

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**

**Access to Information Fees**

**Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review**

**Dept. of Justice—June 17, 2016**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Under the revenue section, regulatory revenue, access to information to a privacy fees, I see \$4,000. I guess I've heard from some people that the fees may be an impediment or a barrier for individuals to request information, and it looks from this that we don't actually raise a lot of revenue from this. Is this an item that the department is looking at perhaps even doing away with fees, given the low amount of revenues here in the interest of open government? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, as the House will note there is a review of the ATIP Act being conducted at this very time and that is one of the matters that is going to be considered.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Sebert. I'll just remind all Members and Ministers to conclude your statement with a thank you, so the audio techs know to switch the microphones. It makes it a little easier for people at home to follow. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. And I appreciate the response from the Minister. I'm wondering if there are other opportunities to perhaps raise more revenues within the Department of Justice. Mr. Chair, I'm wondering if I can get some comment from the Minister and his staff. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, we are always looking at the possibility of raising additional revenue. In fact, in the category or the line item, court fees and fines, you can see that is up slightly. In the land title and legal registries fees, there's a considerable increase. That's driven by increasing the cost of prospectuses which are filed across the country and also in our jurisdiction. So we are always looking at ways to increase revenue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So when the department's constantly looking at ways to raise new revenues, do we look at how we compare to other jurisdictions? Is it more systematic and rigorous in terms of comparing our fees against other jurisdictions in Canada? And how often might that sort of exercise happen? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, Mr. Chair. We do that. We always compare our fees not only in this department, in all departments with other jurisdictions so that we can remain competitive. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister. Are these fees then reviewed on an annual basis for comparability with other jurisdictions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, Mr. Chair. I understand that they are reviewed on an annual basis. Generally there are increases because we have to at least keep up with the cost of living. Thank you, Mr. Chair.