



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

March 18, 2020

Dear School Councils,

**RE: Classes in Yukon suspended until April 15**

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At the recommendation of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Brendan Hanley, classes for Yukon students will be suspended as of today until April 15.

The health and safety of students, school staff, families and communities is our first priority and we are taking all necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19. During this time, I expect superintendents and principals to work together to assess potential impacts to school programs and to plan for measures needed to ensure continued learning for students.

Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate. The BC Ministry of Education has postponed graduation assessments for Grade 10-11 students. The only graduation assessment needed for Grade 12 students this school year is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Department of Education will work with the BC Ministry of Education to ensure students who have not taken this assessment can meet this graduation requirement.

We know we are changing routines for families and that this adds to concerns. This is why we are taking the time to get plans in place to support families, students and staff. We know there will be many questions moving forward. The Department of Education will continue to provide updates to students, school staff and families on next steps as this situation progresses.

Right now, there are no cases of COVID-19 in Yukon. It will be a team effort 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. To quote Dr. Hanley, "this is our time to really be Team Yukon".

For updates and health information on COVID-19:

- In Yukon (including school-related updates): [yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-about-coronavirus-covid](https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-about-coronavirus-covid)
- Canada: [canada.ca/coronavirus](https://canada.ca/coronavirus)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy-Anne McPhee', is positioned above the printed name.

Tracy-Anne McPhee  
Minister of Education