



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

December 22, 2020

Christ the King Elementary School Council
c/o Christ the King Elementary School
20 Nisutlin Drive
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 3S5

Dear Christ the King Elementary School Council:

Re: School Closure Policy

Thank you for your email dated December 1, 2020, regarding your concerns about the safety of students and school staff during extreme weather events.

I agree that the health and safety of our students and staff always remains our top priority, and believe that we have to recognize that our schools offer safe places for students during extreme weather conditions.

It remains essential that school buildings are open during extreme weather conditions to provide a safe shelter for those arriving at the building and for those students who may have nowhere else to go while parents are at work, in particular during changing conditions. While school buildings remain open, we believe at all times parents are best placed to determine whether they will send their children to school during these times and we respect any decision a parent makes for the safety of their child.

During an extreme weather event, government staff take every necessary precaution to ensure the health and safety of students. This includes working with Standard Bus to provide updates on the status of bus routes; advising students, families and school staff who are travelling to school to use caution when arriving at the school; and advising school staff to follow the expected school procedures if they are delayed or are unable to travel to work.

In these situations, central administration staff work with our student transportation provider and with school administrators to ensure the most up-to-date information available is shared with families. The Schools and Student Services Branch does conduct debriefing sessions to review our response following an extreme weather event. These conversations are underway with school administrators and Standard Bus and at this time our focus is on enhancing internal and external communication.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with me. I appreciate the opportunity to address them and reaffirm our commitment to the health and safety of students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. McPhee', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Education