

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Yellowknife Tourism Support**  
**Committee of the Whole—2019-20 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Industry, Tourism and Investment—February 25, 2019**

**MR. O'REILLY:** I know that I am all that stands between us and dinner, I guess. The only line item I can see in here with regard to support for Yellowknife tourism, per se, is on 220 under grants and contributions, Yellowknife visitor services, \$161,000. Is there any other funding in the 2019-2020 budget to support the design or planning around a Yellowknife visitor centre or, indeed, a territorial visitor centre? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. St-Denis.

**MS. ST-DENIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Member is correct. That is ongoing funding to assist the City of Yellowknife in providing visitor services. There is a longer-term plan that is being looked at. I believe the Member is asking about the actual previous visitor centre facility, and we are working closely with the Department of Infrastructure. They have temporarily stabilized that building, and they are monitoring it for movement, so the building is safe, although not occupiable at this time. They have recently gone out for expressions of interest on possible design opportunities. We are going to be working with them to see what the possible redevelopment approach might be for that building. Once again, it is a matter of understanding what the needs are for that building, whether it is amending the current structure and making some improvements, but once again, we are working with Infrastructure.

Sorry, the long answer to the Member's question is that the funding in the budget is to maintain visitor services, but we would like the Member to know that there are discussions and work going on with the Department of Infrastructure on the facility itself. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. St-Denis. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is helpful information. I guess I am wondering, though, about a bigger visitor centre, a better visitor centre for Yellowknife, and what the department is doing with the City or other interests to work towards a new visitor centre for Yellowknife, maybe a territorial visitor centre, as Whitehorse has for the Yukon. Is there any funding in the 2019-2020 budget for that kind of work? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, there isn't any dedicated funding in this budget for that purpose. I think that, building on what Ms. St-Denis was saying, right now the City of Yellowknife is taking the lead on the visitor services for Yellowknife. We continue to contribute our \$161,000 a year for that.

If they are taking the lead on it, they are going to be doing some more work on planning. There is a possibility of looking at more of a visitor services tourism type of hub, but that is very much in the early days. There is nothing in the budget specifically dedicated towards looking at the territorial visitor centre.

I think the Minister was describing something more broadly, but there isn't anything definitely in the budget for that. There is, perhaps, opportunity, if there was a need for further resources to continue this process, that they might be able to find something in the budget under grants and contributions for that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Jensen. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can someone tell me how much we are spending on the visitor centre in Dawson, Yukon? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Mr. Chair, the figure is \$119,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Jensen. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Case made, thanks.