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Liabilities and Financial Assurances Division

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MR. O'REILLY: Going back to the Minister's opening remarks, he talks about the, in his opening remarks, the amalgamation of the liabilities of the financial assurances division and the project assessment branch -- and that is, I think, the section of lands we are talking about here -- and how there can be some policies and procedures developed, particularly around the area of securities. I keep asking about this stuff. Any progress on this? We have enough money in the budget to make this happen? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I will have Ms. Hearn respond to that, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

MS. HEARN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will be providing a full briefing on the status of the securities group next week, including some of the background materials that are of interest to Members. Generally we are trying to take advantage of similar skill sets between both groups. We did unfortunately have a slow start to LAFA, the Liabilities and Financial Assurances Division. We had a lot of difficulty in finding the specialized people we needed for the job descriptions as they were written, so we've gone back to first principles, which is really dealing with some of the issues that were identified by the Commissioner on Environment and Sustainable Development in the federal government, with Canada's management of securities in the Northwest Territories. So we're moving forward on those issues. We should hopefully have staffing completed by the end of the summer, but meantime we're sort of using expertise from the Project Assessment Branch to do some of the basic securities work, including continued internal engagement on the guidelines. We can provide a full briefing next week that has been scheduled for Tuesday. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm very happy to hear that and I look forward to the meeting on Tuesday. Thanks.