



**Minister's office (CM-3)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6**

April 7, 2020

Dear School Councils,

RE: Face-to-face classes in Yukon suspended for 2019-20 school year

With recommendations from Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, I have made the decision to suspend face-to-face classes in all Yukon K-12 public schools for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year starting on April 16, 2020.

The health and safety of students, school staff, families and communities continues to be our first priority and we are taking all necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Superintendents and principals will continue to work together to support students, families and school staff through this transition to deliver at-home learning for the remainder of the school year. Schools and central administration staff will also continue to communicate and work with Yukon First Nations to support the needs of their citizens.

I appreciate the efforts of the Department of Education in working with the British Columbia Ministry of Education and staff, both in schools and in the central administration building, to develop the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements, to guide schools in ensuring student learning continues for the remainder of the school year. A draft of these requirements was provided to all schools on March 27, 2020. I have attached an updated version for your reference and they are now available publicly on Yukon.ca.

Schools are using these requirements to prioritize the essential learning standards that need to be covered, and develop learning plans that provide for at-home learning for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, while considering the unique needs of their school community.

Teachers will determine how best to deliver learning opportunities to their students, whether that be using the Department of Education approved online environments or traditional resources.

Principals and school staff from each school will communicate their learning plans to students and families before April 15, including how each school will be assessing student performance.

Schools will maintain regular communication with students and families and ensure students have the supports, resources and learning materials to complete the essential learning requirements for the 2019-20 school year.

There are currently seven cases of COVID-19 in Yukon, four of which have recovered. We need to continue to combine our efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, to do our part to protect those that are more vulnerable and to mitigate impacts on students and learning.

I know this is a challenging time for school staff and families. I have full confidence that all Department of Education staff, both in schools and in the central administration building, will remain dedicated to ensuring we continue to meet the needs of all Yukon students.

If you have questions about your school's learning plan, please contact your school principal.

The most current information is available at:

- For students and families: yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/information-public-school-students-and-families,
- Updated FAQ (attached and available online at website above)
- Yukon Continuity of Learning Requirements (attached and available online at website above)
- Health-related updates:
 - Yukon: yukon.ca/en/information-about-novel-coronavirus-yukoners.
 - Canada: canada.ca/coronavirus

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy-Anne McPhee'.

Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Education