

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Staff Cuts Hurt Economic Diversification**  
**Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 15, 2017**

**MR. O'REILLY:** As I understand it, there are two positions that are going to be lost in the department as a result of this budget. The only two positions seem to be in economic diversification and business support. Can the Minister explain to me how this supports our mandate of economic diversification, when the only two staff positions that are being lost are in economic diversification of business support? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a reduction of three regional petroleum advisors on this page. These positions are located in the Beaufort Delta, Sahtu, and Deh Cho region. Oil and gas activities are very low, so that's one of the reasons for that, is we know that's -- we don't believe that thing is going to happen there for at least another 10 years. These reductions were offset partly by the addition of investment in an immigration officer position which is located in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair....

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