



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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July 22, 2020

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

Dear Minister McPhee:

Re: Follow Up – Meeting of July 6, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to meet on July 6, 2020. Below is a summary of the various action items for your review and consideration.

School Re-Entry Planning

As noted, we wish to thank the department for hosting weekly Zoom calls with Yukon School Councils this past month. Likewise, thank you also for the opportunity to provide input on the COVID-19 survey for students, families and staff. While we are appreciative of these efforts, we wish to raise a number of concerns regarding the lack of engagement with School Councils and families on specific decisions for re-opening plans. These concerns have been relayed via a separate letter.

As referenced previously, we would appreciate receiving the transcript for each of the weekly Zoom calls that have taken place between the department and Yukon School Councils. As not all members participated in the calls, this information would be a valuable resource for members.

School Council Legal Authority – Working Group

Ensuring all partners are aware of their respective roles and responsibilities is essential to any governance structure for the purposes of accountability and effective decision making. As outlined in our previous correspondence (March 20 and June 5), the association has recommended a working group of school council members, association and department representatives be struck to discuss the roles and responsibilities of School Councils and the Ministry as it pertains to sections of the Education Act. As discussed, we are eager to commence this work and look forward to receiving information regarding next steps.

During our meeting with Deputy Minister Morgan, a legal opinion on Section 113 of the Education Act was referenced. As relayed earlier, we would also like to request a copy of the legal opinion that was commissioned by the department of Education. This and other resources will be instrumental as work unfolds.

Funding Agreement

The Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees (AYSCBC) has been without a funding agreement with the department of Education since 2017/2018. This can be largely attributed to a surplus of funding that the association had accumulated over the years. Previously, the department had offered to make available a multi-year funding agreement, with the caveat that the association draw down its funding. As we near the end of these surplus funds, we would like to negotiate a new agreement based on the four pillars outlined in the 2020-2021 AYSCBC Work Plan. The plan, which was approved during the recent Annual General Meeting, provides a list of proposed projects to be completed over the course of the current fiscal year including costs and deliverables for each of the itemized areas.

Information regarding next steps including contact information for the department representative the association is to work with, would be appreciated.

Education Agreements

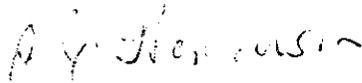
During our meeting with Deputy Minister Morgan, a number of Education Agreements between First Nation governments and the department was referenced. One example provided was a recent agreement that was struck between Kwanlin Dun First Nation and four Whitehorse Schools (Elijah Smith Elementary, Porter Creek Secondary, F.H. Collins Secondary and the Independent Learning Centre). With the permission of Kwanlin Dun First Nation, we would like to request a copy of the agreement and ask that copies be also shared with School Councils for their review.

Communication

As suggested, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with your and representatives from the department three to four times per year, to discuss issues of mutual importance and exchange information in support of the work of Yukon School Councils. With this, our office will follow up with your officials to establish a meeting schedule in the coming year.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to meet earlier this month. We appreciate you taking the time to hear and respond to each of the items raised during the meeting. We look forward to working with you and your officials in the coming year in support of improving student outcomes.

Sincerely,



Sandra Henderson
Chair

c: Yukon School Councils
Catholic Education Association of Yukon
Nicole Morgan, Deputy Minister of Education
David Wipf, Assistant Deputy Minister