

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

French Language Services

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Health and Social Services —June 14, 2016

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I had a request to ask a question that would dip back into--it's on page 177, which is administrative and support services. There was on page 177, French language services. There's sort of a dramatic increase from 2014-15, \$215,000 to \$856,000. I think the Minister explained that that was a result of some negotiations with the Francophone community in the Northwest Territories. But can the Minister tell us what that money is actually used for? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Member is right. That increase is as a result of the lawsuit that was filed against us and our requirement to meet the needs and the provision of French language services. For the detail, I will go to the Deputy Minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. That funding goes to the various authorities, and it covers the cost of some staff positions who can provide services in the French language. It goes to cover training for staff to ensure that they can provide the active offer. It goes to translation of materials and signage and related activities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the patience of the department, and me asking a couple of questions here. When it comes to the funding that's made available to health authorities for training, is any of that training done through College nordique? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there's sort of a GNWT coordinated approach on this. I don't have that detail in front of me. I will commit to getting that information for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.