

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Abandonment and Remediation Securities
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Lands—February 22, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I want to turn to the securities coordination line item on page 332, I believe it is. In the mains, it is shown as \$915,000 for 2018-2019. When I go back into the business plan, which is publicly available, it shows that item as \$885,000 on page -- well, it is not numbered. It is in schedule 2 of the Department of Land's business plan. Can someone explain the discrepancy here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Hilderman.

MS. HILDERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the time that the business plans were developed, the adjustments for amortization were not included, so between the business plan and the printing of the means, we wrote what the amortization requirement for 2018-2019 is expected to be. That includes \$30,000 for the securities and what we call SAPS, Securities Administration Processing System, which is being developed this year. It is in the testing phase and is expected to go live in 2018-2019, and that is \$30,000 which is the difference. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Hilderman. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay. I appreciate the explanation there, thank you. The member of the Lands team mentioned this SAPS system, where we are going to track securities better, and that is a good thing, but I am concerned about the lack of progress on the mandate commitment to make sure that we do not incur any or that we prevent further public liabilities. There has been nothing changed in legislation policy. This department basically signed on to or agreed to continue the old Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Mine Site Recognition Policy. There has been nothing public come out of this unit in terms of the mandate commitment. What is going on here after more than two years? Is the unit fully staffed? Why is there no policy work or legislation or regulations coming out of this unit? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, as the Member indicated, we did, of course, inherit much of this, in fact, all of it from the federal government in 2014. Perhaps Mr. Hagen can expand a bit on some of the work that we have been doing. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Sebert. Mr. Hagen.

MR. HAGEN: Yes, I agree it has been a long, painful progress to find the staffing of that unit, and that has been done, finally. They are very hard people to find. We have gone out two or three times actually for different employees' positions. It is staffed. We are moving forward for legislation as per our mandate. We mentioned the SAPS; that is in its testing phase. We hope to have that rolling out in the near future. As for the legislation, all I can say is stay tuned because I think we are going to be making great progress from here until the end of the mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Hagen. Minister Sebert.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I guess to add to that, I am looking at some of the other things we are doing. You have heard already that we are going to continue to build an inventory tracking system to address the handling and processing of securities, and the system design and testing will be completed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and go live the following year. We are also considering securities in our current land, water and resource legislative initiatives, which includes amendments to the Commissioner's Land Act and Northwest Territories Lands Act.

We are making progress, though, admittedly, not as quickly as we would like to, for the reasons that have been mentioned by Mr. Hagen. Thank you.