

**NWT & Nunavut Construction Association
Request for Assistance on Mechanics Lien Act**

Response from Kevin O'Reilly, Candidate for MLA Frame Lake

We ask that as a candidate you voice your support for small NWT construction companies who just want to be paid on time for their work. We believe that if the 19th Legislative Assembly can prioritize reforming the *Mechanics Lien Act*, these companies will gain the certainty needed to invest in their businesses, train more NWT residents in high-paying skilled positions, and grow the territory's economy from the bottom-up.

Response:

Thank you for drawing to my attention the shortcoming in the current *Mechanics Lien Act*. The problems with it that you identify do seem to require attention.

As you may know, early in the term of a new Legislative Assembly there is a retreat during which priorities for the four-year life of the government are debated and agreed. If elected, I undertake to raise the issue of the lack of a definition of "substantial completion" in the current *Act*. If the problems you have identified can be fixed by such a simple change to the *Act*, I cannot see why the other Members of the Assembly would not agree to doing it as an early piece of business.

You may also be aware that I served on the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment that reported late in the Assembly on the issue of GNWT procurement (link to that report, https://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/19-08-15_cr_29-183-report_on_procurement.pdf). I support the recommendations of this report that an advisory panel for GNWT and a comprehensive review of GNWT procurement.

The issues and problems you raise seem to involve a matter of equity between the various components of the industry and I am prepared to address it.

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