

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Yellowknife Airport Improvement Fee

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Transportation—June 23, 2016

...HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The big increase on that line is due to the Yellowknife Airport's introduction of the airport improvement fees. Thank you, Mr. Chair...

... MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There seems to be a lot of numbers being thrown around in terms of predictions of revenues and so on. Does the Minister actually have a business case, or the projections? I guess, because -- yes, does the Minister have a business case and can he share that with the Regular MLAs? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are currently working on a business case and we will be willing to share that with the Members when we have that finished. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Glad to get that commitment out of the Minister. Any idea as to when we might see the business case? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are working on it and hopefully we'll be able to present it to the Members later this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. I think part of the difficulty is going to be I think the department is bringing forward legislations to set this up, and to properly communicate and allow the standing committee to do its work, having the business case sooner than later would be very helpful. Because I do think that there needs to be a lot more communication done on this. The summer is a long time. Is it something that we can expect sooner than later? Because if the committee is going to do a good job looking at the legislation that's going to come forward for this, we need to know what the numbers are, and the public needs to know what the numbers are. So can the Minister give us a little bit more firm date than summer? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. You're more optimistic about the length of summer than I am. Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things that we're also doing with this business case is we're already out doing consultation on this initiative, and that's some stuff that we'll be putting together as well. As far as the business case and getting it to committee sooner than later, I can't tell you the exact date, I know it's probably in draft form already, so as soon as we can get it done, sooner the better, we'll get it to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess I just want to add my voice to my colleague about phasing in of rates or fees rather than trying to do it all at once. I think that it will have greater public acceptance. Thanks, Mr. Chair.