



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER

As our great Yukon summer begins to transition to fall,
we look forward to working together with you as another school year commences.

Make sure you've made plans to attend the

FALL 2013 SCHOOL COUNCILS' CONFERENCE OCTOBER 24th - 26th *You won't want to miss it!*

Venues: Thursday evening session at the Beringia Interpretative Centre
Friday and Saturday sessions at the High Country Inn

Guest Speaker: JOHN ABBOTT, President of the [21st Century Learning Initiative](#)

The **Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees (AYSCBC)** is very excited to be bringing in John Abbott for the Fall Conference. John is an internationally known speaker, researcher and author who is passionate about the many aspects of learning. He combines his knowledge, experience and sense of humour with some fascinating information.

For many years, he has been working on studies related to how the brain works. As the Initiative's website proclaims--we are [BORN TO LEARN](#). He places emphasis on the value and importance of the child 'doing' for meaningful learning to take place.

"Live their own learning. It's simple, really: learning is a consequence of having to work things out for yourself. Teachers and parents can help children, but only if they realize that they are simply there to help learning happen; it is the learner, the child, who has to do the work. It is through exercising the brain that the brain grows and learning proceeds."

Some of the topics he will speak about include:

- Community of Learners—Importance of home, community and school**
- Deep Learning-Inspiring students for lifelong learning**
- Adolescence-Crazy by Design**
- Flexibility in Education**
- The Community as a Learning Ground**

John will be speaking on Thursday evening as well as doing sessions on Friday.

There will also be several other topics/sessions on the agenda including the popular Roundtable and many opportunities for connecting with other School Councils.

More information will be posted as available on our [conference webpage](#).

REMINDER to RURAL School Council members:

AYSCBC wishes to encourage and facilitate the attendance of rural School Council members at these conferences. Rural School Councils, as Members of AYSCBC, are eligible to apply for funding support from the Association. This can help offset some of the costs for any of their School Council members to attend the conference, providing they are not receiving financial travel assistance from another source.

AYSCBC funding assistance is set at \$50 for attending the Thursday evening of conference and \$150 for each full day of conference (Friday and/or Saturday) attended to a maximum of \$350 per person for fully attending all conference sessions. Carol will have forms and record sheets at the conference. Cheques are made payable to the appropriate School Council.



YOUR COMMUNITY AND WORKING TOGETHER

We have a new resource to share with you, a 4 pager titled: **“WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY”**

It’s available online [here](#) and at: www.ayscbc.org/resources

It focuses on School Councils and provides suggestions and some answers to questions such as:

- What is Community Engagement?**
- How can my School Council encourage broad-based community engagement?**
- How can I make sure I represent community sentiment?**
- How should the School Council communicate with the community?**
- What if I have a different viewpoint than my constituents?**
- How should I respond to parental complaints?**
- What are some strategies for responding to vocal opponents to School Council decisions?**
- How does one encourage School Council service?**

We hope you find it useful in your discussions and decision-making this year.



SPRING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

A reminder that we have posted presentations from the sessions Gayle Bedard did at the Spring School Councils’ Conference on **‘Building Cultural Awareness of Aboriginal People’** and **‘Understanding Issues and Improving Outcomes for First Nations Students’**.

They are posted on the **‘Events Reports’** page of the [AYSCBC website](#), along with Hank Moorlag’s materials on **Privacy Protection** and the working draft of the **‘Authority and Responsibility for School Councils’ Reference Table**.

NEW FACES TO YUKON EDUCATION...



In early August, there were some Ministerial changes within Yukon government. The Honourable Elaine Taylor is now the Education Minister, taking over those responsibilities from Minister Scott Kent.

We would also like to welcome Dr. Albert Trask who is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Public Schools Branch. He comes to Yukon from his previous home in Newfoundland and Labrador. He brings much experience with him, including teaching in a remote fly-in Inuit community in Labrador, as well as many years as a principal, superintendent and other senior roles within the provincial education system.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TRAVEL—CHECK THIS OUT!

SEVEC, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada is a not for profit organization that has been facilitating educational youth exchanges in Canada for 76 years. Funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage, 5000 Canadian youth between the ages of 12-17 take part in the program each year. Travel costs are paid through government funding, which makes this program accessible to all. Exchanges consists of groups numbering from 10-25 (typically classrooms) and the learning focus is varied ranging from linguistic to thematic with a focus on history, geography, culture, Aboriginal, etc.

In recent years, there have been 7 groups from Whitehorse and Haines Junction take part in an exchange with other Canadian communities including Montreal, Moncton, Victoria, Toronto, Coaticook (QC), and Greenfell (SK).

The purpose is to create awareness of SEVEC and increase participation on SEVEC exchanges. Exchanges take place all year long although the bulk of our travel tends to fall between February and June. For more information, contact



FRANÇOISE GAGNON

Executive Director | Directrice générale

Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada | Société éducative de visites et d'échanges au Canada

201-1150 Morrison Drive, Ottawa, ON K2H 8S9

T 1-800-38-SEVEC ext 210

www.sevec.ca

SOME OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6 & 7--The Future Routes Festival

This event will celebrate the 15th anniversary of BYTE and the 50th anniversary of Yukon College. All are welcome to celebrate with these two organizations which are both dedicated to raising up our youth and building bright futures for all Yukon people.

Location: Yukon College Ayamdigut Campus (Whitehorse).

The event will showcase initiatives currently underway in the Territory that enhance environmental, social, economic, and cultural sustainability. There will also be a Community Green Market from 10am-3pm on Friday September 6th, featuring local organizations presenting information on their activities. A free lunch will be provided at 12:00pm and feature several 15 minute Sustainability Talks.

October 2 Joan Durrant will be speaking about the *Positive Discipline* approach with a focus on the importance of the early years. Yukon Education, Health & Social Services, and the Women's Directorate invite parents as well as others working with children to attend.

Location: Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre

Time: (tentatively) 6:30pm doors open 7-9pm presentation and Questions & Answers
have invited her to speak.

Oct 21-22, 2013 Canadian Education Association Conference, Calgary

Topic: *What's standing in the way of educational change?*

This event will be a gathering of superintendents, ministry of education representatives, deans of faculties of education, corporate and other not-for-profit education leaders, principals, teachers and students from across Canada working together to identify the barriers and underlying assumptions that prevent changes from taking hold on a system-wide basis.

For more event information and to register, go to: www.cea-ace.ca/calgary2013



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS AND AGMs

It's that time of year again, setting dates for your regular meetings and your Annual General Meeting. We're happy to help spread the word and post these important meetings on our [online calendar](#). Just [send us](#) the dates and we'll do the rest! It's a good place to look when you want to find out when other School Councils are meeting too.

AYSCBC promotes School Council, Board and Committee service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to your local community and society.



SCHOOL COUNCILS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF AYSCBC

Nelnah Bessie John
Chief Zzeh Gittlit
Del Van Gorder
Robert Service
Eliza Van Bibber
Selkirk Elementary
Takhini Elementary

Ghuch Tla
St. Elias
Ross River
Tantalus
J. V. Clark
Teslin
Kluane Lake

Grey Mountain Primary
Watson Lake
Porter Creek Secondary
F.H. Collins Secondary
Hidden Valley Elementary
Golden Horn Elementary
Ecole Whitehorse Elementary

Want to learn more about Membership, please [contact us](#) and we'd be glad to talk with you.

If you'd like us to attend one of your meetings, or meet with you at another time, let us know—we'd be happy to do so.

Members of the AYSCBC Executive

Bob Laking, Chair (Dawson)
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