

Written Question

Asked by:

Mr. O'Reilly

June 6, 2019

Giant Mine Long-Term Funding Study

My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources who serves as the lead on the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

Measure 6 of the June 30, 2013 Report of Environmental Assessment required that the Project Team investigate long-term funding options for the perpetual care requirements at Giant Mine, including a trust fund. Stakeholders and the public are to be involved in discussions on funding options and a detailed report is to be completed within three years. The study remains unfinished and a critical review by the Giant Mine Oversight Board of the draft report was tabled in the House on May 23, 2019. What role has the Government of the NWT had in the development of the draft report, and:

1. does the Minister consider that the draft long-term funding study meets the requirements of Measure 6 from the Giant Mine Environmental Assessment;
2. what action is the Minister taking to ensure that there is adequate consideration given to a trust fund and other models beyond annual appropriations, to fund perpetual care requirements at Giant Mine;
3. what actions is the Minister taking to ensure that this long-term funding study is completed in a timely fashion and there is an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the study; and
4. has the 2012 study by the Pembina Institute recommending a trust fund as the most appropriate mechanism for long-term funding of perpetual care at Giant Mine been taken into account, and what are the Minister's conclusions on the recommendations from the Pembina Institute report?