



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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## MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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The Spring 2011 School Councils' Conference has been deemed a great success! Thanks to all who attended and to the Planning Committee as well. Special thanks to our guests and key presenters.

The theme of

CREATING A POSITIVE CLIMATE IN OUR SCHOOLS

provided a great focus for the sessions and the learning was interactive, informative and inspirational.

Timi Tullis and **Lori Klein** from the *Association of Alaska School Boards* and the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement (Juneau, Alaska) shared the work they have been doing on 'School Climate and Connectedness' as well as 'Ethical Decision-making'. They also did a session on 'Engaging Your Community in Helping Kids Succeed'.

Paula Pasquali from the Yukon Wellness Initiative, shared a presentation on the some of the key findings from the Yukon Youth Health Behaviours Study. We will be doing more work with this study so stay tuned.

We have added the PowerPoint presentations from several of the sessions to our website. You can view them at:

<http://www.ayscbc.org/event-reports.html>

A conference proceedings report is being compiled and once it is finalized, it will be posted on our website for future reference and information.

AYSCBC Annual General Meeting

At the AYSCBC AGM, held on Friday, April 15th, Annual Reports were presented and the Workplan for 2011 was discussed and approved. Sincere thanks to those who participated in the meeting and shared their ideas and suggestions. These are posted on-line at: <http://www.ayscbc.org/annual-report-and-workplan.html>

We would like to extend our great appreciation to outgoing Executive member Ted Baker for his time, energy and commitment to his role with the organization for the past four years. While he will not be sitting with the Executive, we are glad he will continue in his role as Chair of the Del Van Gorder School Council in Faro.

We welcome a new face to the Executive--Rick Halladay, who is in his 13th year with the Ghuch Tla Community School Council in Carcross. Rick brings yet another most valuable rural perspective to the table, a key factor in ensuring voices from throughout Yukon are part of the guiding influences of this association.

SCHOOL GROWTH PLANS AND INNOVATION GRANT DEADLINES ARE FAST APPROACHING...

All School Councils should already be very familiar with the annual School Growth Planning process. These Plans, which are a shared responsibility of your school's Administration, staff, School Council and members of the community are due for submission to the Department of Education by May 30th. Discussions and planning for 2011-2012 should be well underway. >>>>

If you are not directed involved, make sure you know who on your School Council is, and learn what is being proposed for the year ahead.

Also a reminder that the deadline for any applications for the Leaders in Innovation Grant Fund is also May 30th. For more information and forms for 2011-2012, go to: http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/psb/school_growth.html

Carol's Book Review for May



“the kids from nowhere—The Story Behind the Arctic Educational Miracle”
by George Guthridge (Alaska Northwest Books, 2006).

I heard Mr. Guthridge speak at the ‘Community Dialogues put on by the Canadian Council on Learning/Aboriginal Knowledge Learning Centre/Assembly of First Nations in Whitehorse, January 2008.

This book tells of his experiences as a teacher in a tiny remote island community between Alaska and Russia. His students had been ‘written off’ and labelled as ‘uneducable’ by former teachers and district staff. Guthridge pulled out all the stops, got to know the kids, their amazing strengths and knowledge and together they challenged the system and methods to surprise all onlookers, and at times themselves too!

Reminder: *While books we review can be purchased, Members of AYSCBC can borrow them from us, just drop us a line or give a call.*



SCHOOL COUNCILS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF AYSCBC

(as of April 2011):

Del Van Gorder School Council
Robert Service School Council
Eliza Van Bibber School Council
Ross River School Council
F.H. Collins Secondary School Council
Selkirk Elementary School Council
Ghuch Tla Community School Council
St. Elias Community School Council
Grey Mountain Primary School Council
Takhini School Council
Hidden Valley Elementary School Council
Tantalus School Council
J. V. Clark School Council
Teslin School Council
Porter Creek Secondary School Council
Watson Lake School Council

To find out more about becoming a member Council of AYSCBC, contact Carol. Your support helps us provide support to you and the work that you do in your communities.

MEMBERS OF THE AYSCBC EXECUTIVE

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