



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year!

We hope that the season's holidays provided a pleasant time for you, your families and friends to share time, activities, meals and conversations that are such an important part of life and learning together. This month will be another busy one for everyone involved with schools and we look forward to working with you over the next several months of the 2014 part of this school year and beyond.



SOME UPDATES ON COMMITTEE WORK

Tuesday, Jan 28th (evening) there will be a **Whitehorse Bussing Committee** meeting at the Yukon Education building. **All Whitehorse School Councils are invited to send a representative.** For more information and exact time, contact Lori Choquette lori.choquette@gov.yk.ca ph: 667-8226.

The Bullying Behaviours Committee has been meeting since the summer and is developing a report and strategic plan with recommendations for addressing the many aspects and issues of bullying and its effects on children, youth, schools and communities. Members of the committee include representatives from Education, Health and Social Services, Justice, Community Services, Executive Council Office, Women's Directorate, CYFN (Council of Yukon First Nations), RCMP, Yukon Teacher's Association, AYSBCB (Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards, and Committees), CEAY (Catholic Education Association of Yukon), BYTE (Bringing Youth Towards Equality), and the Child and Youth Advocate. The Committee is in the process of assembling a Youth Advisory Council, consisting of youth representatives, to inform the direction of the committee through their unique perspectives, experiences, and recommendations.

Committee members have done a great deal of sharing of resources, programs and links and these will be included in the final document which will be available online. One of these is a 12 minute video of a TED talk by **Shane Koyczan**, Canada's foremost spoken word artist.

In it, he shares his piece "To This Day..." about being young, different, bullied and the importance of believing in oneself. It is very moving and you can find it [here](#).

COMMITTEE UPDATES *continued...*

The **Policy Advisory Committee** met in the fall to discuss and make suggested amendments to a revised version of the draft “*Progressive Response to Student Behaviour*” Policy. Once the policy is finalized and approved, it will be available and posted on the [Yukon Education policy webpage](#).

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

☆AYSCBC Members might like to refer to the organization’s policy on [*Financial Support For AYSCBC Member School Councils To Attend Professional Development Events*](#)

March 2-4th in Canmore, Alberta--the **3rd Annual Alberta Rural Education Symposium**.

This symposium is about partnerships among governments, business, rural communities and educators who are interested in working together to consciously construct a vibrant, sustainable future for rural communities. There will be a sharing of knowledge, practices and innovations that support learners.

More information about the event will be posted shortly at the website: www.albertaruraleducation.ca

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March 30 - April 1, 2014 in Saskatoon Saskatchewan—the **19th National Congress on Rural Education**.

This year’s theme: “*The Changing Reality of Rural Schools*”

relates to how some rural schools are facing societal issues that may be considered exclusive to urban settings. “*Society has changed, and continues to change, and our rural communities and schools are addressing issues related to mental health, child hunger, poverty, diverse needs, bullying, cultural diversity, and the effects of social media, among others. Rural schools have different economies of scale which may create challenges in providing needed programs and services for children and youth attending schools in rural or remote settings. This year's Congress will facilitate discussion among participants to find ways to address these issues*”.

For more details about this event, go to: <http://www.usask.ca/education/ruraled/index.htm>

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CALLOUT TO INTERESTED SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS...



We are hoping to find a few School Council members who can participate on School Review Teams over the coming months. All Yukon schools have gone through this process and these will be part of ‘round two’. The focus of each School Review Team is to provide recommendations, based on a couple of days of observations and discussions with another school’s staff, students, parents, School

Council. You do not need to have experience with this process, support is provided. The most important element you bring to a Team is your interest. It is a great way to contribute to improving outcomes for student learning.

For more information, contact [Carol](#) at AYSCBC or [Simon Blakesley](#) at Yukon Education.



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

As you continue to set dates for your regular meetings through this school year, we'd be happy to help spread the word by posting 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.

A FEW IMPORTANT DATES

January 17th---deadline for input to Yukon Education re: School Calendar

March 17th - 21st---Spring Break for all schools, many schools are on break Mar 17- 28th

April 14th - 24th---Nomination period for School Councils

May 5th---School Council elections

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



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The Executive and staff of AYSCBC wish all of you and your families a happy new year!



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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Neil Salvin, Vice-Chair (Whitehorse)
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Chris Bookless, Sec/Treasurer
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Rick Halladay (Carcross)
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Sandra Henderson (Whitehorse)
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Ted Baker (Faro)
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Carol Coote *Executive Director* (Whitehorse)
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