

MEMBER STATEMENT—KEVIN O'REILLY MLA FRAME LAKE

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

May 24, 2018

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. On May 1st, Cabinet released the Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework. What's still missing for a complete package on climate change is a firm proposal and legislative changes for carbon pricing.

Today, I'm calling out Cabinet on its efforts on climate change. I strongly urge the federal government to reject the climate change plan, as it falls far short of any likelihood of successfully reaching the Pan-Canadian Framework obligation of a 30 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by the year 2030. These are strong words, Mr. Speaker, but backed up by the following facts:

- 44 per cent of the greenhouse gas reductions to meet the Pan-Canadian Framework target are to be met with hydroelectric power from huge expansions of the Taltson facilities. No quantification of the GHG reductions is provided. There's no money to build the dams or power lines that will cost billions, and no confirmed buyers, either north of the lake or in the provinces. The energy strategy is masquerading as an infrastructure proposal for the federal government, characterized by local media as an ultimatum, rather than a serious effort to address climate change and build energy self-sufficiency.
- Most of the greenhouse gas reductions are back-loaded into the available time. Sixty per cent of the reductions are supposed take place in the last five years.
- Most of the effort is to be directed at electricity production, which is not the major source of greenhouse gas emissions. The 17 per cent GHG reduction target for industry was removed in the final version.
- Lastly, the Auditor General's finding on our failed climate change leadership has not been addressed, as the framework and audit response make no proposals to change our approach. I've called for a Climate Change Act or Cabinet-approved policy, Financial Management Board consideration of climate change implications, and Infrastructure submissions that prioritize projects that show the greatest greenhouse gas reductions.

The residents of the NWT deserve much better on the issue of climate change, reductions to our cost of living through energy self-reliance, while building a greener economy. The federal government should reject Cabinet's approach on climate change and send us back to the drawing board to develop a real plan. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.