

MEMBER STATEMENT—KEVIN O'REILLY MLA FRAME LAKE

EXPANSION OF ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR

October 26, 2018

(statement delivered in French)

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I rise today to salute a major achievement in enhancing and advancing the quality of French language education here in the Northwest Territories.

On November 6, the Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest will celebrate the opening of the newly expanded Ecole Allain St. Cyr School, located in the Frame Lake Riding. Commission leaders, students and staff will welcome special guests to see the results of the \$12.8 million construction project begun in June 2017.

The centre piece of the expansion project is the addition of new gymnasium. No longer will students need to travel to shared gym facilities at other Yellowknife schools, or register in other schools to take advantage of full facilities. The expansion will also add two new classrooms, a kitchen, stage and additional storage space. For the 130 students in pre-kindergarten to Grade 12, the expansion is the latest step in development of the school which opened in September 1989.

Fundraising is underway to complete the fitting out of the new spaces. Private donors, students and a go-fund-me page are raising funds for the purchase of needed equipment. Necessary items include a gymnasium scoreboard and backboards, stage lighting and sound equipment, cooking equipment for the kitchen and chairs and tables for public events. Fitting out of the spaces confirms their use as a meeting space for the whole community. A total of \$91,000 of the estimated \$150,000 needed has been raised.

The improvements to Ecole Allain St. Cyr are due to the efforts of the Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, l'Association des parents ayants droits de Yellowknife and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Parents and education leaders worked very hard to protect and expand the rights of Francophones to French language education here in Yellowknife and throughout the NWT. The expansion of Ecole Alain St. Cyr and the addition of new facilities comparable to other Yellowknife schools, could not have happened without the efforts of the parents and education leaders.

I congratulate all those who helped make this happen and hope students are enriched by the educational, recreational and social opportunities of these new facilities.