

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Budgeted Positions**  
**Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment—February 20, 2018**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am looking at the operations expenditure summary, the compensation and benefits line. There is this decreasing trend from 2016-2017 where it was \$8.1 million down to \$6.9 million anticipated for 2018-2019, but when I look at the next page, which is the active positions, we see that there is actually a three-person increase in this activity area for the department. Can someone explain to me how we are adding staff, but the money for compensation and benefits is actually going down over time? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Each year, as part of our accounting process, we have to accrue an amount for employee leave and termination benefits. Part of that actual dollar amount of \$8,102,000 includes that, plus we had also run through a couple of senior managers, and we were paying one while they were in their retirement process, so that cost also is incurred as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just so I understand, there were some extraordinary costs related to personnel or human resources issues back in 2016-2017. It was like a one-time thing in one year? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's correct. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. On the contract services line, the main estimates for last year were \$887,000 but only \$396,000 was expended. Can someone tell me what happened there and whether any of that contract work has now been carried forward into the new year 2018-2019? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. LOVELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, this relates to the positions. As part of a reduction exercise that we undertook in 2017-2018, we reduced the contract services by \$400,000. That's largely attributed to that. We were trying to bring most of those services in-house, as the deputy minister had indicated, but we were unable to find the number of qualified applicants to undertake a full in-source of that service, so we are blending that service and bringing part of it in-house and part of it through contracted services, hence the increase in the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.