

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Arts Strategy and Industries
Committee of the Whole
2021-2022 Operating Budget Review Dept. of Industry, Tourism and
Investment
March 4, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: I think I'm going to move on because I'm not getting anywhere. I want to ask about the status. Is there any money in here for there was supposed to be a new NWT Arts Strategy, and I'm not sure where that falls between ECE and ITI. Maybe I could get an update of the status of that and what involvement ITI has and whether there is any money in here for that. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. ECE and ITI are, indeed, working together on this. I do not believe there is specific funding allocated at this point. If I could propose to have it go to Deputy Minister Strand, please.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy Minister Strand.

MS. STRAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, ITI's arts funding for the businesses that are in the arts sector sits under our SEED program. I can let you know that, under special initiatives, we have programming that goes out to all regions for arts and film, but it falls under the SEED budget. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Can someone tell me about the status of the arts strategy itself? I understood it was supposed to be released by now, and I'm not sure where it's at. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I know we are partnered and working with ECE on this, and my understanding is that they are the lead. Let me see if Ms. Strand has an update on when we can expect it. I know it has gone through a review by me, but I'm not sure where it's at for its final revisions.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy Minister Strand.

MS. STRAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, as the Minister stated, we are just finalizing that strategy with ECE. There were some final amendments that we wanted to make before releasing that, so I think that it is planned for the near future for committee and public release. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. I eagerly await that. Can someone tell me: what is the status

of the NWT Film Strategy and Action Plan? Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I expect that it should be released, I want to say, this session. "Imminently" is, perhaps, a safer way of putting it.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I am imminently eager. Is there any funding in this part of the budget for a new strategy or action plan? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't know if that's in the section I'm in right now. Perhaps I will see if Deputy Minister Strand has that information at her fingertips.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Deputy Minister Strand.

MS. STRAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, ITI has several film programs, such as the NWT Film Rebate Program. We also create partnerships with a number of other associations, such as the Canadian media film, to try and leverage the funding that we do have, but yes, we will be looking to increase that, to remain competitive and compete against jurisdictions like the Yukon that are surpassing where we are in our film sector. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. I look forward to maybe a large supplementary appropriation, then, to assist with that work. I