

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Arctic Energy Alliance Funding
Committee of the Whole—2022-2023 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Infrastructure—March 1, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. On page 248, the large scale commercial and industrial under the Low Carbon Leadership Economy Fund, I think that's supposed to be -- whatever, why is that bouncing around like a yo-yo? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Madam Chair. There's the three different variances. So you look at the variance of the Greenhouse Gas Grant Fund, the variance is due to lower than expected anticipated uptake of the program application. So that's the big variance there of 2.237. And then there's a decrease because we had, as Mr. Jenkins pointed out, we had to reprofile the cash flow for this in 2021-2022. And now you're seeing an increase because we're able to cash flow some of these that are related to an amendment now and an extension. So we went back to the government and requested an extension. So that's why you see it jumping around all over the place.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah okay, thanks Madam Chair. Thanks to the Minister for that. I guess I'm worried about what this does to the continuity and availability of funds, particularly for Arctic Energy Alliance. I see from further up in the table there that they have a flat kind of amount of core funding, it appears, from the Department of Infrastructure of \$1.6 million and there's this incremental funds through the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund that kind of go all over the place. So how does that affect the ability of Arctic Energy Alliance to provide funding for its programs? Because I've gotten complaints from my constituents about the money running out quickly for certain programs or -- and I've raised this in the House before. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just looking at some of the projects. The budget here is -- it's the same across the board. It is what we've given Arctic Energy Alliance in -- 1.6, but yet we recognize some of the increases that we're able to divide within the government under different projects.

I'm going to see if Mr. Brennan can speak a little bit more about how we're able to, from a financial perspective, be able to move one line item under grants and contribution and transfers and then be able to recognize in another part of the exchange here the difference. So thank you.

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

MR. BRENNAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, so in terms of the Arctic Energy Alliance program, we recognize the need there as well. This year, I do believe that there was some funding gaps that we were able to find some money internally. But one of the

things we did on their Low Carbon Leadership Economy Fund was take some of the money that wasn't being as much uptake, including the commercial industrial greenhouse gas grants, and move it into the Arctic Energy Alliance. So through that cash flow, we've secured funding of about \$1. million for the next two fiscal years.

Our goal is to seek additional federal funding first to try and keep that momentum going, so to speak, with the AEA. And if no federal funding's available, well then we'll have to look in terms of whether or not the GNWT would support some increases in that area as well. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Yeah, I look forward to a supplementary appropriation to support Arctic Energy Alliance and the good programs that it offers.