

MEMBER'S STATEMENT — KEVIN O'REILLY, MLA FRAME LAKE
Emerging Wisely Plan and
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Capacity
June 2, 2020

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our GNWT staff and the Chief Public Health Officer for all their work and sacrifices during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our residents have also endured a lot and deserve our thanks for their patience and calm during these unprecedented times. On May 12, Emerging Wisely was released by the Chief Public Health Officer. It is the phased approach to easing of restrictions for the NWT. I have some personal experience with risk assessment, having developed a plan for the small NGO I worked with before becoming an MLA. I support the rigorous, systematic, and comprehensive approach taken with our plan and certainly appreciate the amount of time that went into its development. I also support the conservative and staged approach that it takes. It is very complex and has the level of detail that I would expect to see. Thank you again to all of those who put what I imagine to have been countless hours into this detailed and well-thought-out plan.

Plain language materials and information in all the official languages will be critical to the public understanding and accepting the plan. I am still waiting for the communication plan, Mr. Speaker. The graphics and material on the Department of Health website are helpful. We also need these or similar materials in all our official languages. My greatest concern is the reliance on Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission for reviews and/or inspections to develop risk assessments and mitigation measures. I want to make sure that the Commission has adequate capacity to do the amount of work that is headed its way. We don't want a lack of capacity to cause delays in businesses, facilities, NGOs, programs, and services from opening. I will have questions later today for the Minister Responsible for the Worker's Safety and Compensation Commission. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.