

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Resource Management Bills Communications
Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs—March 6, 2019

MR. O'REILLY: I would like to ask the Minister a couple of very specific questions about corporate management, as well. The department has been developing five bills, and those are slowly making their way over into the House, and so on. Where did the resources come from to develop those bills? Did the Minister go to the Financial Management Board, or were they just found internally? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MARCHIORI: Thank you very much. The resources to develop those legislative initiatives were found internally within the department. We didn't go forward for any additional funding. That money was actually just taken from resources within Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response. Does the department have a rough figure for how much that has cost the department to date? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Dr. Dragon.

DR. DRAGON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Going through the different acts, in terms of the specific numbers for each of the areas, we could come back with detailed information on each of the tables. As we went through the legislative initiatives, we had technical working groups that were formed, as well as stakeholder advisory groups that were formed. On the basis of that, we had a lot of money that was expended for that consultation with our Indigenous governments and organizations, and our stakeholders and non-profit organizations.

We could come back with very specific numbers for each of the legislative proposals, or a round figure that would say, here's how much we spent, but each identified were within this corporate management area within our Policy Legislation and Communications Division. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. My question was: I'd like a round figure, and if they can give that to me today, or make a commitment to provide it. I seem to recall a figure of \$2 million, but can someone confirm that for me? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll provide the round figure to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can anybody tell me whether there's any funding in 2019-2020 for the development of communications materials related to these bills? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. MARCHIORI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, there is going to be some communications material as it relates to these bills. Once the bills receive assent in the 18th Assembly, we'll have some public materials that will be provided. This way, individuals can see what the bills are and how they relate to themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I appreciate that. I guess I was hoping for some communications materials before the bills actually receive assent. That might help the public understand what's being proposed. Are there any plans for doing any communications work before royal assent for these bills? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do plan on doing some communication to the public so they can understand. That's just a given. As far as a dollar figure, I don't have an exact dollar figure, but the money will be from within the \$88 million that is appropriated for Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you.