



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL
COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

CEAY
Catholic Education Association of Yukon

June 28, 2020

Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Education
Government of Yukon
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Brendan Hanley
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Government of Yukon
204 Lambert Street
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1Z4

Dear Minister McPhee and Chief Medical Officer of Health Hanley,

School Re-entry Planning

Thank you for the opportunity to join discussions with the department of Education and Yukon School Councils as it pertains to the re-opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. We appreciate the weekly Zoom calls and the work of the department to facilitate these online meetings.

As relayed, School Councils recognize that the success of any school reopening plan will depend in part on families and caregivers being informed about new protocols and confident that the approach will keep their children safe. To that end, we would ask that the department clearly communicate expectations and provide guidelines to parents and students well before in-class instruction resumes August 19 – September 1, and ongoing throughout the year. This ought to also include supports and information for parents who choose to keep their children at home in the fall because of COVID.

As outlined in the correspondence issued by the department on June 9th, school operational plans are to be reviewed with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and by the Minister of Education by July 20th, with communication to parents and families by August 12th. With these timelines, families would be afforded as little as one week to make the necessary preparations for anticipated changes in class schedules as well as busing schedules. At a minimum, we would recommend communication be shared with families by July 30th in order to provide sufficient time for planning purposes. This communication ought to include information explaining new protocols, instructions regarding pick-up/drop-off procedures to support social distancing, timetables and protocols if a child or staff person becomes ill.

To advance this work, it is critical that schools receive detailed guidelines as to what is expected for the reopening of schools, as soon as possible. Without this information, work on individual school operational plans will be limited. Plans will not be able to be finalized and communicated to families in a timely manner. Any information you can provide in this regard would be appreciated.

We are encouraged to hear of proposed plans to engage with students and families regarding the experiences and perspectives of students, families and school staff on learning during the pandemic, and about what has been effective and not effective to support student learning needs. We would like to thank the department for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft survey questions provided on June 26th. As relayed, a number of schools have already undertaken surveys of their school communities. We would encourage the department to also review these survey results and build upon what has already been learned.

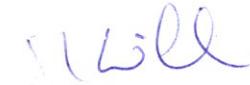
As we continue to navigate these uncertain and unprecedented times, communication and a coordinated response will continue to be critical in the coming weeks and months. Finding ways to effectively collaborate with our partners is a key mandate of both the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees and the Catholic Education Association of Yukon. If we can assist or provide support to the department in any way, please do not hesitate to contact our organizations.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,



Sandra Henderson
AYSCBC Chair



John Williams
CEAY Chair

c: Yukon School Councils
Nicole Morgan, Deputy Minister