

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Executive Council Travel Budget**  
**Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs—February 28, 2019**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. There is an increase of \$200,000 in Ministers' offices. If you go back to 2017-2018, it is almost \$400,000. Can someone help me understand these increases? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Over the past three years, there has been a significant increase in ministerial travel, primarily because of the fact that the current federal government operates a lot more out of Ottawa than the previous government. Our Ministers have to travel a lot more to Ottawa to meet with their counterparts and to advance our Federal Engagement Strategy and to promote the priorities of the Government of the Northwest Territories. As well, we have committed to increase public engagement, be it Cabinet meetings in regional centres and so on. That is the reason for the increase. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. The Minister also talked about increases in travel. The travel budget, if you look further down on page 121, it is almost double back to 2017-2018. It is now \$420,000. Even from last year, it was \$170,000. That's a huge increase. Is this travel, then, related to trips to Ottawa and Cabinet having these open houses in various communities throughout the Northwest Territories? Is that what's happening here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** That is correct, as well as government promotions in different sectors. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is there any kind of a breakdown for how much is for trips to Ottawa versus travel within the NWT? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. These are costs that we have been trying to carry for the past three years, and every year we have exceeded the appropriation by an average of \$344,000. We expect this to continue, if not increase, hence the addition to the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. If there is that much over, why is there no difference, then, between the main and the revised estimates shown in the two middle columns, 2018-2019, for travel, or is this something that only shows up, then, in the

public accounts? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Yes. Generally, the overages have been picked up by the departments which, in some cases, could possibly impact on delivering programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't have any further questions.