

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Stanton Legacy Building
Committee of the Whole—2020-2021 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Finance & HSS — June 9, 2020

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. On page 11, there is \$16 million for what looks, to me, like renovations to the Stanton legacy building. Let me start by saying we do need more long-term care beds in Yellowknife. How much has been spent on renovations to date? What is the total cost of renovations on the Stanton legacy building? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (MS. SEMMLER): Thank you, Member. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, being an infrastructure supplementary that deals largely with carry-overs, I don't know that I have the total amount spent on renovations with me. I take that back. I might. If I could ask the director to answer the question or attempt to answer the question for me, please. Director of the Management Board Secretariat, please.

CHAIRPERSON (MS. SEMMLER): That's Mr. Courtoreille. How do you pronounce your last name, sorry? I need to get it correct.

MR. COURTOREILLE: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's Terrence Courtoreille. For those two projects referred to by the Member, one project has a total budget amount of \$14 million, just over \$14 million, and the second project is just under \$58 million.

CHAIRPERSON (MS. SEMMLER): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I'm trying to understand why we're spending \$72 million for renovations on a building that we're not even going to own at the end of the day. This is part of a weird P3 arrangement that I could never really get to the bottom of in the last Assembly.

Can someone explain to me why we have to spend this much money on renovations when we're not going to own the building and we're going to have to lease the space afterwards? Is that what this arrangement is all about? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would be more than happy to offer that explanation, but to be quite frank, I do not have that contract or those arrangements in front of me and was simply not anticipating to be defending the entire P3 arrangement around Stanton today. I will be more than happy to give that answer, but I think I can really just commit to getting that detail. I am not going to be in a position to answer that fulsomely today.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister of Finance. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Sure. Thanks. I didn't anticipate getting into this level of detail in some

of these things, as well. I take it, then, that the Minister is prepared to provide that information following this discussion. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Sorry, Madam Chair. The answer is yes, but there is a fairly large question there around getting into the justification for a project that, again, began in the 18th Assembly, and there is possibly a bigger conversation around why we would have a P3 project in general.

Yes, I will commit to getting some more detail about the nature of the project and the nature of the agreement, the pros and cons of the agreement, and the benefits thereof. If that is a satisfactory commitment to the Member, then that is where I am at. If I am missing something, I will be corrected, I'm sure.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I am happy to take that commitment from the Minister. I just want to correct one thing. This is actually something that was started in the 17th Assembly, or just before the election, maybe. I just want to know why we are spending \$72 million on renovations for a building that we are not going to own and then we have to lease back space out of it. It just doesn't sound right to me, but I'm happy to get the Minister's explanation following this meeting. Thanks, Madam Chair.