

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Main Estimates 2021-2022**

**Comments to the Bill: Budgetary Cooperation**

**March 29, 2021**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I, too, want to extend a lot of thanks to my colleagues on this side of the House for the work that we did together looking at the main estimates. People often just don't know how much work goes on behind the scenes here. We don't really do a very good job explaining this, but we met and reviewed the main estimates department by department with Ministers and their staff over a period of a couple of weeks. Then we had to work together as regular MLAs to figure out what we thought was missing or could be improved in the budget. There is an immense amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. I want to compliment my colleagues for us working together on our side of the House.

As much as it takes this side of the House to get its act together, we also have to thank our colleagues on the Cabinet side and particularly the Minister of Finance for the leadership and the negotiations to achieve these gains for all our residents. I know often the Minister said that she was the messenger on behalf of her Cabinet colleagues, but there was a lot of effort behind the scenes to work with the Minister of Finance to try to get a better understanding on some of these issues like midwifery or Indigenous patient advocates, what was going on already within the departments, and whether we needed to push a little bit harder to perhaps get a resolution on some of these issues. Once again, my sincere thanks to the Minister of Finance and all our colleagues on the Cabinet side.

Look, I sat through the last Assembly. This did not happen in the last Assembly. I want to give you every bit of assurance that this is a different way of doing business and a much-improved way of doing business. This is really how consensus government can and should work. I really want to compliment my colleagues on the other side for their efforts in doing this collectively. I think we achieved a lot in terms of the capital budget, as well, in the previous main estimates. This one, I think, was a really extraordinary effort on everybody's part to try to work together. I hope the media is listening and they do pick up on this, that there have been extraordinary gains for all of our residents with the additions that we've worked together on. Of course, we'll be back in May-June to formalize all that. Once again, thanks to our side of the House, colleagues working together and with our Cabinet colleagues to get this important set of results for our citizens. Thanks, Mr. Chair.