prepared to come to caucus to discuss prioritizing the remaining commitments in the mandate?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: If the Members want to take commitments off, that is always welcome.

MS. GREEN: I don't think of the Premier as a funny man, but he is apparently turning a new leaf. Can the Premier tell us why there are so many commitments still unfulfilled three years into our mandate?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In my mind, I don't believe that all of the Members took into account whether all of these commitments were doable in four years. Some of the commitments were very, very specific, and as such they are difficult to fulfill. Others are ongoing commitments that were there before; we have been doing a lot of work on it. Moving into the next Assembly, they will continue.

It is not an easy process, to just say, "Okay, we've done this," and move on to the next one, and that is why we are tracking all of the commitments that were made.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the mandate and all of the commitments are something that all 18 of us came up with, and I am sure that, if we had our lives to live over again, we may not have chosen as many as we did, but the fact is that this is what we set out to do in this Assembly and we have a big chunk of work that remains undone that we need to address.

One possibility is that there are too many commitments, but another is that our agenda has really been hijacked by the money offered by Ottawa, meaning that, although the investment is welcome, we have ended up funding Ottawa's priorities rather than our own. Can the Premier say whether he agrees with that statement? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I don't agree with that statement. I believe that, at the time, if we had said no, we aren't going to do climate change, or we are not going to implement cannabis and we will just live with the backstop, the federal government was going to do it anyway. I didn't hear people saying, "Yes, let's just live with the backstop and just focus on our commitments," so I don't agree with that statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.