

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Health Care Revenues and Chargebacks
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Health and Social Services—February 14, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I had a couple of questions on page 155 about revenues. I am just wondering: is this where we find the federal revenues that help us with healthcare? Given that these Main Estimates were prepared quite a while ago, does this reflect the reduced payments that we are going to receive from the federal government as a result of signing off on the recent healthcare agreement? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. We're referring to the total revenues on page 155, and then there is a little more detail on page 156, for those following along at home. Minister, would you like to respond?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this revenue summary does not include the Canada Health Transfer. That Canada Health Transfer money goes into general revenues of the Government of the Northwest Territories, of which we receive over \$440 million to provide health services. It also does not include new money that may be coming from the federal government based on these agreements, because we have not actually signed agreements on those.

What you will see, I think towards the back of the document, at 185, is a list of work performed on behalf of others. That is where those numbers will show up once an agreement is signed and we know what dollars are going to be flowing. It will change every year because we understand the money is going to go up, level off, and then drop over the 10-year period. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So, I guess I will have to ask that question when we come to the Department of Finance departmental budget. I am just looking at a couple of other things here, chargebacks and contract services. There are some changes here between 2016-17 and 2017-18, and I am wondering if the Minister and his staff can explain the reduction in the chargebacks, and then there is a fairly significant increase in contract services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I read fairly well, and I understand words, but I don't see anything on this page making reference to that. What page is the Member referring to?

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. It is page 155, the one that we were just talking about. If I may, thank you, Mr. Chair, if he looks under the expenditure category, chargebacks is the fourth line. The sixth line or whatever is contract services. There is a

reduction in expenditures under chargebacks and a fairly significant increase in contract services, so if I could get some explanation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am happy to go back and go through each of those lines, but this is a consolidation page of all the other pages that we've gone through, and when we were discussing the other pages many of the Members asked questions of why did this go up or why did this go down and we answered a number of those questions at that time. So to answer that question, we'd probably have to go back through the departments because every division, every section, is having some increases and decreases as a result of forced growth, new initiatives, and those types of things. This is purely just a summary page of all the amounts that we've already discussed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the answer. I just have one other question on 156, if I may. It says regulatory revenue, and then there's professional licence fees and environmental health fees and vital statistics fees. What's our sort of regular cycle for reviewing these and whether there should be any sort of increases even to keep pace with inflation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we're committed to doing these reviews every five years. The last review was done in 2013, so we anticipate the next one will be 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chair.