

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Support for Economic Diversification

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment —June 16, 2016

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Additional questions on page 242? Seeing none, we shall move on to 244. Go back. 239. Industry, Tourism and Investment, economic diversification and business support, operations expenditure summary. Total activity: \$21,087,000. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. On this page, program detail, it says other program costs, there are \$17 million in there. I think I understand what it is, but it would be much more helpful if that could be split out in some way. We are talking about economic diversification and business support. To have \$17 million sort of lumped together is not really very helpful for the public or Regular MLAs in understanding how we are actually investing that money. Could I ask the Minister if he and his staff could undertake in the future to provide an actual breakdown here, so we could see what sort of funding is provided to agriculture, arts and crafts, traditional economy, film industry -- some of the things that we see in the contribution side, but presumably there is some program support dollars that go along with the contribution money, unless I am not really understanding things very well. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that, through the budgeting process, normally we review the process with committee to see how it can be improved on, including the reporting and detail. My understanding is that is available. That is an exercise that is done on an annual basis. My understanding is that this is a template that all departments use. Certainly, if the committee feels that we should break it out into finer detail, we are quite prepared to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Yes. Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am asking for a breakdown similar to the description on page 238 where it says, "Specific programs support arts and fine crafts, agriculture, fisheries, trapping and commercial game harvesting." That kind of a breakdown if that is helpful at all. That, I think would be a reasonable thing to look at, rather than a \$17 million investment in a whole number of different areas.