

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Community Financial Services Contributions**  
**Committee of the Whole—2022-2023 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Municipal and Community Affairs—March 4, 2022**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Okay, thanks for that. On page 340 is contributions, and I see that we have something called community financial services contributions, and can I just get some more information about how communities actually access that? And obviously it was fully used last year so maybe some understanding of who -- who can access it and what it's used for. Thanks, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler):** Thank you. Member -- or Minister of MACA.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you. For that detail, I'll turn to the deputy minister. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler):** Deputy minister.

**MS. GAREAU:** Thank you. This funding is to provide short-term assistance to community governments who may be experiencing operational difficulties. So what happens is we would provide them with funding to hire a short-term contracted financial services to come and help them with their financial practices or to strengthen their financial management.

The financial position of a community government can deteriorate rather quickly if some of those key administrative positions are vacant. So this helps them hire some short-term technical assistance while their longer term staffing is playing out.

And examples of -- so in terms of how they access the funding is they would contact our regional office and make the request, and we would work with them to better understand their request and help them with their staffing and any other short-term needs they may have. Types of work that communities do with this funding is to hire bookkeeping and accounting services if they need their audited financial statements restated, like at yearend where it's urgent that they meet the deadline and it can't wait for the position to be staffed. They can also access this funding for financial training and cleanup of accounting records. A lot of it is for reporting and accounting purposes, where it's critical or there's a timeline for them to get the information done. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Yeah, no, thanks. No, that sounds like a -- good to have that kind of contingency there and available to communities. We want to avoid communities going into administration under MACA. So no, it sounds good.

Madam Chair, I don't have any further questions on this section. Thank you.