

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Support for Renewable Industry Sectors

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment —June 14, 2016

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, we seem to have skipped the organizational charts, 228, 229. I had some questions about particularly the one on 228. Is this the right time and place to do that, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Committee. Yes, we will go back to page 231. Any questions on the previous pages from the work charts? With that, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Mr. Chair, looking at the organizational chart of the department on page 228, I can sort of see that there's three different divisions or sections within ITI, one on economic development, and there's a bunch of regional superintendents, and then there's also tourism and parks there, and then there is policy and legislation, communications. It also includes some diamond, secondary industry, finance admin stuff, and then there's minerals and petroleum resources.

I am just trying to figure out one how the mission of the Department is economic diversification. I am trying to figure out how the department organizes itself to promote economic diversification because I don't see sections in here of the department that deal with, say, the traditional economy, agriculture, fisheries, arts and culture, promotion. How does the department organize itself and how does the structure reflect its goal of economic diversification? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As a department, we've put those responsibilities as close to the people in the communities and the regions as possible so those types of activities as the Member described are included in the regional boxes for the superintendents of each of the different regions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Presumably, there must be some headquarters, functions, policy development, program development for areas like agriculture and fisheries that don't just happen in the regions, that would have to be done for the entire Northwest Territories. Where do those things happen and take place? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. Those types of headquarters, responsibilities are included in the box for the Director, Investment and Economic Analysis. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Okay, so I see that that box down there--I'm just wondering whether the Minister would be prepared to work with his staff to try to find a different way to present this information, or in fact even re-organize the department a bit so that there's more of an emphasis on economic diversification, because it's not, I guess, what sort of jumps out at me when I see this organizational chart. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We are always looking to improve in any area. The IEA leads the development of programs and initiatives in support of the Northwest Territories traditional economies, specific programs support for arts and crafts, agriculture, fisheries, trapping, and commercial game harvesting.

Generally, we stay away from if we follow what the Member is recommending, we would have boxes for individual people, and we try to stay away from that in the interest of being as efficient as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm certainly not suggesting that I want to see an organizational chart right down to individual employees, but certainly, I think a reasonable person that would pick up this organizational chart would not get the impression that this department actually supports agriculture, arts and culture, traditional economy, the fisheries. They're not even in the organizational chart anywhere. So I am trying to make what I thought was a helpful suggestion in trying to make sure that the structure and organization of the department actually reflects the mandate of this Assembly and its stated goal of economic diversification. Once again, would the Minister be prepared to look at that? Thanks.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're certainly prepared to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.