

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**Climate Change Strategic Framework and Action Plan**  
**Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review**  
**Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs—March 6, 2019**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't believe that the standing committee or the public has seen a formal response to the Auditor General Report on Climate Change. Is that something that the department is still working on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am a little confused here. We may have responded to the report of the Auditor General. I know that there were a number of recommendations that were made in there, and we responded that we were acting on all of those recommendations. I will commit to the Member, because my understanding is that we did respond to that, but I will confirm that and share it with committee.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't think I have seen a document. I think I have seen a draft of a document, a very early preliminary draft. The department claims that it has responded to the OAG recommendations and the Climate Change Strategic Framework action plan. I would probably disagree with their assessment, but I don't think that we have actually seen a formal response to the Auditor General report.

ENR says that it has the authority and leadership under the Climate Change Strategic Framework for monitoring and reporting on climate change. What kind of monitoring and reporting do they intend to do, and will it include information about the Energy Strategy and proposed carbon pricing, as well, so that all of that information is found in one document? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Dr. Dragon.

**DR. DRAGON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things that we're looking at doing in terms of the ongoing accounting of all the different activities that we're doing on this file is ensuring that we're having a quarterly conversation at the end, so we're having a normal accounting on all the different items that are going on.

I can assure the committee that we are line in step with the energy plan and the carbon strategy. We've been working together. Our departments work very much in lock and step. When we look at the climate change action plan, really, goal number one is from the energy plan; it is improving and tracking and monitoring GHG emissions. That is one of the goals of the energy plan. We look at having that ongoing discussion about all the different activities, but we're going to be doing a yearly report of all activities that we've done, and also put a performance management methodology towards the 100 actions that we're looking for part one of the action plan so that we're able to see how well we're doing in terms of what we proposed as actions and how well we are able to deliver on those actions. At the end of the five years, we'll also be looking at a summary report that goes through all of this plan, but also looks at the next five years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I will have to wait to see what the detail is because I don't think we've really nailed that down yet. I want to go back to the Climate Change Strategic Framework Action Plan. My colleague from Yellowknife North talked a bit about this. I understand that there are going to be a few new interdepartmental committees established, but there's nothing that establishes the authority of the department in legislation, regulation, or policy with regard to something like collaborative and coordinated reporting on climate change. There's nothing about how Cabinet decisions might include climate change implications, how infrastructure funding submissions should be screened for climate change impacts, or assistance with greenhouse gas reductions. I think those are the kinds of tools that we need to have to ensure that the department has the authority and the leadership in legislation, regulation, or policy to make sure that we are successful at climate change. That's what the Auditor General has said. That's why we failed in the previous two strategies. What is the department going to do to address this situation in next year's budget? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Minister.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. As we move forward debating next year's budget, I mean, that will happen, and there will be some initiatives that are brought forward. I believe that the Government of the Northwest Territories, we are so far ahead of the curve on climate change, feeling the effect of climate change. I think some of the work that we've done in that is already incorporated into when we look at the infrastructure that we put in. I suppose, if it is the wish of the Assembly, we can put every little thing into regulation, legislation, and that, just to give the Member comfort, and the public comfort, that we take this particular issue very seriously, and we're incorporating it into a lot of the work that we do. Because, as I've said, in my travels south, speaking with my colleagues from across the country, we felt the effects of climate change long before the southern jurisdictions, so we had to take steps to try and mitigate that. Thank you.