



Deputy Minister's office (E-1)  
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

September 11, 2020

Sheri Graham, Vice-Chair  
Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees  
PO Box 30071  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5M2

Dear Ms. Graham:

**Re: Follow up to meeting with AYSCBC**

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Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2020. Our ADM of Schools and Student Services and ADM of First Nation Initiatives were please to attend your meeting and answer the questions that they could. My apologies for the delay in responding to your letter. As you know, our focus has been on providing continued learning opportunities for students and planning and preparing to safely return students and staff to schools this year with partners like AYSCBC.

We were pleased to hear that you were able to still hold a successful AGM via teleconference, and thank you for sharing your questions.

In reference to the Student Services Review, it was put on hold as a result of the pandemic. We are working to adapt and continue this review this fall, so that it continues to be transparent, inclusive of all parties that need to be a part and always with the objective of improving the learning opportunities for our Yukon students. We have recently engaged with the Advisory Committee for Yukon Education and the First Nation Education Directorate to update our proposed timelines to re-launch the review this fall. We will share more information once these updates are finalized.

On the 2019 Audit report, we have accepted all the recommendations from the report and are continuing to work to respond to them. We shared a comprehensive update on what we are doing in response to each recommendation with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Committee on December 5, 2019, which is attached. A full list of the exhibits provided during the public hearing can be found on the Yukon Legislative Assembly website at <https://yukonassembly.ca/committees/pac>.

Policies about Yukon First Nation languages and cultures are under discussion with Yukon First Nations. We work with the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Native Language Center on language revitalization and programming for schools and language teacher training and certification. Our First Nation Initiatives (FNI) branch is working to develop a policy to enhance the consistency of language instruction and on resources and supports for educators to work First Nations to teach Yukon First Nations Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being in all grades.

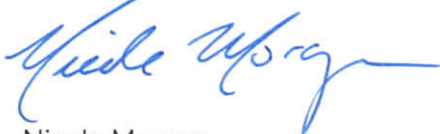
We thank you for the invitation to be a part of your Advisory Working Group and look forward to working together to discuss and update resources pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of School Councils. We acknowledge that this training is important and essential to both new and existing members.

Your suggestion to form a working group to discuss the roles and responsibilities of School Councils and the Department of Education is also an excellent idea. It is my understanding that Lori Choquette, School Council Liaison, has been working with you to establish this working group.

We recognize the importance of student attendance, especially in the younger grades, and are sharing information with the Yukon's Child and Youth Advocate, Annette King, for her review of this issue. We look forward to learning more about factors and root causes affecting student attendance through her review and discussing her findings with School Councils and associations, and other partners in education. We have also established a data working group with Yukon First Nations to share and discuss First Nations student performance data.

Thank you again for the ongoing partnership between our organizations and commitment and advocacy for Yukon students and schools.

Sincerely,



Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister of Education