

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Cities, Towns, Villages Act—Local Improvement Fees

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Municipal and Community Affairs—June 24, 2016

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would like to follow up on my colleague's questions about changes to the cities, towns and villages act to enable the tax-based municipalities to use local improvement charges for energy retrofit purposes. I heard from the department that they are doing research. I understood this was a fairly simple amendment that is being requested. The NWTAC is on record as requesting this change. What is the scope of the research that is being undertaken? Why can't we get this done a lot quicker than four years? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we would like to try to get this in as quickly as possible. As I said before, we are doing our research. If that shows us that we are able to get this piece of legislation through or the amount of work that might be required to get this piece of legislation through, that is something that we will obviously consider. Let us finish the research, and then we will make a determination from there. I don't think we are that far from finishing. So let us do that. Then we will make a determination at that time if it is just a quick fix to make an amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am just trying to understand the scope of this research. Is the department looking at a total review of the CTV Act or just this specific very small change that is being requested to allow the tax-based municipalities to have the authority to use local improvement charges for this very specific purpose? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will refer that to deputy minister Williams. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly, there is some urgency from the Member to move it forward with opening the CTV Act to allow this legislation to be put in place, or amendments to the legislation. By opening the CTV Act, there are a lot of other amendments that are required as well, so it doesn't make sense just to open it for one piece. We have a number of items being raised by NWTAC over the years that we have to consider as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was a bit worried about that. I will just consider what I am going to do about that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.