

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Community Harvester Assistance Program**  
**Committee of the Whole—2021-2022 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources—March 09, 2021**

**MR. O'REILLY:** I want to move on to the Community Harvester Assistance Program. I think this is the place to talk about this. It's kind of hard to know. That program is very effective in terms of building food security. It gets people out on the land doing stuff that they like, and it hasn't been increased for a number of years. We had understood that it was under review. What's the status of the program, and when is there going to be some more money? Is there any new money in this budget for the Community Harvester Assistance Program? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you. Before I turn, with your permission, to the deputy minister, we made a commitment to evaluate that. We are in the process of doing that, and we are working on it. We do have a variety of other programs out there on top of CHAP, but I will turn to the deputy minister for details in regard to CHAP. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler):** Thank you. Deputy Minister Kelly.

**MS. KELLY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The review of the CHAP program has begun. I think it's important to recognize that there are a number of programs, not just CHAP, that ENR provides to support this type of activity, and when we went out and did the engagement to develop the Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan, there were some concerns that were brought forward related to how that program money was being distributed in communities.

We really want to make sure that we are being as effective as possible and learning what we need to and making sure that those who need the funding are able to access it. We are going to do the review, and based on the outcomes of the review and the other program work that we are doing, we will make a determination of whether there is enough funding or not. We look forward to pulling that information together in the next four months and being able to make some recommendations based on the review. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Madam Chair. I recognize there's a pandemic going on, but I asked these questions a year ago because we wanted to try to increase the CHAP funding at that point. Has this review been delayed? When is the Minister going to be in a position where he can share a copy of the evaluation with standing committee? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. For that detail, I will turn to the deputy minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler):** Thank you. Deputy Minister Kelly.

**MS. KELLY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. This program requires that we speak to the people who are accessing it, and many of the communities post-COVID were not comfortable with those types of meetings and discussions occurring. We are now in a place where we have been able to revamp the program so that we have opportunities digitally but also where communities can meet internally and provide answers to the questions that have been provided. As I mentioned, we are hoping to have a "what we heard" completed with recommendations within the next four months. We recognize the importance of this program, not only to Members of the Legislative Assembly, but also to the residents of the Northwest Territories. That's why we need to make sure that we are doing it right and that there are points where those in communities who are land users and who are harvesters have the ability to provide input into the program review. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you. We will make that commitment to get that to committee. We will get that "what we heard" report so the committee is well aware of what we are doing. It's not going to be a hidden document. Thank you, Madam Chair.