

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Labour Market Agreements

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment —June 6, 2016

MR. O'REILLY: I want to move down to the cooperation agreement for labour market agreement for persons with disabilities just so I understand this a bit better. Are these matching dollars then that come in from the federal government and we're required to match them? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So the Minister is then quite confident that this reduction from \$1,250,000 to \$600,000, we can still accommodate the needs of our residents based on that sort of reduction in expenditure or revenues coming from the feds and presumably the same on our side? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. And based on past expenditures this is still higher than what we actually spent last year. And if there's more uptake and more clients accessing the program, as a government we could always come back and look for more dollars.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Was there any consultation with the NWT Council for Disabilities in this sort of change in the amount that we would expend under this agreement? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. We are always working with our partners, NWT councils with disabilities but in terms of corresponding, in terms of the reductions, there was no consultation on that part. We looked at program services, when we had to go through the exercise and see where dollars weren't being utilized fully and thought that those would be areas that we can look into when we went through the reductions exercise. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I might contact the council myself, but like my colleague, Mr. Thompson, I wonder whether the issue here is really one of promoting the programs to ensure that there is stronger uptake, but I appreciate the answers from the Minister. That's it for me for now. Thanks.