

KATRINA NOKLEBY

FOR **MLA GREAT SLAVE**



Thank you to the French Media for reaching out and giving me the opportunity to respond to these questions. I appreciate the hard work of the media in covering this election.

1. Which industry should replace the diamond industry and how?

With the resource extraction sector accounting for over 30% of our GDP we need to stimulate our exploration and mining sector if we hope to have economic prosperity. It's not realistic to say we can immediately switch to different revenue streams. However, during the time we are rebuilding this sector we should be designing and planning for a parallel, more sustainable economy to reduce our dependency on the unstable resource extraction sector. We should increase northern agriculture, possibly through funding or grants for new farming, livestock, or garden/greenhouse projects. We should be looking at our knowledge economy and work towards creating a world class University that leads the way in permafrost and climate change research. We need to look at the reclamation and remediation sector and ensure that the Giant Mine project is leveraged properly to create opportunities for Indigenous and northern businesses to train workers in cleanup skills so that if no new mines are opening, northern people can remediate and reclaim the existing ones.

2. The Territorial Government and the Commission scolaire francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, don't agree on who should be allowed into the territories two French-first language schools. This disagreement has brought them in front of the courts more than once. Who should decide who can attend a French first language school and why?

I believe that the School Board should be considered a good judge of who would fit the criteria for the French first education. It's my understanding that additional costs for students attending these schools comes from the federal government, rather than the GNWT, so I'm unclear as to why the GNWT would interfere in this decision. I would be supportive of empowering the school board to have control over these decisions.

3. In the context of a post-devolution territorial government, which former federal legislation do you think should be immediately updated to reflect a made-in-the-north policy approach?

At this time, I don't feel that I have enough knowledge in this area to state what I would change. I know there has been talk about the environmental regulatory regime being devolved from the federal government to the GNWT however as the five boards are treaty mandated, I do not think this would be a good idea. On the other hand, we do need to ensure that the GNWT has a role in these processes and that it facilitates investors navigating the system.

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4. How should the GNWT be involved in resolving outstanding Indigenous land claims?

We all have a part to play in this. The federal government, the GNWT, as well as Indigenous groups. The GNWT should not be a barrier to moving forward towards a healthy territory. It appears that currently the GNWT is a barrier, which means we need to put people in the Assembly who value getting this done and would be partners in this process. We all need to work together as a united approach gives us better results when we are dealing with the federal government. I believe once claims are settled, we could transition certain departments to Indigenous governments such as Children and Family Services where a culturally appropriate approach to healing families would be more beneficial than our current system.

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