

MEMBER STATEMENT—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

CARBON PRICING IN THE NWT

March 1, 2017

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in December 2015, world leaders gathered in Paris signed the historic agreement to fight climate change. They committed to ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas production and to halt the disastrous advance of global warming. Last year, the Mining Association of Canada endorsed the federal government's effort to establish a national price on carbon pollution.

In the months since the signing of the Paris Agreement, our federal government has announced its intention to introduce a carbon price. Ottawa has consulted with provinces and territories, asking them to develop a system for their jurisdiction, which honours minimum reductions. Our government has participated in these processes and I understand there is federal funding to offset costs.

Throughout this mandate, this government has missed no opportunity to condemn carbon pricing, without a mandate from the Assembly's committees for taking this position. Even while signing the national climate change framework in Ottawa last December, the Premier remained reluctant of pricing carbon, intoning fears of cost impact and skepticism at the significance of NWT greenhouse gas reductions.

As we know, the impacts of climate change are all the greater here in the NWT. If anything, these exaggerated impacts call us to make an even greater northern commitment and example as we call upon the world's governments and industrial leaders to ease the damage most felt here.

Mr. Speaker, the time for resistance to the inevitable is past. It is time for acceptance, endorsement, and action. When our world leadership en masse, our global corporate leadership, and the national organization representing our mainstay economic driver call for action on carbon pricing, we need to climb on board. I will have questions for the Premier on the current state of NWT carbon pricing development. Thank you.