



Minister's office (CM-5)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

October 12, 2021

Melissa Yu Schott, Chair
Christ the King Elementary School Council
melissayu78@hotmail.com

Dear Melissa Yu Schott:

Re: Christ the King Elementary School (CKES) Council meeting follow up

I am writing as a follow up to the CKES Council meeting on September 11, 2021. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and discuss the council's goals and concerns. I'm pleased that the council's goals align with Department of Education priorities.

I understand you spoke with Assistant Deputy Minister, Lori Duncan, regarding actions for Truth and Reconciliation within the CKES school community and I'm delighted this connection has been made. The school's initiative of showing due respect to the Ta'an Kwach'an Council's land adjacent to the school by having students paint rocks and lay them down in recognition of that land is a wonderful example of the right path you are on. I also encourage the School Council to reach out and write a letter to both the Ta'an Kwach'an Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation to continue to foster those relationships on your path of Truth and Reconciliation within the CKES school community.

In regards to the Teacher on Call (TOC) situation at the school, I'm pleased to share there has been additional TOCs added to the call list since we met. As a result, we have already seen an increase of coverage within Whitehorse schools in the past few weeks. The Department of Education is pursuing a number of avenues to recruit potential candidates from across the territory, including advertising not only through traditional recruitment methods such as applytoeducation.com but also using social media, print, and job websites.

Currently, the TOC list now has over 160 available individuals, which positions us to better meet the existing needs for TOC coverage. Our Placement Coordinator in our Human Resources Department is also available to work with schools to ensure they are configuring the automated call out system correctly or to discuss other ways of engaging TOCs to work in a school.

The Department of Education is continuing to work on a long-term capital plan and engagement process that will prioritize a school replacement and renovations projects in Whitehorse. This plan will be based on facility conditions, seismic mitigation considerations and operational needs and enrolment growth. CKES is, indeed, one of the oldest facilities in Whitehorse and the continued maintenance of the school is a joint priority for the council, staff, and the Government of Yukon. Our partners at the Department of Highways and Public Works take good care of the facility and continues to make investments in the school. One of these investments is the newly completed parking lot at the school. I'm happy to hear how it now provides much needed functionality and improves safer access for all staff, parents, and visitors to the school.

Again, thank you for welcoming me to your recent council meeting and I look forward to continuing to work together toward these important goals. Please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Paul.McFadyen@yukon.ca anytime with further questions or concerns from council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J McLean', written in a cursive style.

Jeanie McLean
Minister of Education