

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Access to Information Fees
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Justice—February 28, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking at the same page, 254. I see that we collected a whopping \$4,000 for access to information and protection of privacy fees. I know this was an issue that was posed in the discussion paper that came from our government recently, but why do we even bother, because I am sure the administrative costs of collecting the money is probably even greater than \$4,000. Is this something that the Minister is looking at in terms of updating the act and working towards more open government? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are looking at that very issue as part of the ATIP review. Obviously, it is not a large revenue item. I do not know what legislation says in other jurisdictions. Clearly, you do not want fees to be an impediment to reasonable requests for information. I imagine in past times there was concern that the government might be overwhelmed, or the ATIP people might be overwhelmed by requests for information that were not terribly serious. Whether that is an issue or not, I do not know. It is an issue, obviously, that we are looking at, because we do not want to have people prevented from accessing ATIP because of the costs. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do not have any further questions, other than I do want to express my thanks to the Minister, and I do hope that the department will seriously look at getting rid of the fees completely, if we are only collecting \$4,000, so that we can move forward with a more open and transparent government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.