

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters  
Capital Budget—Dept. of Finance  
Fiber Optic Link**

**September 27, 2017**

**MR. O'REILLY:** I do have one other particular question about something that is not in the capital budget. It goes back to the Minister's statement earlier today in the House about completion of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Project. Some Members might recall, there was in previous capital budgets, and maybe it was in the O and M, some allocation for something called the Western Geomatic Centre. That was to help us capitalize on the Mackenzie Valley fibre optic line, but that was delayed by Cabinet, this Western Geomatic Centre. I do not seem to find anything, maybe I am looking in the wrong part of the budget, but there does not seem to be anything in the budget about that Western Geomatic Centre to help us capitalize on this Mackenzie Valley fibre optic line. Does Cabinet ever intend to bring that Western Geomatic Centre back into the capital budget in some way? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is right, correct. We actually delayed it for a little while, and I think it is within one of the other department's O and M budget, but I will confirm that, and as we go through the business plan I will see if it is the plan of the department's to bring it back through the business planning process and back into the O and M budget. The Member is correct. It was delayed for a while. The intention was, I think, to reinstate it. I will follow up, and then we will have an opportunity to go through the business plan, but if I can get some information before that, I will share it with the Member. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment by the Minister, and I will encourage him to get that included in the business plans. I do not know if it is ECE or through the Aurora Research Institute or some other department. We have got the line finished. Let us invest the money to make sure that we fully benefit, and that the region fully benefits from this, and I do not have to tell that to the Minister because it is his riding. Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is all I have.