

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
911 Service
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Municipal and Community Affairs—February 22, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister just give us a brief update of where we are with the development of 911? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Considering that it is late, I am going to try and do my best, and Ms. Eleanor Young might expand on it. 911, we have worked with the stakeholders. We are now in the process. We have made an arrangement to work with the Med Alert team, so we can co-chair space with that. We are working with municipalities at this time to try to make sure that they have the infrastructure or the means to be able to identify people. Dial plans, I am going to let Ms. Eleanor Young speak on that one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. Ms. Young.

MS. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To extend on that, we are working with the stakeholders to create the local dial plans in each community so that we have the structure in place for the dispatch system. We are working on a legislative proposal for the 911 legislation and preparing to go in front of the CRTC later this year with regard to the charge model. As mentioned in the opening comments, all of those pieces, we do anticipate to come in to play where we will be hiring staff later this year and operational by the summer of 2019. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So when might we expect to see a bill come into the House to implement 911? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think we are all tired at this point. We are preparing to bring the legislative proposal forward this month. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Cochrane. It's still early, but next, we have Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. That was my next question: when could we expect to see an LP? When would we expect a bill to come into the House? Are we looking at September or October, then? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is correct, subject to process, of course. There may be glitches, depending on presenting it to standing committee and getting the draft done up. If it all follows through, it should be in

September or October. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. I am sure we are all going to look forward to getting that bill, and committee will do its work.

I understood that the original plan was to partner with the city and run the dispatch response part of the 911 service in collaboration with the city using the fire hall here in Yellowknife. It sounds like the plan has changed. Can the Minister just tell us how and why that change took place? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Originally, when this was proposed, one of the only options was actually the City of Yellowknife. We looked at partnering with them. Sometimes things take more time than I expected at the beginning.

When we decided that this was going to go through, we actually did more research, and we found that it was actually not only more cost-effective to partner with the Med Alert team, but it also provides a better service. The City of Yellowknife would have needed infrastructure changes to accommodate it. By providing the service with Med Alert and sharing the services, we can actually give better provision of services to the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I want to thank the Minister for that explanation. Is there going to be any involvement with the City of Yellowknife moving forward on 911, other than the city dispatching its emergency services as required by 911? Is there any other engagement or involvement with the city as this rolls out? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, every community will have to piece to play within the 911 rollout. We need all communities to be able to identify what their resources are and to coordinate those with us. The City of Yellowknife also will be hopefully taking part in some of the training that we will provide. Other than that, that is how we see it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: I don't have anything further. Thank you.