

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Infrastructure Projects and the Borrowing Limit
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Finance—February 23, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. So the estimated balance of March 31, 2019, that does not include anything related to McKenzie Valley Highway, Slave Geological Province Road, Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion, yet our government continues to make application to the federal government for these things. How could we possibly carry those out when we are so close to the debt limit already? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. Those are not approved projects, so we do not account for them. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister, but that's not what I asked. Given that we do not have much room before we hit the debt wall, how can we have any assurance of that? Why do we keep submitting these proposals to the federal government for these large infrastructure projects when we do not have much fiscal capacity to do it? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes. Thank you. That goes back to my responses to Ms. Green before. This is one of the reasons that we would go to the federal government. If we do get a project of this size, part of the proposal we bring to them is that we need to see an increase to our debt limit to help us with our share of the project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have been on record as expressing concerns about raising, perhaps, unrealistic expectations by submitting all of these large infrastructure project proposals at the same time, so I will leave that one at that. That's all I have got. Thanks.