

JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE
Schools Space Study
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Education, Culture and Employment—February 21, 2018

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I recognize that this space study is a multi-department undertaking, but that was always the case. The report was promised to us before January and we're not seeing it until April. I'm going to ask again: what is the delay in sharing this report with committee, even on a confidential basis? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

MR. LOVELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, there are three departments that are working. I can't tell the Department of Finance or the Department of Infrastructure how to do their jobs. We're also working with the education authorities and making sure that they're up to date on this study. Once this study is complete and we do get a response, I'm sure that we can share that with committee after going through the formal process, and bring that back to Cabinet, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see I'm not going to get a specific answer at this point. I will register that we shouldn't be the last to know. It makes absolutely no sense that we're not going to know about this until after the deadline for getting a capital funding project application in.

Related to this and still an outstanding issue is the actual plan for early childhood development with money provided by Canada. We know that action plan is complete. There is some to-ing and fro-ing around when it's going to sign off. Are we looking at the same kind of a delay in making this information available to the committee as we've just experienced with the homecare? Meaning that there was a huge gap between finding out this money was available and then having it announced publicly today by the Minister of Health and the MP. So when exactly are we going to get this plan? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Because it is a bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada, we do have to respect our working relationships with them. Any input or influx of funding that we get towards early childhood development is great for us in the Northwest Territories; and I did mention and commit that, once we do get the agreement signed, that we would be willing to come and brief standing committee on the steps moving forward and the action plan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Chair, I'm wholly unsatisfied with the fact that this committee is playing second fiddle to another order of government. We need the information. We've

asked for it. The money seems to be in the budget for this, and yet we have not seen the plan. It's total unacceptable. The plan needs to be shared with the committee, even on a confidential basis, as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Would the Minister like to respond in the remaining 10 seconds?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll take the Member's comments, and I'll bring it to Cabinet for further discussion. Thank you.