

MEMBER STATEMENT—KEVIN O'REILLY MLA FRAME LAKE

ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR SCHOOL EXPANSION

February 17, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, monsieur le President.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised several times the issue of the expansion of our French first language school here in Yellowknife which is in the Frame Lake riding. There is some sort of a problem with working collaboratively with the Commission scolaire francophone Territoires du Nord-Ouest on this important court-ordered project. I have asked the Minister of Education to ensure there is a collaborative approach when submitting the design of the expansion to Heritage Canada. It only makes sense that there would be agreement on what would be submitted and that letters of support from the Commission and the Association des parents ayants droit de Yellowknife would be submitted with the application to Heritage Canada.

I met with the Commission on January 24 and was told that the submission was only sent to them on December 16 and that they sent their own letter to Heritage Canada disputing aspects of the GNWT application. This is not a helpful situation.

By working together we could save money on the expansion by having Heritage Canada cover more of the costs of the expansion and achieve a better public facility. This would seem to be a win-win situation. Additional funds for 2016-17 to kick-start the expansion were approved in our fall session but it is not clear whether this work has actually begun. While this expansion of École Allain St-Cyr is long overdue and it would be good to have it ready as soon as possible, collaboration is essential. I will have questions later today on what is happening with the expansion and why a collaborative process has not been used.