



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

July 23, 2020

Sandra Henderson, Chair  
Association of Yukon School Councils,  
Boards and Committees  
PO Box 30071  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5M

John Williams, Chair  
Catholic Education Association of Yukon  
16 Duke Street  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4M2

Dear Sandra Henderson and John Williams:

**Re: School re-entry planning**

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Thank you for your letter from June 28, 2020, regarding school re-entry planning and for the good discussions at our most recent meeting on July 15. We have appreciated these ongoing conversations and input from School Councils over the summer as we plan for the coming school year.

The health and safety of students and staff is our first priority. As part of our commitment to share information throughout the planning process, we shared the [preliminary operational and learning planning for the 2020-21 school year](#) on July 9, 2020. The preliminary planning process was guided by the [initial health and safety guidance](#) set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. As part of this process, central administration and school staff considered how all schools can support safe spacing and traffic flows within their schools.

Planning for the coming school year is an ongoing process and we continue to refine these plans based on the more detailed health and safety guidelines our Chief Medical Officer of Health has developed and with consideration of feedback from School Councils and local First Nation(s) for each school's operational plan for 2020-21. Principals will share the finalized school operational plans with school communities in August before the start of the 2020-21 school year, which will include information about the specific health and safety measures and protocols at their school.

Detailed school bus operational guidelines, including number of students per seat, loading and unloading procedures, and cleaning protocols were released today. Further, health and safety guidelines were released today and planning details for the coming school year will be shared as they become available over the summer.

During the course of the pandemic we will make every effort to keep as many students as safely possible in classes in school. Should there be an increased risk of transmission, or a community outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, schools would adapt their operations as necessary, to continue to meet the health and safety advice at the time.

Visit our [Planning for the 2020–21 school year](#) webpage on Yukon.ca for the most current information.

Thank you for working with us to consciously combine our efforts to support students and staff during these unusual times, and for sharing these updates through your networks and for your ongoing collaboration and feedback with the Department of Education on planning for the coming school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracy-Anne McPhee', is centered below the text 'Sincerely,'.

Tracy-Anne McPhee  
Minister of Education