

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Federal Funding for French Education

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

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MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just have a couple of areas I want to explore here a bit. Just so I understand it, the second and third lines for revenue relate to agreements with the federal government on French and Aboriginal languages and then the other one on the second language instruction in French. So those two agreements, what do they actually cover? Do they cover operations of the schools? Is there any capital money in there? I'm just trying to understand what that money is for. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The first pot of money was, as I mentioned, for programs in the Aboriginal and French language services. The second program is just for K to 12 school programs specifically for French. More detail on what kind of programs there are, maybe I'll ask my deputy minister to get into more details. But those are dollars that go to the schools and they work on what kind of programs and services that they feel is appropriate to be done. But any more detail, I can ask my deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Did you want to allow your deputy minister to add to that, Mr. Minister?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. As the Minister mentioned, the \$3.8 million is around support for Aboriginal language revitalization efforts as well as those types of programs, and then on the French side it's also related to the delivery of French language services that came out of the court case. For the schools, it is a pot of money that's provided that is added to by the money that the GNWT provides, and that obviously covers both the O and M side and any of the capital that's required. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Stewart. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Then I just want to check, have we made any approaches to the new federal government in terms of capital funding for French school expansions? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yeah, we are looking at possibly working with the federal government. Not possibly, we're working with the federal government to see if we can get any kind of funding through their Heritage Canada Plan as well infrastructure dollars that might be there. We have also met with the French Association Commission Scolaire and talked about how we can move forward and looking at those kind of fundings for infrastructure. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I appreciate the answer from the Minister and I look forward to trying to work with him on that too. I think that there is some receptiveness on the federal side. I've been around for a while, I know that most of the money, in fact 80 per cent of the money, for the initial

school here in Yellowknife, for the Francophone School actually came from the federal government. So I think it would be great to continue to pursue them and I'd like to work with the Minister on that.