

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Cuts to Library Services
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment—February 20, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. My apologies. I should have pointed to page 34, and the line item is public library services. It has declined in 2016 from \$2,048,000 to this year. It is now \$1.888 million, so it has been declining over time. Are we just cutting the funding to this service? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to clarify this, the funding to the libraries is not affected. It is something that some of the operations within our own department, we made those reductions. You can rest assured that the public libraries did not see any funding affected.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for his explanation. Can he just provide a little bit more detail about what is being cut in public library services? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Lovely.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As part of the reduction exercise that began last fiscal year or this fiscal year, we eliminated one position at the Library Services Branch in Hay River. We have also reduced other operations and maintenance expenses by approximately \$24,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Lovely. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was afraid of that. I think that is all the questions that I have. Once again, here we have the fiscal strategy of Cabinet driving what we should be doing at the programs and services that we offer to our residents. I don't support that. Thanks, Mr. Chair.