

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Film Industry Supports
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 15, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have some questions on page 202 on grants and contributions. I see the film industry rebate program; last year, the main estimates were \$206,000. Again, the same was totally used in revised estimates. Why is it dropping down to \$100,000 this year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have a film rebate program that sunsets at the end of 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The entire program is sunsetting at the end of this year? Is that what the Minister said? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, that is the exact rate that is sunsetting, but we are still going to allocate \$160,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking a figure of \$100,000, but if the Minister wants to bump it up to \$160,000, I would be very happy with that. Is he proposing an increase? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$160,000, to make it clear, comes from SEED. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There is \$100,000 listed here in the mains on this page. Another \$60,000 comes from SEED. Is that what I am hearing? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I think I got this right. Actually, I am going to defer it to the director.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Ms. Mujcin.

MS. MUJCIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2017-18, there is \$100,000 for the film rebate program along with \$160,000 in SEED allocated to film. The rebate program sunsets after 2017-18, at which time it will be \$160,000 from SEED still allocated on an ongoing basis for film. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you. I appreciate the clarification from the departmental staff. Does this represent good value for money? Are we going to just rely on SEED to do this, or are we going to invest some of our own money in this as well? More directly, Mr. Chair, can the Minister answer that? Thank you.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I read this correct, amount rebate approved that was spent was \$94,000, and the film rebate program in resulted in \$344,000 in spending in the NWT, so it would be good value for money. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am glad to hear that, because that is my understanding as well. What is the plan moving forward? We are just going to have \$160K, then, in SEED that is available for support for the film industry? What is the feature of this effort on this sector of the economy? Are we just going to let this die, or are we going to continue to invest in it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. From my understanding, the \$160,000 is going to be hard to spend, the way things are looking right now. As we move forward, as the industry grows and picks up and diversifies the economy and brings bigger production films to the Northwest Territories, just like anything else, we will have to review it and see if we need to put more money into it. Right now, we are comfortable with that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the comments from the Minister, but if we do not continue to provide support for the industry, I do not think it will continue to grow. I do want to move on, if I could. I think it is 204, the active positions page. Is that something I can do at this point, Mr. Chair? Yes.