



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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Honourable Scott Kent
Minister, Department of Education
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6

Nov 9, 2011

Dear Minister Kent,

We wish to extend a warm welcome to you as the new Minister of Education and look forward to working with you for the benefit of all Yukon schools and for our students most specifically.

Two weeks ago, the Fall 2011 School Councils' Conference took place at the High Country Inn in Whitehorse from October 20th through the 22nd. We wanted to provide you with a brief overview of the event and share the Recommendations that resulted.

The title was ***'Working Together to Support Learning'*** and the theme was a natural progression from the one held in last Spring focused on creating positive learning environments.

Special guest speakers Dr. Wayne Hammond, President and Executive Director of Resiliency Initiatives, and Don Barbour, Principal of Terry Fox Middle School in Calgary, led several sessions:

-- "*Mapping the Story of Resilience—Implications for Yukon Educational Practice*"

-- "*Essential Strategies for Evolving a Strength-Based School Culture*"

-- "*From 'At Risk' to 'At Potential'—The Community Role in Nurturing the Resilience of Our Children and Youth*"

The latter one was an evening session, open to the public, and it drew a diverse group of interested people.

Another one of the guest presenters was Corine Clarke, who provided an orientation to School Council members on the newly developed 'Leadership Practices Framework for Yukon Principals and Vice-Principals'. She also did a second session later in the conference which began the process, discussion and input gathering for the development of a Leadership Practices document for School Councils. We look forward to continuing to work on this project over the next many months.

The Friday of the two and a half day event was a shared day with many Yukon School Administrators as well as the members of the Yukon First Nations Education Advisory Committee joining School Council members for proceedings and networking.

The evaluation feedback received has been very positive and there is a keen interest to have more shared meetings, and to move forward with the many successful practices that support our students.

There were four Recommendations put forward, discussed and approved by the attending delegates at the Fall 2011 Conference--they are:

2011B01

We recommend that the Dept and School Councils conduct the Resiliency Initiatives survey in response to the Yukon Health Behaviours Study, and that the community at large be involved in this process.

2011B02

We recommend that the Leadership Advisory Committee continue to develop the School Council Leadership Practices Framework.

2011B03

We recommend that the Department create a guideline and flowchart showing the process for issues referred under the Education Appeal Tribunal process – including timelines and responsibilities.

2011B04

We recommend that the Department and School Councils explore methods to extend School Council terms.

We have posted the presentations from these sessions as well as the Recommendations on our website for easy access at: <http://www.ayscbc.org/event-reports.html>

As always, the time and attention that Deputy Minister Pam Hine, ADM Christie Whitley and several others from the senior management team made to attend portions of the proceedings is greatly appreciated. Their participation attests to the desire to work together to support healthy school communities in which our Yukon students will succeed.

Once again, we wish you well in your position as Education Minister and look forward to meeting with you to discuss our work together through the end of this school year and into the future.

Sincerely,

Bob Laking, Chair

cc. Deputy Minister Pamela Hine
ADM Christie Whitley
School Council Liaison Lori Choquette