



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

May 1, 2012

Dear Minister Kent,

On behalf of the Spring 2012 School Councils' Conference Planning committee and delegates, we wish to express our appreciation for your attendance at the event, held at the Westmark Whitehorse, April 19th - 21st. Your attendance at the Meet 'n Greet on Thursday evening and your welcoming remarks on Friday morning indicated your interest in the work that School Councils are doing.

The conference was attended by a balance of both rural and urban School Council members, some of whom are in their first term of office and others who have served for many years. Through the mix of experience and perspectives, there was a great sharing of ideas, learning, and networking.

With the focus being on how *'Strong School Council Leadership Supports Student Success'*, the agenda was structured so that delegates could learn more about their rights as well as their responsibilities. Some sessions were aimed at assisting School Council members to have a better understanding about how some of the changes in educational practices and processes will impact on the work of Councils.

The AYSCBC Annual General Meeting took place on Friday afternoon, April 20th with a record number of Members attending for the review of annual reports and discussion and approval of the organization's Workplan.

There were six Recommendations put forward, discussed and approved by the attending delegates at the Spring 2012 Conference--they are:

2012A01

We recommend that a presentation on ATIPP rules and standards that affect schools and School Councils be put on the Fall 2012 conference agenda.

2012A02

We recommend that the Leadership Advisory Committee continue to work on developing a "toolkit" companion document for the "Leadership Practices Framework for Yukon School Councils" and share it for review and comment with School Councils.

2012A03

We recommend that AYSCBC and the Department of Education investigate the establishment of a support and learning model for School Council orientation and Professional Development.

2012A04

We continue to recommend that the Department and School Councils continue to explore methods to amend School Council election criteria (including length of term and election timing) recognizing that such changes may need to wait until such time as the Education Act is opened for amendment.

2012A05

We recommend that the respective roles and responsibilities of AYSCBC, CEAY and the Department be clarified and communicated with School Councils.

2012A06

We recommend that the Department investigate and report on the issue of eligibility to serve on School Council.

Several of these are related to planning and delivery of content to the semi annual conference (A01) and, to the continued improvement of professional development for school council members (A02, A03, A05).

Recommendation A04 is a restatement and reinforcement of concerns in order to keep it front and centre when an opportunity to amend the Act presents itself in the future. Participants believe that this issue is one of the most challenging obstacles to School Councils achieving their potential.

Recommendation A06 is related to a problem that primarily affects rural school councils. Section 151(1)(e) of the Education Act disqualifies employees of a school from serving on the council for that school. Individuals who act as substitute teachers are thus ineligible to be on the council for that school. In Whitehorse interested persons could serve on a different school council. That option is not available in rural communities and thus limits the pool of candidates. Some thought needs to be given to addressing this issue, perhaps waiting until the opportunity presents itself as contemplated by A04.

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

We would be happy to discuss any of these Recommendations to add context and elaboration.

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, lead and facilitate parts of the conference is greatly appreciated.

Once again, we thank you for your involvement with the Spring 2012 Conference and look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

Bob Laking, Chair

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