

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Environmental Fund

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources —June 7, 2016

MR. O'REILLY: Great. The next question I had was about the environment fund. This is something I had some direct experience with, because I used to be on an advisory committee for the Minister on this. It looked like at the end of 2015-16 that the fund was actually in a deficit position of \$356,000, but we are looking at making that up in the next year. I just want to ask the Minister if that's correct and what sort of actions are being undertaken there to bring it back into positive revenue position. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you for that question. We only were in deficit for that one year, but with the implementation of our new programs, that's the expected growth of this program.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for his response. Maybe I could just try to understand. So the fund went into a deficit probably in 2015-16. That was when the electronics recycling program was under development and we were also looking at revising the beverage container program, deposits to get a better understanding of how the revenues were working and so on, so there is probably some adjustments going on. Now that that's settled down and the electronics recycling money is going to start coming in, we are looking at turning the fund around again. Is that what's happening here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON: (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes. The Member is correct. That's exactly what we were expecting.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Glad to see the fund getting back into a healthier position. Just really good work that happens there in terms of beverage container recycling, electronics recycling, but I have a couple of other questions further into the departmental budget on those things. Thanks.