

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE

Upcoming ENR Legislation

Committee of the Whole—2016-2017 Operating Budget Review

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am not sure where to ask this but it is presumably somewhere under corporate management. I guess I see a policy in strategic planning function for this part of ENR. I am just wondering if someone from the department can tell us a little bit about what sort of legislative proposals they have in the hopper and when we might get to see some of those? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this point, we have five legislative proposals that we are developing at this time. Those are the Waters Act, the Forest Management Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Environmental Rights Act, and an act that we are going to develop for the management of the conservation and protected areas that we hope to establish over the next while. In some ways there would be some mirroring of the Territorial Parks Act. However, at the end of the day, we will have two pieces of legislation there. The Territorial Parks Act will govern recreational wayside parks. Other types of parks or conservation areas will be governed by this new act that we will develop for conservation areas. I think I have captured all five, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was keeping my own checklist. I have four out of five right. So I appreciate the response from the deputy minister. Any idea when we might start to see some of these move forward? The reason why I am asking this is particularly for Thaidene Nene National Park we need to have that legislation in place for that proposal to move forward. While we heard some discussion in the House earlier today about morel harvesting and so on. I think there is some pressure building to get some of these pieces of legislation moving forward. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our plan would be to introduce all five of the legislative proposals. We certainly recognize the legislation that is going to be required for Thaidene Nene. There are a couple of other candidate areas in the Northwest Territories that are not too far behind Thaidene Nene as well. Once the piece of legislation is put forward and we work in collaboration with our partners to develop it, the legislation for areas like Thaidene Nene will most likely advance a little quicker than some of the others. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Might we see a Conservation Areas Act, or whatever it gets called, move forward before the end of this financial year, and the Forestry Act as well? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For lack of a better term, the Conservation Act, certainly, once we have it in the mix, we plan on using the collaborative approach, we plan on working with other departments to finalize that one. Our plan is to have that one done this fiscal year. The others, again,

will probably take a bit longer. Again, still planning to have them done in the life of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the deputy minister. I want to encourage the department to keep working away on those. Look forward to seeing them come forward to standing committee, particularly the conservation area legislation, whatever it might get called. I want to encourage them to keep moving forward on that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.