

MEMBER STATEMENT—KEVIN O'REILLY MLA FRAME LAKE

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

June 2, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. In our last sitting, I made a statement on this government's less than adequate first attempt at integrated climate change reporting. Unfortunately, there was not much to report given the lack of progress over the last year. This may have been partially due to COVID but is also rooted in the faulty design of the climate change approach from the last Cabinet that carries over into this Assembly.

So what's changed since February? Our neighbour to the west has joined a growing international movement to plan and implement more stringent emission targets to keep this planet from going completely off the rails. The Yukon government has committed to a target of net zero by 2050. While doing this, the Yukon also established and held its first meeting of a youth panel on climate change.

Meanwhile in Europe, a group of German youth took their government to court over climate change inaction and they won. Germany's constitutional court, on April 29, sided with nine young Germans against their federal government. The court agreed the country's landmark climate legislation, passed in 2019, put too much of a burden on future generations and didn't take enough responsibility in the present. Gee, the same thing could be said about our weak and totally unachievable climate change approach that is back end loaded with Taltson expansion for which there is no funding, no buyers, and no plan.

An Ontario youth group is also taking their provincial government to court over inaction during the climate emergency and another group of youth are taking our federal government to court. I suspect that NWT youth are also watching these court cases closely.

Meanwhile, our dinosaur approach from the last Cabinet continues to creep mostly backwards with only a commitment to review where we are at in 2023 at the conclusion of this Assembly a recipe for inaction and disaster.

I will have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources as the apparent lead Minister on climate change. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.