

MEMBER STATEMENT—KEVIN O'REILLY MLA FRAME LAKE

CLIMATE CHANGE AUDIT

October 19, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Yesterday, the Auditor General of Canada released a very critical report on our government's management of climate change. Every jurisdiction in Canada is undergoing a similar audit to allow for some comparisons, best practices, and lessons learned, with a roll-up final report in 2018. While the NWT is a very small contributor to Canada's GHG emissions at 0.2 per cent, the effects are already being felt here, and we will experience some of the greatest impacts. We must do our fair share of mitigation and adaptation.

Environment and Natural Resources was reviewed as the lead department responsible for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The Department of Infrastructure was also reviewed in terms of its energy efficiency mandate and impacts on infrastructure. The audit reviewed whether the departments took adequate steps to meet stated commitments on mitigation and adaptation.

The audit found, and these are direct quotes, Mr. Speaker, that:

- ENR did not develop a territorial strategy to adapt to climate change;
- ENR did not fulfill its commitment to provide departments and communities with information needed to take action on climate change;
- The territorial greenhouse gas strategy did not have a significant impact on reducing emission levels; and
- ENR did not address long-standing deficiencies affecting its leadership on climate change.

These are very serious findings that do not reflect well on our climate change efforts and commitments. Clearly, climate change has not been a priority of this government, even though it is contained in our mandate.

The Premier signed on to the Pan Canadian Framework on Climate Change in December 2016. That agreement sets a crystal clear target for GHG reductions of 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This is what we promised, and it needs to form the core of the upcoming Climate Change Strategic Framework. If our framework does not clearly demonstrate a set of actions to achieve such reductions, any applications for or access to federal funding assistance is at serious risk.

I will have questions later today for the ENR Minister on how this recent audit will inform the development of the Climate Change Strategic Framework. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.