

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Socio-Economic Agreements
Committee of the Whole—2017-2018 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 26, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just wasn't sure what the GNWT contribution was. Now I understand that. I want to move on. I think this is the part of ITI that deals with socioeconomic agreements. Can I just confirm that with the Minister?

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, this is not the section. That will be under the minerals section when we get to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: I will save that line until we get to that section. I think I heard the Minister say, shown on page 218, that there are a number of staffing changes that are happening within this activity. I will give a couple of examples. There are two fewer people in headquarters. The Sahtu is losing a position. I think I heard the Minister say, as well, that some other petroleum advisor positions are being phased out. Why are petroleum positions found in this section of the budget and not in the next one, which is called "minerals and petroleum resources"? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is this was historically here because it was under the Economic Development Diversification Fund there, so maybe that's something we can look at going down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, it might be kind of an academic discussion because I think these positions are disappearing. I'm just kind of surprised that you've got positions that are related to petroleum in an economic diversification and business support section, rather than in the minerals and petroleum resources. So are there any other staff that do work on oil and gas that are in this activity area for ITI? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The short answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Chair.