

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**FUNDING TO SUPPORT STATUTORY OFFICES**  
**Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review**  
**Legislative Assembly—March 8, 2019**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I noticed here that the budgets for a couple of the statutory officers have actually decreased. For the Information and Privacy Commissioner, there is \$28,000 less for 2019-2020, and for the Languages Commissioner, I am not going to attempt to do the math in my head; \$38,000, my friend tells me. Can someone explain to me why these reductions are being made? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Masi, Mr. Chair. It is part of shared services that we have assistants to these officers. As you know, we have a few of them, and we do have a clerk or receptionist who assists them. There has been a reallocation of that position. We did talk about that during our deliberation of how we can deal with those positions, so I will get Mr. Ouellette to explain more in detail. Masi.

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

**MR. OUELLETTE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, so the planning going forward was looking at the store-front location for the statutory officers at the Lang 1 building. Currently, on one side of that, there are three statutory officers that are being supported by 1.5 staff, and the Commissioner is also bringing on a full-time assistant commissioner.

With the implementation of the Ombud's office, the plan is to increase the half-time position to a full-time position, and then we reallocated some of those budgets to the Ombud budget, and that took it out of the Language Commissioner's budget and also took a portion of the office managers' salaries out of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's budget. That is why the reductions would be seen there, but there is no impact to their operational expenses.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the explanation. Just to be crystal clear here, there is no change in the funding that is provided to the Information and Privacy Commissioner or the Language Commissioner. There is no reduction in their ability to carry out the programs and services that they do, other than the fact that the resources are being reduced to provide for a shared support person in the office. Is that correct? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, yes, those are areas that we have discussed how we can manage, and that is correct, what the Member has alluded to.