

Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees (AYSCBC)

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**ATIPP – Act Review**

**Comments from Executive Members of the**

***Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees (AYSCBC)***

December 14, 2008

**Issue: Definition of a Public Body/Scope of the Act (sections 2 and 3 of the current law)**

If School Councils are to be included under the scope of the Act, as is currently being proposed, there are several questions and concerns that need to be addressed:

- What expectations of School Councils would be created? How would these be met?
- Who would be responsible for dealing with the ATIPP request? Who decides which information is disclosed or protected from disclosure? Who has the obligation to disclose?
- If the responsibility rests with School Councils, one they don't have now, then there is additional work and administrative burden, not to mention major training and consistency implications. How will the requirement for additional resources be addressed?
- If the Department of Education has it, then presumably they would only disclose what they had access to which include information contained in School Council meeting minutes and annual financial statements which are sent to the Department of Education, once approved. These minutes are the public record and should not contain 'sensitive and confidential' information.
- If School Councils have 'sensitive and confidential' records such as information pertaining to suspensions and complaints, where should they keep them, who should have access to them and how should they be managed?
- School Councils are not an arm of Government but they have legitimacy in part under the Education Act which outlines certain rights, obligations and privileges, so which act prevails? Are there changes to the Education Act required to align with proposed ATIPP changes?
- School Council members, while elected (2 year term), are *volunteers*. There is a high turnover rate. There is concern if this proposed change adds to the responsibilities of Councils when there is already a capacity issue (i.e, vacant seats, a steep learning curve for many who are new to the position, involvement with new initiatives from the Department of Education).

**Some stats re: October 6, 2008 Election for School Councils:**

Only 4 of 25 Yukon School Councils had more nominations than seats and had an election;

9 School Councils had all seats filled by acclamation;

12 School Councils had vacant seats at the nomination time;

As of the most recent information, 9 Councils still have vacant seats

Of those on Councils currently, 67 are new to the position (total # of available seats = 159)