

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Net Metering
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Infrastructure—February 21, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm not going to debate any further the need for more money for Arctic Energy Alliance, but I had one other question: what is our government doing about net metering? This is not the first time I've asked this question, and there's a number of people I know in Yellowknife who have put in renewable energy into their own homes and they're looking for a better break when it comes to net metering. So what is the department doing about net metering? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So currently there is an approved net metering policy in place through the Public Utility Board where residents can net meter, I believe it's up to 5,000 Watts, 5 kilowatts, available in Yellowknife, and also in any other thermal communities.

Part of the Energy Strategy, we did hold regulatory and utilities workshop with the regulator and the other utilities, and that was one of the things that was discussed at that workshop, and that will feed in to the work that we're going to be consolidating in the Energy Strategy and hopefully updating the net metering policy based on the feedback we've gotten from the regulator and the utilities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I'm glad to hear that. The problem with the current policy is you get to accumulate credits but if you don't use them up by April 1 they're gone, and that's not the kind of net metering system we should have in place if we want to promote household energy self-sufficiency. So that policy has got to be changed.