

CBC North All Candidates Questionnaire Responses Kevin O'Reilly – Frame Lake Constituency

1. Why did you decide to run for office?

I am a committed and active voice in the Assembly on the environment, social justice and democracy. I have a lot more to offer. That's why I am running again.

2. What previous experience would you bring to the role of MLA?

MLA Frame Lake: 2015-19

Yellowknife City Councillor: 1997 to 2006

I've lived in the Frame Lake riding for 28 years.

Work and volunteer experience in community engagement, collaborative planning and resource management.

Education: University of Waterloo: Bachelors in Environmental Studies, Masters in Planning

3. What is the accomplishment you are most proud of?

- Improved legislation such as *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (it is one of the best in Canada) and expanding public reporting for *NWT 9-1-1 Act*
- Chaired Committee that developed a tougher and enforceable Code of Conduct for MLAs.
- Enabled students to vote on-line and provided more voting options for others.
- Developed the only Bill by a regular MLA that was passed (clarifying NWT cremation services).
- Led efforts to avoid strike with members of Union of Northern Workers.
- Had the best MLA attendance record and always prepared.

4. What do you think is the biggest issue facing the territory?

We need to diversify and stabilize the economy with a plan that responds to the climate crisis, our housing needs, and ensures resource development that benefit northerners.

5. What is the biggest issue in your riding?

Cost of living is a key issue. For some, the solution is to lower energy and housing costs with more effective retrofit programs. For others, it is to improve income support programs with transition options to move to working for a living wage. For others, good, stable jobs are key.

6. If you could accomplish only one thing while in office, what would that be?

An NWT Polytechnic University and a new Northern Frontier tourism centre would both help stabilize and develop a diversified economy}.

7. What would you like to see the territory do to address the impacts of climate change?

Work with Indigenous governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and other experts to develop and pass a climate crisis act that establishes the necessary leadership, organization and authority to make sure key actions are carried out. Actions would include a new energy strategy focusing on renewable energy to build self-reliance for families and communities. The climate crisis must be central to our government decision making, especially for large infrastructure investment. We need to publicly report greenhouse gas reductions, energy transition and carbon pricing.

8. What would you change about how the government currently operates?

There should be a more shared authority and decision-making between Cabinet and regular MLAs. We need a more balanced

approach that supports our public programs with less emphasis on big infrastructure projects. We need to improve our purchasing and consulting practices to ensure northern benefits.

9. What do you think the GNWT must do to improve and protect the territory's economy?

- Diversify and stabilize the economy with investments in tourism, agriculture and the arts.
- Ensure responsible mining and energy development through local benefits, jobs and a fair return from royalties and taxes.
- System-wide improvements to our early childhood development and education system to prepare northerners to better participate in the economy.
- Secure a better territorial funding arrangement that allows us to keep more of our own source revenues.

10. What would you do as MLA to improve the GNWT's relationship with Indigenous people?

- Improve our approach to negotiation and implementation of land rights agreement.
- Carry out recommendations and calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry.
- GNWT policies and legislation need to be consistent with United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights.
- Start a public discussion on constitutional development in the Northwest Territories.

Almost done! Tell us a little more about yourself...

Age: 61

Languages spoken: English, beginner French

Current employer: Incumbent MLA

Where were you born and raised? Born in Hamilton and raised in southern Ontario

Do you live in your riding? If not, why did you decide to run there?
I have lived in the riding for 28 years.

If elected, will you be seeking a cabinet position?

My first job is to get re-elected as MLA.

Would you like to be premier?

Whoever is Premier need to be committed to working with all MLAs, not just Cabinet.