

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Upcoming ECE Legislation

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Like I said earlier, it's not always clear to me where we are supposed to ask questions, given the way that the mains have been put together, but I see that there is a policy legislation in communications line item here for corporate management. Can our witnesses explain what sort of legislative initiatives the department is looking at bringing forward in the next year or two? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes. We do have a few that are listed as one Mr. Nadli brought up. In terms of Aboriginal languages, the Education Act will be looking at as working with Members to look at moving forward in terms of the concern with College Nordique and Dechinta.

Furthermore, details I will ask--and some of the other legislation that we need to bring forward for the changes that we are making to the income assistance programs, but I will get more detail. I will ask my deputy minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Okay. Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the Minister touched on most of them, but the languages, the amalgamation of the two boards will be one. A piece of legislation to allow degree granting for Dechinta and College Nordique. Heritage Resources Act is one that has not been updated for a long time, but I know there's an interest in seeing that get developed, and then there may be others. There probably will be some minor changes to the Education Act and those sorts of things, but those first three are probably the big three for us. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate the answer very much. So might we see legislation--as I understand it, there is an Aurora College Act that sets up the institution and allows them to accept monies from other orders of government, but also gives them the ability to grant degrees.

Are we looking at doing the same thing with Dechinta and College Nordique, and any idea whether that legislation would come forward in 2016-17? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, we are working with the two organizations. We did have some meetings. It's something that's been brought up by various members of this assembly. In terms of a timeline, I will ask our deputy minister what the timeline looks like.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Recognizing Mr. Stewart.

MR. STEWART: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think we can try for 2016-17. I wouldn't be surprised if it's early next fiscal year though, realistically, with some of the other changes, there's a lot of consultation, I think, that needs to be done on this one in terms of what we should include in that type of legislation. I think realistically, it may be next fiscal year that you see actual legislation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I do want to thank our witnesses. I was hoping to hear that. That's something I will be watching for closely, and there might even be some folks in the gallery that are watching or will be listening as well. But I appreciate the efforts of the Minister and I look forward to working with him on those pieces of legislation. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, look forward to working on that piece of legislation and seeing where we can go. Obviously, we had some Members here in the House earlier, or some of the graduates in the house here today and some of the staff, and I think that they will be happy to hear that they got strong advocates of Regular Members on this side that are constantly asking, and we all will be looking at moving that piece of legislation and seeing the work in consultation that needs to go into it. Thank you.