

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Court Circuits**  
**Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Justice—February 23, 2017**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I believe this is the section of the Justice budget where the department is trying to reduce court circuit costs, so I am just wondering how those discussions were going with the judiciary. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, it is not entirely a two-way street. I think the judiciary is aware of our concerns and the desires to keep costs under control, but, of course, their concerns are to make sure that justice is properly delivered and on a timely basis, so we, to some degree, have to defer to their concerns. However, the concern about costs is before them. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So can we actually anticipate any costs savings then? I think, from what I can recall, you had forecast expending \$200,000, more or less, this year compared to last year, so is that really going to happen? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, Mr. Chair. I mean, the issue is before the judiciary. We are sort of looking at ways that we might make the system more efficient. There is a long tradition, going back to Justice Sissons and Moreau, of going to every community, but we here are wondering whether that is now still the most efficient system. We are optimistic that we can reduce costs. Certainly, the judiciary is aware of our concerns in this area. Obviously, we can't direct them to not go on circuit or anything like that, but they are aware of the concern. Thank you, Mr. Chair.