

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Committee of the Whole—2021-2022 Capital Budget Review
Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment—October 21, 2020

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. My colleague from Yellowknife North asked my question about whether we actually design new schools or renovations to include childcare space, but I have a couple of questions I would like to pursue. Full disclosure: I live across the street from Ecole J.H. Sissons, and I am watching it come down over the last several weeks. I am just wondering where we are with the scheduling of that. I know COVID-19 has probably delayed that project a bit, but I just would like to get a little bit more information about where we are at with the scheduling of that because there was a lot of public concern around that in Yellowknife. The school board had to make a lot of decisions about where to put the kids to try to minimize the impact on families and students and so on. I am just wondering where we are at with the scheduling for that particular project. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. I would like to hand that off to my assistant deputy minister, who is very up on where we are on the day-to-day operations of that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Shannon.

MR. SHANNON: Thank you, Madam Chair. In terms for J.H. Sissons school, we are currently on track and on budget with that. The demolition contract is just finishing up. At the same time, the construction contractor is now working on site, as they are continuing to complete the removal of the foundation from the bedrock. Initially, we were slated for handing over to the construction contractor the week of October 1st. It's looking like that will be this week. As I said, that was within the contingencies built into the schedule and the budget, so we are hopeful to have the construction contractor take over full custody of the site, looking like this week or early next. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I appreciate that response. I just have to walk by it every day, so I am very curious about that. I appreciate the support of the department in getting that important work done. My other question was about the Mangilaluk School. I know some of us had an opportunity to go up to Tuktoyaktuk in August, and I know that the Member for Nunakput has done a lot of work to try to expedite that and get it moving along. I am just wondering where that project is at. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. There were some delays in that project, but I am happy to say that work is getting started. We are putting people to work on that project. I can pass it over to the ADM again for some more details.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. ADM Shannon.

MR. SHANNON: Thank you, Madam Chair. For Mangilaluk School, the contract was awarded to the Inuvialuit Development Corporation late this past summer. In early September, we received the construction schedule and foundational review for phase 1. For late September to October 2020, there was the mobilization of personnel to site and basic preparatory site works. For the timeframe we are in right now, which is slated to run from October till November 2020, the contractor is working on putting the pilings in place. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Just to be clear, the work has started now. Are people from the community getting jobs from this? I am just kind of curious. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. I do not have those statistics on me right now, but I can promise to get those back to the Member.