

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Cancelled Arctic Winter Games
Committee of the Whole—2021-2022 Capital Budget Review
Dept. of Municipal and Community Affairs—February 23, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Why would we expend the \$650,000 in 2019-2020, which probably was the year, then, that Arctic Winter Games were held? Can someone explain to me why these figures are flat when, last year, the one in Whitehorse was cancelled? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll have Mr. Gary Schauerte respond. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Schauerte.

MR. SCHAUERTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The department received \$1.3 million over two fiscal years, so the \$650,000 is half of that, that was contributed in 2019-2020, that goes into this fund. The fund is a restricted fund for the purposes of the sport, recreation, and physical activity programs defined by the act, so the money continues over. We did, absolutely, have impacts to our games programming as a result of COVID, with the cancellation of the Arctic Winter Games in 2020. There are currently discussions under way, both with the Arctic Winter Games and with other multisport games or major events like that, where there are decisions being made in the future about whether those games can be held or can they be deferred. What is going to happen as a result of COVID is we could see some crushing of programming with multisport games, either with the Arctic Winter Games or Canada Games or other. While the money does stay within the fund, we expect in the coming years that there will be pressure on the games program area because of the result of the schedule and the changes to that. At this point, we are still recovering from the pandemic and no clear decisions have been made about games, including the Arctic Winter Games in 2022, so it's kind of a bit of a "plan around some of these decisions when they happen" scenario. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. It sounds like the money is still there available for multisport games. Is that correct? It's just not going to get expended, and no expenditures are anticipated in 2021-2022? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll have Mr. Gary Schauerte respond. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Mr. Schauerte.

MR. SCHAUERTE: Thank you, Madam Chair. There are, absolutely, expenditures out of the fund in 2021-2022. A little over \$5.8 million is planned to be disbursed out of the

fund. Some of that is grants and contributions money that will go to some of the organizations that organized Team NWT that will attend these events. The number right there is \$5.2 million for grants and contributions. We're not quite into April 1, yet, where we'll be disbursing funds to organizations, and we wouldn't make any allocations around games funding until we have an idea of where we're going with that program. Notionally, \$5.2 million is identified for contributions out of this fund. We'll have to wait and see exactly how much does get disbursed, based on programming that comes forward. Thank you, Madam Chair.