

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
New Day Program
Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Justice—February 20, 2019

MR. O'REILLY: Can individuals who are in remand access the A New Day program?
Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Of course, this is a voluntary program that people have to agree to enter into. I understand that they can, while on remand, enter into the program. Of course, one of the problems with remand is that their release date, if that is the right word, or the date that they will no longer be in remand is sometimes not known because they have upcoming court dates. I don't know whether that might be a discouragement to them from entering into the program, but they do have the ability to enter into the program. Sometimes they are on remand for a very long period of time and could avail themselves of this program. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for that. Just so that I understand this: if an individual completes the remand and they are discharged, can they still continue with the program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, my understanding is that you can commence the program while in custody and complete it when out of custody, if that is the question. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister for that. I do support a more flexible program that is available to folks that need it, so that is good to hear. Can the Minister tell us: are there any other metrics that are used to measure the success of this program, other than registrations, completions, and so on? Is there any attempt to measure recidivism, or are there any other metrics that are used to measure success? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not sure whether we have that information available. I don't think that we do. I mean, that would be important. I do understand the importance of the question, because it does take considerable effort to get through the program, and there are, over the years, not that many completions. It would certainly be discouraging to know if there had been recidivism amongst those that complete it. That would be very disappointing. I don't know whether we would have the ability to access that information. Anyway, I get the point. We do not have that information. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister and his staff there. I don't have any further questions, but I guess I would like to encourage the department to think a little bit more about how we actually measure the success of the A New Day program moving forward beyond just registrations and completions. I think that is just numbers in and so on. I want to know how effective the program actually is, and I think the Minister would want to know that information as well. Thanks to the Minister and his staff for the answers to the questions. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Would the Minister like to respond?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I understand the question or the comment very well because, as I stated before, there is not much point having a program if it is not successful. We will look into it. I don't think there would be privacy issues involved in this, but I will look into it. Thank you.