

Northern News Services Candidate Information

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

Name: Kevin O'Reilly

Age: 61

Work experience:

Frame Lake MLA 2015-19: Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures that developed a tougher and enforceable Code of Conduct for MLAs and recommended changes to modernize NWT elections with more voting opportunities than ever before. Sponsor of the only Private Member's Bill in the 18th Assembly that clarifies cremation services.

Yellowknife City Council 1997-2006: Co-chair of multi-stakeholder initiatives including Community Waste Management Strategic Planning Committee and Zoning By-law Review Committee. Participation in several national and territorial initiatives through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Northwest Territories Association of Communities. Led City negotiating team towards successful completion of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and later adoption by City Council.

Waste Reduction and Recovery Advisory Committee (2004-15) Member and Chair (2011-15) a multi-stakeholder group of business, municipal and NGO representatives that assisted in the design and implemented of the beverage container deposit program and other initiatives.

Work and volunteer experience with a variety of Indigenous and public governments and non-governmental organizations. Driving force behind a legally-binding agreement for oversight and ongoing research at the Giant Mine that includes the federal, territorial, Indigenous and municipal governments and an NGO.

Family status: Married with two adult children

Why you are running:

I have lived in the Frame Lake riding for 28 years and am an active and committed member of our community. During my first term there were some big projects in this riding including the new Stanton Hospital and the expansion of the French school. We will have 9-1-1 service soon, a territorial ombud and tougher rules for MLAs, all of which I helped develop. I am an active voice in the Assembly for democracy, social justice and the environment.

I came to work prepared, attended extra meetings, and had many of my ideas incorporated into legislation to improve accountability and public reporting. I worked with Ministers but also held Cabinet accountable. I stayed in touch with constituents by personally delivering a newsletter each year and followed up on issues.

It's time for us to diversify our economy. I strongly support a NWT Polytechnic University with a campus in Yellowknife, to focus and attract more research and development into the things we do well such as Traditional Knowledge, cold weather technology, environmental remediation and co-management of resources. Yellowknife needs a visitor centre working with the City and its destination marketing plans. We must begin a more serious approach to the climate crisis with legislated responsibilities, a climate lens on spending, and investment in renewable energy that will create jobs and lower the cost of living.

I have a lot more to offer and it would be an honour and privilege to serve Frame Lake resident again.