

## **Reminders for School Councils about RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and CONFIDENTIALITY**

As School Councils carry out their important role in children's education, there are bound to be differing opinions among members about advice and decisions to be made. By having some clear guidelines, they can eliminate any misunderstandings about what a Council does, how it operates and how it deals with issues.

A suggested set of guidelines could include the following:

### **All members of this School Council will--**

- (a) support the good name of the School Council, and not disturb its well-being nor hamper it in its work.
- (b) conduct school business in a fair, respectful and responsible manner;
- (c) become familiar with school policies, operating practices and other information relevant to providing advice and making decisions for the school community;
- (d) support decisions of the majority after honouring each member's individual right to express opposing views, and to disagree without being disagreeable;
- (e) make decisions as a group and recognize that individual members have no authority to take individual action;
- (f) not disclose confidential information;
- (g) declare any conflict of interest;
- (h) perform in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of all students and parents.

### **A bit more about CONFIDENTIALITY....**

In becoming a School Council member, you took an *Oath of Non-Disclosure*, as referred to in section 133 Yukon Education Act. During your time on Council, you will be involved in information sharing, discussion and decision-making about some issues involving specific students, and perhaps parents and/or staff members. The onus is on you to NOT share any confidential details or documents outside of the Council meetings.

**School Council members are in a position of trust and when dealing with sensitive information, it is important to respect confidentiality.**