

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations**  
**Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Justice—March 6, 2018**

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Continuing on. Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations. Comments or questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can someone at the table tell us a little bit about what level of activity the office of the regulator is dealing with and whether that's changed over the last few years, given that there is not much happening with oil and gas? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't think there's any dramatic change in their level of activity over the last year or two. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, maybe they are still busy. I don't know. It seems to me that there would be less activity that they have to regulate because there's no active exploration. There's no production that's happened in the last year. Can the Minister confirm or tell us about the level of activity that these folks actually have to regulate? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I know that, as of January 25, the regulator is in issue 20 operating licence for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Again, I don't know the long, long history of this. Well, I guess it doesn't have that long a history, but I don't think we have heard from them that they require more resources at this time. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** I just wonder whether they could use less resources, given that there doesn't seem to be a lot of activity happening. So is that something that the department has looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand there has been a reduction in their use of contractors as they build their own capacity. I don't think the Member really would want us to cut down the funds we're supplying to OROGO. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not trying to tell the Minister what to do, but the Minister seems to find other areas to cut within the department, and this is one where there may not be a lot of activity going on, so I'm just wondering. There has been no change to their budget from last year. Can the Minister commit to having the

regulator maybe appear before standing committee so that we can just learn a little bit more about what they do? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes. As I say, as I mentioned earlier, what they have been doing is building capacity in this somewhat-less busy time, but perhaps I could ask the regulator or, rather, the executive director to appear in front the committee. Yes, I can do that.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, just to close this off, I wonder whether the executive director could appear before the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, rather than the Standing Committee on Social Development, where this seems to be parked. Is that possible? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you. Yes. That seems sensible.