

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Highway O&M Costs
Committee of the Whole—2021-2022 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Infrastructure—March 2, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I know my colleague, I think from Yellowknife North, asked about this. Does the Minister have any idea how much the average O and M costs are for highways? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The average on our estimates, last year, we spent \$75 million as an average on highways. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I will confess that I don't know how many kilometres of highways we have. Does the Minister have some kind of figure or the cost per kilometre? Is it, I don't know, \$10 a kilometre that we pay to maintain a highway? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. In terms of highway operations, we are responsible for maintaining the system. We have about 2,350 kilometres of all-weather roads, which includes bridges, small culverts, across the Northwest Territories. In terms of costs, Madam Chair, it varies, and I will repeat myself from yesterday's question because it was something similar from another Member. It talked about, for all the different highways that we have across the territories, we have some that are chipsealed, some that are cement, and some that are just gravel roads. It would vary in terms of costs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Maybe I will try it again. Is there a range that the Minister could give us, cost per kilometre, for O and M for highways? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will ask ADM Brennan to give a range. Thank you.

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

MR. BRENNAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. In terms of 2019-2020, the first thing I will say is that the range changes every year, depending, and worked on based our inspections. We did daily inspections of our highways, and work happens after that there. In 2019-2020, the range went from about \$6400 per kilometre on Highway No. 7, up to \$14,000 on Highway No. 6. We don't have the overall average per kilometre because we break it down by particular highways. Thank you, Madam Chair.