

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. In the Minister's opening remarks, she talked about how there was \$350,000 to do some work on the knowledge economy, and I see, on page 211, there is a contribution of \$200,000 for the knowledge economy. Maybe I can have someone explain to me what the \$200,000 is for and where the other \$150,000 would be found to total the amount that the Minister mentioned in her opening remarks. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to suggest that that go to Ms. Salvador, please.

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

MS. SALVADOR: Thanks, Madam Chair. The advance knowledge economy funding, \$150,000 of that will go to contributions, and the other \$150,000 will go for engagement for the knowledge economy action plan. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Okay, so now I've got a total of \$300,000. The Minister, I think, mentioned \$350,000 in her opening remarks, and then I got a figure of \$200,000 here. Look, I'm not an accountant, but something just doesn't seem to be quite right, there. Can I get a better explanation? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is the contributions section here, so this is detailing, I believe, money that is going direct to, for example, the maker spaces in contrast to the money that would be directed to a position that is there to support the work of the department, broadly speaking. Thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry, that would be the \$350,000. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Now I know what the \$200,000 is here, but then I heard that there is \$300,000 found somewhere else. The Minister, in her opening remarks, said that there is \$350,000 to create an action plan for the knowledge economy. It still doesn't quite add up. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's good news here, Madam Chair, in the sense that there is money both to advance projects as well as money to put forward to the work of the knowledge economy as a strategy. Perhaps I'll try a third avenue and suggest that Ms. Strand answer the question, please.

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

MS. STRAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The funding which is allocated for the knowledge economy would be found under our operations expenditure summary, under purchased services.